THE

SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Fred GOLLOP (President)
His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY (Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business)(Leader of the Senate)
Senator the Honourable P. C. GODDARD (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business)
Senator the Honourable G. S. H. MURRAY (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE
Senator T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS
Senator D. T. GILL
Senator Miss J. C. ODLE
Senator N. 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 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.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following papers:

1. The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1996.
2. The Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) Order, 1996.
3. The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1996.
4. The Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 1996.
5. The Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 1996.
6. The Parliament (Administration) (Salary) Order, 1996.
7. The Judges (Salaries) Order, 1996.
8. The Ombudsman (Salary) Order, 1996.
9. The Registration Department – Report on the Vital Statistics and Registration for the Years 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, the following Resolutions were read a first time:

1. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1996.

2. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) Order, 1996.

3. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1996.

4. Resolution to approve the increase in salary of the Governor-General.

5. Resolution to approve the increase in rates of pay for public employees and casual employees of Government.

6. Resolution to approve the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 1996.

7. Resolution to approve the Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 1996.

8. Resolution to approve the increase of Rates of Salaries and Allowances of the Personal Staff of the Prime Minister.

9. Resolution to approve the increase of Rates of Salaries and Allowances for Personal Assistants to Ministers.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 1 – NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of the National Council on Substance Abuse (Amendment) Bill, 1996. These amendments, Sir, are intended to make certain technical refinements to the National Council on Substance Abuse Act, 1995.

Sir, this National Council on Substance Abuse Act was passed earlier in this session and it sought to establish the National Council on Substance Abuse as the organization to continue the work of the National Committee on Drug Abuse and Drug Dependency. The intention then, Sir, was the creation of a statutory body to enable the institution to have more flexible arrangements with respect to the execution of its mandate which included, amongst other things, general education and implementation of programmes to reduce the level of demand which currently exists for illegal drugs. It was recognized at that time that such a programme was suffering from a number of constraints related to the inability of the National Advisory Committee operating under the usual arrangements surrounding Government Departments, and that in order for them to be innovative and creative in the execution of their programmes, the flexibility which normally accrues to statutory bodies would be necessary in that case.
11.25 a.m.

It was recognised after the passing of that Act that there were one or two errors in typing. For example, in Section 2 of the Act, under the description of substance abuse, the word "physiological" was used when the word should have been "psychological", so that is one of the amendments required. It was also determined that the opportunity could be taken to make some other adjustments, technical refinements, which would more effectively reflect some of the views and comments that would have been expressed during the debate on the measure in both Houses.

Included amongst the amendments we are considering today is a change in description of the person who runs the day by day operations of the National Council on Substance Abuse from Executive Director to Manager. That change is one which was necessitated by the recognition that in terms of the common usage of the term, that in the area of Personnel Management – Human Resource Management, to use the modern terminology – certain terms and conditions usually accrue to certain positions when they are called by certain names. So that in terms of the scope of operations of the National Council on Substance Abuse it was felt that names such as "Manager" might be more reflective and descriptive of the nature of operations to be carried out by that day by day full time employee than the term "Executive Director".

Also, Sir, the term "Executive Director" is usually used to indicate a situation in which someone who happens to serve on the Board of the organisation is charged with the day by day responsibilities as well, so an Executive Director usually is deemed as the one member of the Board who has been charged with some aspect of day by day responsibility, and that was not intended in the specific case. That change is one of the technical refinements to improve the functioning of this piece of legislation.

In addition, it was felt that it would be neater to have a specific clause in the legislation that specifically addresses the question of the transfer of assets and functions so as to establish a direct linkage between the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, which is

the former entity, and the National Council on Substance Abuse, the successor entity. Therefore, immediately after Section 15 in the principal Act would be inserted the clause which is in the amendment Bill, which speaks to the question of the transfer of assets and functions. It specifically indicates that:

> "With effect from the date of the commencement of the Act all assets, liabilities, property, functions and operations of the National Advisory Council on Drugs are deemed to be transferred to the National Council on Substance Abuse."

That, we believe, Sir, would ensure that there is no doubt in terms of the use of the assets of the former Council and the direct linkage between the two, both from the assets side and the liability side.

Another change which is being proposed as a technical refinement in this matter is the change in terms of the numbers of the Council. I believe in the Act that was passed a specific number of representatives and the like was indicated. What is being proposed is for there to be a bit more flexibility in terms of the number of persons appointed to the Council. We are proposing to delete paragraph 1 of the First Schedule and indicate that the Council shall comprise a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and such other members as the Minister appoints. That gives flexibility for the number on the Council to increase or decrease, depending on what is deemed to be the optimum size at any point in time. This is important, bearing in mind that we do not create legislation simply for today, nor do we create legislation which attempts also to perform administrative functions, but legislation must be broad enough in scope to allow for administrative arrangements to change without changing the basic meaning and intention and the objects of that legislation.

Again, Sir, a consequential amendment relates to the question of a quorum. I believe another formula was indicated in the quorum of the original Act. We are simply amending to provide for a simple majority, so a majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum.

Another amendment which took consideration of some of the issues that were raised in the debate in this very Senate when this Act was debated was the question of the phrasing of that clause which dealt with declaration of interest. I am sure you will recall that during that debate one or two Members raised the question as to whether the wording that was advanced on that occasion adequately required that members needed to declare their interest on each and every occasion it was raised, or whether the way the clause was worded meant that members might only need to declare their interest once. Being the type of administrators we are, Sir, we took that to heart, we looked at the Bill and whilst making these technical refinements we were able to incorporate those considerations. The form of words which have been chosen are a form of words that would require that when a matter comes up for discussion any Director would have to declare his specific interest in that matter, have the declaration of interest recorded in the Minutes of the meeting that dealt with the matter and take no further part in the discussions relating to the business or contract as referred to in the declaration of interest. We are satisfied that that amendment would ensure that there is no conflict of interest in members serving on this particular Council and seeking to conduct the general business of the Council.

Concern was also raised about the question of the establishment of committees and their functions. A number of Senators had raised questions about a stipulation in the Second Schedule which indicated that some $^{2}/_{3}$ of each of these various committees that were established must come from the Council and so on. Some Members were of the view that it limited input from persons who were not already members of the Council. We are proposing the deletion of sub-paragraph (3) that dealt with that and substituting instead a simple provision which indicates that a committee comprises such number of persons as the Council determines.

We are satisfied that these technical refinements to this National Council on Substance Abuse Bill would lead to a smoother operation of the Council and remove some of the minor difficulties which have been associated with the way the Act was drafted originally.

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

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, it is true that there are laws to protect children in several areas, but I think the time has come when we must re-emphasise and specify in as much legislation as possible not only narcotics but alcohol and tobacco. I remember Senator Odle referring particularly to alcohol when speaking on this previously so that adults will not be in a position to encourage children to be involved, particularly teenagers, by encouraging and selling alcohol to minors. Young people adopt these habits through peer pressure, through carelessness on the part of some adults, neglect, and resolve on the part of others. Sometimes parents send their children to buy alcohol for them and I am sure that we have all seen at some time parents asking children to mix them a drink and they will even give them a sip sometimes if it is a holiday and they feel that it is all right, not realising that in fact there may be potential danger in that and that a child could develop a habit.

Then I want to mention smoking about which I feel quite strongly. It has been proven that young people in many parts of the world today are being targeted. There is a market strategy. I am sure we have seen it here too: tee shirts, glamorous advertisements, subliminal advertising, promotion of shows. They show that smoking is associated with excitement and fun and research has shown, regrettably, that once captivated you become addicted. And I know that my good friend Senator Rickinson will correct me if I am wrong in saying that when young people begin to smoke and become addicted that it is almost impossible to break the habit.

The problem of side-stream, some call it secondary, some call it packaged smoking but again it is well known of the problems that can cause emphysema, heart problems and in most cases lung cancer. I know that people who smoke will often give as an example people who are in their 70s and 80s and say that their father and their great-grandfather lived until he was 80 and 90 and never died of lung cancer and was in perfect health. A Physician has said to me that those people are lucky.

In Barbados, we are one of three countries in the world that have shown a decrease in smoking in the last 10 years. Because of that, we cannot lose vigilance. We cannot afford to be complaisant because again I have been told by reliable authority that the number of children with asthma and grown ups with asthma has increased significantly and therefore it could be a threat. I have also been alarmed to learn that cigarettes are now being sold singly and you can well appreciate that it is easy for young people to hide away a single cigarette in those purses that they carry nowadays or have it on their person where it is not so easy if they buy a box or a carton. These are things that we have to look at and I have no doubt at all that the Attorney General will pay attention to these problems for the sake of the young people in our country.

I should like, too, Mr. President, to congratulate the Cancer Society on its considerable efforts to warn people about the dangers of smoking and to congratulate and commend highly the Minister of Health for not allowing alcoholic beverages and cigarette brands to sponsor sports teams. Adults who wish to smoke should not be prevented. I think that they have that right, the freedom of the individual; but if they are going to smoke, let them smoke in private, in their own homes. Do not let them endanger the health of others.

I know that the Ministry of Health has also banned smoking on Ministry of Health's premises. I feel, Mr. President, that it should be banned entirely in public places and in vehicles and I am sure that the Ministry of Health and the Attorney General will give attention to these problems.

I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, drug abuse has serious implications for our national development and requires that we, as responsible Barbadians, take a very serious and proactive approach to this problem, if only for the reason that the resources of the drug cartels are so much more abundant than the resources of the most developed countries, like the United States of America. The evidence indicates that by and large the fight against illegal drugs has been lost mainly because a proactive approach which seeks to address the problem of demand did not emerge in the early days but the approach was one in which the countries like the U.S.A. and European countries who obviously had a problem with drugs sought to go to the source of the drug problem, the supply.
11.45 a.m.

I have certain concerns about the drug situation in this country particularly when the Government has set as its agenda, as well the trade unions and the private sector, a goal that Barbados will become increasingly competitive and would be able to compete in the global marketplace with anyone else. I am sure, therefore, that we all in here will agree that the world in recent times has become a more competitive marketplace. The advent of NAFTA and other multinational trading blocs and the rapid dismantling of international trade barriers, have an inclination to result in freer trade and greater competition. This has tremendous implications for poor countries like Barbados.

We in Barbados are accustomed to a high standard of living. Our well-developed infrastructure, our social services, education and health services are very splendid. It is therefore imperative that our national productivity must increase if we are, in future, to be able to maintain such excellent services in this country. It must increase because, unlike some of our regional neighbours and international trading partners, we have no advantages in having cheap fuel. We have no advantages in lower labour costs but what we do have is a very well educated, adaptable and trainable population.

Our sociologists have warned us that our population is a very rapidly ageing one and by and large if they are to maintain the standard of care we have provided for them in the past, the collective efforts and genius of all Barbadians must be garnered to enhance our national productivity in an effort to support such individuals in the latter days of their years. It is for this reason then that national productivity is a challenge we must face when we take into consideration the fact that we are losing so many of our young people to the menance of drug abuse, and I want to stress this point. In a situation where the population is aging, we have fewer people in the productive years of their lives who

can contribute to national development and therefore provide the services we know these older folk need to take them through the evening of their years, the pension funds, free public transportation, national assistance and things like these.

Mr. President, there is a myth in Barbados where many people stereotype drug addicts as useless unemployed persons, disregarding the fact that many drug addicts are gainfully employed. David Captoute captured this in a book called "The Working Addict" which presented some interesting data that I want to share here today. It indicated that 16 per cent of drug addicts reveal that their first experience with drugs occurred in the workplace. For them their jobs became the breeding ground for their habits since it was their socialization where they learnt about drugs.

This evidence, therefore, makes a strong case that we in Barbados must target the workplace vigorously as a priority area where the efforts of those involved in the fight against drugs must be focussed. As a person employed at a manufacturing concern, and I will declare my interest as having a deep involvement in the Health and Safety Committee, we recognise that drug abuse undermines the workplace in several ways. We have deterioration in the performances due to inconsistent work quality, and we know that it is to Barbados' advantage since labour cost is high, that if we are to be competitive internationally, we must go into a niche market in which quality is at the forefront of our marketing strategy.

We also suffer from low productivity, reduced concentration span of workers, fatigue, carelessness, increased mistakes and errors in judgement. Additionally, Sir, cost increases, management and supervisory staff are unnecessarily diverted in its efforts to deal with the ever rising incidences of settlements of grievances that arise from obvious personality clashes involving those who have a drug problem and the rest of the drug-free work force.

It also results in a wastage of material and skills. The damage occurs and more than that the public image of the company is damaged. We all know what can happen if a company is highlighted in the Press, say, in an incident in which illegal drugs were found in a container. These sorts of things can really seriously damage the economic future and viability of a company when people take a stand against a company that might be implicated in trading in drugs through no fault of its own. Additionally, because of this problem personal turnovers and grievances multiply. Other problems associated with use of drugs in the workplace include safety and security of the plant, the personnel and the company plans, all factors which we know will result in a decline in national productivity.

Mr. President, the challenge for companies now must be to develop employee assistance programmes as a matter of urgency in the workplace. Such programmes need to have the support of Government, the unions, the employers and the NGOs if they are going to be effective. There is need to create anti-drug company strategies to deal with problems in the workplace. Support and advice should be sought obviously from the drug enforcement agencies, the law enforcement agencies, health personnel and the legal profession.

Mr. President, a programme of work-place wellness which seek to address the spiritual, physical and psychological well-being of workers must be encouraged. This will include exercise programmes at the work-place, access to information on proper nutrition and provision of regular medical checkups. The problem with such a programme is that they carry a cost but the employees must see it as a long-term investment in which long-term benefits will be reaped not only by the employers themselves but by the employees and country as a whole. The benefits to be derived by the employers, the employees and a country in the long-term will more than compensate for such an investment, and such benefits readily come to mind. Benefits are:–

(1) the reduction on loss work days which is a cost to the company;

(2) reduction in insurance benefit claims (which my good friend Senator Thompson would recognise as very important);

(3) increased productivity, which is one of our national goals.

Sir, it is not enough to take the approach that drug abuse is a criminal activity which should be dealt with exclusively by the legal system. If such an approach is used sooner or later the problem will reappear. Imprisonment does not solve the problem of drug abuse. It is surprising and astonishingly so that the Annual Report of Her Majesty's Prisons for 1992 indicates under the heading Mental Health of Inmates – The number of inmates requiring psychiatric treatment continues to increase as a result of substance abuse. The figures showing that the number of consultations at which prisoners were seen for psychiatric treatment increased from 112 in 1991 to 688 in the year under review. This marks a phenomenal increase of some 600 percent and if there is any evidence why we must take approaches other than those through the legal system to deal with the problem of drug abuse; this evidence supports that.

11.55 a.m.

Mr. President, I move now to the area of legislation as a means of intensifying our drug prevention

programme. Perhaps the time has now come when we in Barbados must look seriously at using the breathalyser test as a preventative measure against drunk driving in this country. Senator Symmonds earlier in her speech alluded to some concerns she had about alcohol use and I think the time has come to be serious with drunk drinking in Barbados. We are a tourist oriented country. We have half-million long-stay tourist per year, about half-million cruise tourist, we have major festivals including Crop Over and it is only reasonable to expect that when people go out for fun and frolic and to have a good time, they can imbibe perhaps more alcohol than they can handle. In recent times there have been a number of very serious and in some cases tragic accidents and I think that perhaps the time now really has come to look seriously at this issue.

Mr. President, our drug prevention programme now needs to be augmented by taking bold and what I consider necessary initiatives to give further legislative support to the drug fight through enhanced intelligence gathering by the use of court ordered wire tapping. I repeat court ordered wire tapping. The sceptics I am sure will raise the issue of invasion of privacy but I think that the methods are now necessary if the fight against drug trafficking is to be won.

Let me turn now, Sir, to the problem of prevention. The fight against substance abuse must be supported by a vigorous programme of prevention. The authorities must be challenged to bring drug education into the curriculum. This ought to be done in what I consider to be an infusion method. By this I refer to a system in which the important aspects of drug education would be placed within the individual course subjects rather than into the curriculum as separate subjects. For example, in Mathematics we would deal with the cost of drug abuse. In Physical Education we would deal with the issue of sports as an alternative to drugs. In Biology and Health Sciences we could look at the impact of drugs on the body and the health resources of the country.

Mr. President, the advantages of such a system are that it would heighten the sensitivity of staff to drug issues. When I say staff I particularly refer to the teaching staff. It would provide additional referral resources for students in addition to the counsellors that are provided at the Secondary Schools. This is more important at the primary level where at the present time there are no counsellors. It would also increase the awareness of students to the effects of drugs on health at an earlier age. Such a programme requires the maximum level of staff training which is desirable in making a well rounded teacher who can deal, not just with the teaching of a subject, but can deal with the problems that would come up in the areas of drugs as it relates to school children. However, Mr. President, such programmes require evaluation on an ongoing basis if they are to succeed.

As stated earlier a case must be made for an urgent systematic and concentrated effort to reach the primary school children through the provision of counsellors within the primary school system.

Parties to the United Nations Convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in 1988 were deeply concerned with the steadily increasing inroads into various social groups made by illegal traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and particularly by the fact that the children are used in many parts of the world as an illicit drug consumer market and for purposes of illicit production, distribution and trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances which entail a danger of incalculable gravity.

Also, Sir, the age of first contact with drug use is dramatically decreasing year after year. It is for these reasons, Sir, that we need to focus more intently on the primary level in our drug prevention programme.

Mr. President, Sir, I also want to look at what I consider to be a very important aspect of drug addiction. I see it as a disease and I see it as a family disease. I see it as a family disease because parents who get involved in the use of drugs develop certain personality changes and it is interesting to note the Gloria Black, a leading researcher on the effects alcoholic parents have on their children development, has identified four personality traits which are seen in children who are not involved in a direct way in the drug habit within their homes but who because of the system of drug use within their household develop certain behavioural modifications to cope with the problem of drug abuse within the family. Such personality types include the lost child where the child just wanders around as though it is lost, the scapegoat, the child who takes the blame for everything the family does, the clown, and then there is the responsible child who seeks to pick up the slack of the parents who no longer can function in an effective way. The important thing here is that even at this stage, before getting into the use of drugs, the children do develop these traits and we need therefore to look at these types of problems within the home and it is for this reason Sir, that I consider it to be a family disease and I will make mention later of other reasons why I believe it should be treated as a family disease.
12.05 p.m.

Mr. President, it takes no big imagination to realize that a vicious cycle could eventually develop where physical, psychological and verbal abuse can lead to substance abuse, prostitution and the consequential tragedy of AIDS. I am sure that Senator Rickinson perhaps might have a lot to say about this. But if a person has a habit for which they do not have the financial resources to support, it is my contention that they might be inclined to turn

the world's longest profession in an effort to satisfy their habit. It also creates a situation where things like incest and child abuse can become serious problems within the family. When parents have lost control and reason they take out their frustrations on their children. Morality breaks down within the household and this more often than not leads to a breakdown in family life and the accompanying social consequences which I alluded to earlier.

Mr. President, I have a word for the media today. The media must be challenged to come up with real properly structured, locally appealing, factually based awareness programmes that reach across the entire society if our efforts of drug prevention are to be successful. I want to challenge the media to take the glamour out of reporting drug matters. I know that sensationalism sells papers but when you pick up the daily paper and you read about a drug haul and you see dollar figures of $10 million attached to the haul, it sends a subtle message to the young people in this country that there is money in the drug trade and I think this is wrong. It highlights the lucrative nature of the trade. It provides an attractive and alluring incentive to the youth. If we are to keep our youth away from the attractiveness of getting into the drug culture whether as a user or as a trafficker, the media must become more responsible.

Mr. President, other concerns which I have relate to the treatment of addicts. We need in Barbados a proper rehabilitation centre. At present there are about two private sector clinics and the Government has a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre at the Psychiatric Hospital. But having a rehab centre at the Psychiatric Hospital in a small society like Barbados has a certain stigma attached to it which acts as a deterrent for people seeking voluntary rehabilitation. It is interesting to note that the vast majority of people who use that facility are those who are referred through the Courts and not people who have reached the point where they recognize that they have a problem and want to go on a voluntary basis to be treated, and I think that this is important.

Secondly, the present centre does not provide the full range of rehab services. For example, if a person happens to go to the Drug Centre at the Psychiatric Hospital, inevitably he comes out with a packet of medication but he does not leave the institution with any life skills which will teach him or her to cope with life. I think it is important to have it removed from that location and that a proper facility be provided where such life skills can be taught. Such life skills would include the teaching of time and money management.

Mr. President, another compelling reason for relocation of the Rehab Centre from the Psychiatric Hospital has to do with the problem of space. In a spacious location, patients can become involved in leisure and wellness programmes by provision of physical space for the recovering addict to participate in games and exercises. Another compelling point is that we need to have such people rehabilitated in a stress-free environment. An important fact also – and I alluded earlier that I would come back to this point – is that we cannot just look at drugs as a disease of the individual. Rehab centres must provide facilities that not only allow the user to be counselled but where the parents and family also can be counselled. So that when the patients are removed from the institution back into the home the family will know how to deal effectively with the person. The family also has the responsibility to look at ways of amending the circumstances that allow such a person to get back into the drug habit through reuniting with the source of supply. The point I am trying to make is that one goes home and if the situation does not change, your friends can come over and bring drugs for you. Circumstances like this have led to a high incidence of lapse, which I think is very unfortunate.

Mr. President, we also need to look at the capacity of the Coast Guard to handle the high powered vessels which I understand make drop-offs around the island from time to time. Likewise, Government's policy must be such that patrols around the country by the Police and the Coast Guard must be increased. There is also a case for linking the Police Department, Customs Department and Immigration Department to a central data base where information can be shared.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President. My very good friend, in my opinion, is speaking a lot of sense. But I think, Sir, that the matter before us is not the drug trade. We are dealing with an Act on Substance Abuse and that Act gives a specific definition of substance abuse. It deals with the inhalation or injection of a substance by an individual to his body. I do not see the relevance of a lot of what has been said by the Senator, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not agree that that is a point of order. Please proceed.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I also believe that Government has a responsibility to the non-Governmental organizations to facilitate them in their efforts in the fight against drug abuse. I think that Government needs to assist them in the area of recruitment of necessary personnel and to facilitate them with funding so that this relentless fight against drugs could be one which we can win.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator RICKINSON.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to congratulate Senator Welch on the excellent presentation and the in-depth presentation which he gave to the amendment of the National Council on Substance Abuse Act, 1995.
12.15 p.m.

You will recall, Mr. President, that I did speak at length on this Bill and I do not plan to repeat myself and go over the ground that I covered. My contribution today is to advise that the National Council on Substance Abuse needs to be much more visible than it has been. In other words, it will have to work much more closely with the electronic and print media to get the message across. I am not sure what the Council has been doing, but we really need to know about the activities of the Council. Even if the Council is of the view that they might not be important or they might be localised, they should still send Press Releases to both the electronic and print media so that all concerned would have an idea of what they are doing, and by so doing indirectly they would be able to educate the public on the preventative aspects of substance abuse.

On the question of selling alcohol to minors, Mr. President, it is a disgrace. We have tried to deal with it. When I was Health Education Officer I tried to mount educational programmes about it. I was told that it was illegal, but I think what the National Council will have to do is to mount an educational programme, have some short messages, work with the Government Information Service and get them to help to develop some very short messages to let parents and guardians know that it is wrong to send little children or minors to the supermarket to purchase alcohol, that it is illegal. It needs to be brought to their attention. They need to target the supermarkets and the shops.

From what I can recall about the National Council on Substance Abuse, it is supposed to be community based. If it is community based, it should at least start with one small area and target the rum shops and supermarkets to speak to them about it and bring it to their attention that selling alcohol to minors is not legal.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I do not know about tobacco. When it comes to advertising, I have noticed that the Town and Country Planning Department has issued a statement stating that people must ask for permission to put up placards and this needs to be brought to the attention of those persons concerned that it is not desirable to be advertising substances that can harm the body. I have also noticed creeping into our society some placards advertising tobacco and I think that this needs to be looked into. This is an area where the National Council could get into.

We still have the Cockspur Gold Cup and we all know what Cockspur is, so they have not really stopped supporting sports as such, because the Cockspur Gold Cup is one of the largest events in racing activity.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Pardon? Well, I am....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I am just replying to one of the Senators.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot reply.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President. It was said that the Ministry has stopped allowing persons to sell alcohol to sponsor sports. However, we still have a number of sports that are sponsored by both alcohol and tobacco and, maybe, if possible one could look for alternative sponsorship.

On the question of the banning of smoking in all public places, this was started by myself as Health Education Officer. I did not go public to say we were going to ban all smoking everywhere, I went around and spoke to store owners and asked them to put up "No Smoking" signs and I got the Government to print some "No Smoking" signs. People used to smoke in all the shops in Bridgetown and everywhere and at gas stations.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you are straying somewhat, I think.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Okay, Mr. President. One form of substance abuse is smoking and one way to prevent substance abuse is to get signs saying "No Smoking" and give them to people and have them introduced so that one could prevent the substance abuse, smoking, which is one of the most terrible forms and legalised forms of substance abuse that cost us quite a lot of money in the health care industry.

Employee assistance programmes in the area of substance abuse. One was started at the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic and it needs to be restarted. One of the ways it used to work was that those civil servants who were involved in the area of substance abuse, instead of disciplining them they were sent to the employee assistance programme at the polyclinic. There was no choice, either go and join the group and get help or else be terminated. I think we need to start that programme again at the polyclinic, which is easily accessible, by persons who work in the civil service. Also, the Psychiatric Hospital

could work with employees to assist them in starting employee assistance programmes. They have attempted this on several occasions and it has not been successful, but maybe now if they try it again they might be able to meet a measure of success. The Psychiatric Hospital has a community service which gets involved in rehabilitation of those persons who abuse, but that would need to be expanded. That takes money and one will have to look at that a bit more closely. It works very well and it had reduced the number of repeat admissions to the Psychiatric Hospital in the area of substance abuse. If one could go towards the root of community care in collaboration with the National Council on Substance Abuse, that would reduce the bill at the Psychiatric Hospital somewhat, but those services will have to be expanded.
12.25 p.m.

Also in the prisons I have made the plea for psychiatric nurses to assist not only with those persons guilty of substance abuse but also those persons who are in the prisons, because of the behavioural problem that they are there for, whether it be stealing or child abuse or what. They really need counselling, and this is one area in which one could set up a section of nursing personnel who are trained like psychiatric nurses, not only for those who are committed to psychiatric hospitals for substance abuse. Mark you, Mr. President, staff from the Psychiatric Hospital go to the Prisons once or twice a week in order to give assistance, but it needs to be there more or less continuously, judging by the numbers of persons that we have in the Prisons.

Mr. President, one area in which the National Council on Substance Abuse can get more involved is also in rehabilitation. Rehabilitation in the area of alcoholism has been very successful, both for the individuals themselves and for the family and children in the name of Al-Anon. This is dependent upon having places to meet and persons willing to assist with starting the group and helping to get the group going. Again this will need an increase in nursing personnel working in the community to assist with the rehabilitation.

People do not like to send their relatives to the Psychiatric Hospital because of the stigma; but this was recognised and attempts have been made to build another institution and they have been talking for a very long time of having more half-way houses where persons who are hospitalised for substance abuse and other problems will be able to stay before they are rehabilitated fully and go back into the community.

I would like to see the National Council on Substance Abuse working with these young people in particular who have abused drugs, be it alcohol, tobacco, marijuana in order to help give them the support that they need. I recall that one of the reasons for making this a statutory body was in order to get funds that could assist persons in these areas as the case may be. While the public should not be told about the names of people who are being assisted, it would help us and tell us what you are doing if some of the work of the National Council on Substance Abuse is publicised much more via the media. It is very important.

I do support that substance abuse affects the whole family and sometimes the neighbourhood itself and could lead to all sorts of health problems which mean more spending and therefore it is cheaper to be able to concentrate more on the preventive aspects of substance abuse than waiting until the person has abused the substance and then try to treat and rehabilitate that person.

Mr. President, I would also like to see the National Council on Substance Abuse working with schools and nursery schools, because one needs to start the education as early as nursery schools. If they are not sure that this is necessary, I think what they can do is carry out some surveys to find out at what age the abuse usually starts and they will realise that it tends to start at a very young age with children copying the behaviour patterns of the parents.

Therefore, one would have also to institute programmes of education and rehabilitation, not only for the children but also for the parents and those persons who live within the family. This type of area is very intensive. It takes a lot of energy and a lot of skill and some of the few people who are trained in this area are psychiatric nurses. One could train counsellors to work in these areas, particularly those abused persons who have been rehabilitated.

Without more ado, I support this Bill.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, any amendments here that have to do with making the work of the National Council on Substance Abuse more effective will receive my support as it does on this occasion.

I would like to point to a few contradictory areas which I hope that the National Council will see as its greatest challenge to deal with the conflicting and contradictory situations pertaining to drugs, legal or illegal, and the control of such usage. I refer first of all to the current debate, which seems not to be easily resolved, that there is a safe limit where alcohol is concerned for adults and children, and there are those who are putting the opposing view that there is no such safe limit. I hope that the National Council would be able to interest research into this area so that we know what the truth really is. We do not know up to now and it appears that there is a

fair amount of agreement on the point that smoking has no safe limits at all but there is doubt where alcohol is concerned. I point to that, Sir, as one of the conflicting areas where we are concerned.

A second area is to do with the fact that we find ourselves as major producers of rum for the world. In more recent times it is being said that we produce the best beer in the world. The test is going to be how we can make these claims, which I believe to be true, and at the same time not have our young people hooked on alcohol, because we have the best, and the contradiction there is another challenge for the National Council of Substance Abuse to try to deal with, or the conflicting situation, so that we are not at the same time accused of hypocrisy in our approach to these things.
12.35 p.m.

The matter of young people going to purchase alcohol has been referred to and I will not get into that again.

I think, Sir, that the National Council of Substance Abuse might do well to cause the producers of alcohol here in our country to realize that while they are not going to bring an end to their production, nobody expects them to do this, they have a responsibility in helping to deal with those people who get hooked on alcohol. I think there must be funding forthcoming from such sources, not for people in sports but for people who need to be rehabilitated. They need to provide funds to see to it that there is some undoing of any harm that their business might have been guilty of doing.

Sir, the churches are not entirely free here because we know that there are those churches, including the one I belong to, that serve wine or alcohol quite early in the morning, and from time to time when people are still fasting on an empty stomach, as I heard someone say, and young children are confirmed, or prepared for communion. Now, I am not suggesting, Sir, that there is any recklessness here, because as far as I know churches do give choices to people. Those people who know that they should not are advised not to come, although I think there needs to be more teaching where the young are concerned about that choice and about the possible dangers involved. I thought I could not omit the fact that even the churches have something to do to deal with the contradiction involved here.

Lastly, Sir, Senator Welch referred to the matter of the doubling and redoubling of evidence of abuse among young people. I think he said something like 600 per cent, which I accept. Now, has it occurred to anybody that a lot of those people who have turned to drugs, both legal and illegal, are people who are doing so because of the unemployment situation, people who want work and who are not sure where to turn for work or money? The end result is that not only do they become hooked on drugs but they then turn on the rest of us in the society to satisfy that need.

Now, all the situations I have mentioned provide us with conflicts. I hope that the Council would help us here and, above all, be able to do two things, particularly cause the producers of legal drugs to be involved in the whole research process and also in the rehabilitation process.

I will support the amendment, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

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 and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1996

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I rise to take charge of this measure personally deeming it a signal honour and a privilege to be assigned such a task. This feeling of exultation stems mainly from two sources. One is because I am very happy as an ex-civil servant to be able to do something for the benefit of public service workers, having learned some very valuable lessons in the public service which have stood me in good stead and stood the test of time. Therefore, I deem it, like I said, an honour and privilege to be able to put something back in that regard to a public service which, as we know, had been depleted of financial and other resources in the last few years.

Added to that, Sir, is the sense of satisfaction I get from representing the cause of the Barbados Labour

Party Government which ever since 1938 – as a matter of fact the party will be 58 years old, March, 28 – we have had the pledge ever since then of ensuring that whatever we do we seek to ensure a better life for all our people. Sir, it is against that background that we have to see what we are beginning to do today. For the measures which are before us represent, to my mind, the first tangible step to relieve public servants from the financial drought that they have suffered since 1990 when the last pay increase was granted to them.
12.45 p.m.

If you can recall, Sir, as a result of that financial drought in which no relief was given but every bit of moisture in the public servant body politic was extracted by a harsh Government brought to heel by the wickedness and by the inequity of its own ways because, Sir, we had not suffered any natural disasters, there were no floods, there were no hurricanes, there was no dengue fever, nothing like that. What it was, Sir, is that it was the realisation, the culmination of a series of misguided policies about which they had been warned repeatedly by my party and other interested persons in the good governance of Barbados and they eventually brought Barbados to one of its lowest ebbs ever.

In those circumstances, Sir, we had a scenario in which public servants among others – this issue particularly relates to public servants although it will have tremendous financial and other impact on the rest of the society and the rest of the economy – and we had the sorry sight of public servants losing their homes, families being destroyed, dreams shattered, careers derailed and other such dire consequences suffered all because of their policy.

While I am seeking to paint the social and psychological context of that era, Sir, I also have to draw reference to the economic context in which we are now seeking to bring this relief. Since this Government took office in September 1994 we have been busy laying a foundation for economic recovery and we think that we have fortunately brought the country to a point where we can share some of the recovery with the public and with the public servants in particular. That is why, Sir, we have to see the wages settlement which this measure relates to in the context of an economic climate and an economic environment in which we suffered large negative growth in the economy as follows: In the year 1990 to the extent of 3.3%, in 1991 we suffered negative growth of minus 3.9%, in 1992 we suffered negative growth of minus 5.7%. Fortunately for us and admittedly there were the rudiments in the beginning of positive growth in 1993 to the tune of 0.8% and in 1994 we experienced 4%. Even, Sir, with those modest signs of growth and recovery in the last few years, we in the Barbados Labour Party did not think that we should go contrary to our whole history and our old tradition for good governance and indulge in any large scale irresponsibility to make us lose the beginnings and the small instances of growth that we had begun to experience.

As a matter of fact, Sir, despite those years of recovery the GDP still has not returned to its 1989 level when it stood at $908.8 million. Its real value now, Sir, I think is $840 million. In addition, Sir, we have come through a time where over the last few years inflation has not exceeded 2% or 3% generally speaking. Therefore, it is in that context that we have to see what this Government seeks to do. I believe, Sir, that you will hear references, during the course of the debate, to what are essentially irrelevancies but what are highly emotive topics, of say the salaries paid to the BTA or personal assistants and things of that ilk, which would seek to divert the public's attention from the real issue at hand.

The real issue, Sir, and the real facts are that in July we find that this Government started to hold negotiations on increased wages and improved conditions of service with the National Union of Public Workers, the Police Association and the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations. If I may detail it a bit, Sir, to give you a global picture as to what exactly we were engaged in, CTUSAB represented the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union, the Barbados Union of Teachers, the Prisons Officers Association, Barbados Registered Nurses Association, the Firemen's Association, the Barbados Workers Union itself and the Association of Secondary Principals. That, Sir, was the constituency represented by CTUSAB.

Sir, as I made reference to earlier, the last agreement on wages and salaries was implemented in 1990 and it expired in March 1992 and therefore, Sir, public servants have not had a real increase since about 1990. And as a result of the economic crisis, like I said which had been largely brought on by our predecessors in Government, during the economic crisis of 1991 to 1994 and the first Prices and Incomes Protocol, there was a freeze on wages and salaries and there was no increase in wages and salaries since then. So today really marks the new step for giving the public servants something to which they had been accustomed over many, many years of good governance by both this Government and for some time the Government formed by the other party. Some time, but not as extensively as this one I must admit, even though I have to be charitable. They had a record that points to having spasmodic spurts of good governance and on those occasions they have contributed to laying the foundation to be able to give public workers an increase.

But, Sir, as if the lack of an increase was not bad enough, public workers had also suffered from, I think

it was 1990, a reclassification exercise that largely benefitted a few workers at the top and the large bulk of the workers represented in the body of the public service did not benefit. I like to refer to it, Sir, as "privilege pay" because it reminds me, Sir, of the "privilege pump" and is very illustrative of the Democratic Labour Party, in that they from time to time seek to create certain elites where they take care of certain other small groups at the expense of others. To me, Sir, that classification exercise which benefitted so few persons was privilege pay.

I said the privilege pump and I must, Sir, give some of the younger members a lesson in local political history. The privilege pump, Sir, arose under the Democratic Labour Party in 1974. During the energy crisis they had earmarked a special pump on Country Road where only a very small elite in Barbados in the Government or with certain connections could get gas willy-nilly without lining up for hours in a queue at the gas station. So that is nothing new. The fact that they chose to reward a few persons to the tune of $30 million was in the character of that party and that helped also to undermine, apart from the fact that while this action pleased a few workers the net effect was that it succeeded in undermining the morale of the general public service and the general work force. If that were not enough, Sir, the unkindest cut of all, as Shakespeare would have said, and I believe Senator Gill and other Senators who appreciate their classics would appreciate this, the unkindest cut of all came with the Public Service Reduction of Emoluments Act, 1991 that brought about that infamous 8% pay cut. What made this even more painful and traumatic to the public in general and public workers in particular was that this dastardly deed was inflicted on them only a few months after the Government was returned to office, having trumpeted all over Barbados that the economy was performing like Sir Garfield Sobers in his heyday, scoring runs all over the wicket. Sir, it came as a tremendous shock when that Act was passed in September, 1991.
12.55 p.m

In addition to this, Sir, public workers also saw a freeze in incremental credits and the possibility of passing beyond the qualifying bar. There were no increments for 2 years and in addition there was also The Public Service Suspension of Increments Act, 1993 which brought this into effect. Added to this, Sir, I must for the record state so that you, Sir, and others would get a complete appreciation of what transpired, public workers were forced to contribute to their own severance pay. Let us not forget that. There were dismissals of some 25 per cent of the Labour force. There was 50 to 60 per cent reduction in the work week either on a week-on week-off basis or a 3-day week and there was also the imposition of a stabilization tax and the employment levy. So that is the context within which we have sought to gradually remedy the situation as I said, Sir, because we do not intend to be cowboys or to indulge in any cavalier tactics and activities just to be courting cheap and temporary popularity, but to the long term detriment of the country. In other words, we do not want to indulge in something like the infamous give-aways of 1986, as the first glimmer of hope. To me, not only the Barbados Labour Party, but the whole country has learned its lesson from that experience and we intend to do better.

Sir, if I may get down to the actual negotiations. As I said, we began negotiations in June 1995 with the National Union of Public Workers. Contrary to popular belief, the records indicate that the National Union of Public Workers represent some 43.7 per cent of the public sector workers. We met with the NUPW and we dealt with their proposals. Those are the records we have and I would not seek to make up statistics as I go along. As I said, the proposals from the NUPW dealt with several matters consisting of the repayment of an 8 per cent pay cut which was deducted from public workers pay between October 1991 and March 1993. In addition, they asked for a wage increase of 5 per cent and 3 per cent across the board respectively for the financial years 1995 to 1996 and 1996 to 1997. They wanted also an increase in the various allowances by an average of some 26 per cent and among other things they also wanted the regrading of some 21 categories of posts. These proposals were costed and had we acceded to them it would cost the Government some $100 million.

On the other hand, we have to contrast that with the proposals represented and presented by CTUSAB which in its own right represent some 49 per cent of workers. But when you add the representation given by the Police Association it comes to, I think, 56.3 per cent of the work force. I will get back to that a little more specifically later on. Yes, the Police Association represents 6.6 per cent of the workers and when you combine that with the CTUSAB position, as I said, it represents 56.3 per cent of the public work force altogether.

CTUSAB, Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations, which was formerly known as "The Coalition" but has now been formalized into a congress, met with the Government and proposed that the wages bill be increased by $30 million for the financial year 1995-96. This represented in percentage terms a 7.2 per cent increase as proposed by CTUSAB. In addition, the Congress made a number of other proposals which had further cost implications and some of these included the regrading of the principals of primary schools, the provision of secretarial services to principals of primary schools, the creation of the post of Deputy Principal at primary schools, an increase in the teaching establishment, an enlargement of the staff and structure of Her Majesty's Prison,

an increase in the duty allowance for prison personnel, the reduction of the work week for fire officers to 40 hours, increases in driving and washing allowances and, as Senator Rickinson would appreciate, and this is especially for her with respect to nurses, they asked that there be a shift differential, overtime pay and premium rates for weekends and holidays work. These proposals also included parallel wages, increases to employees of statutory boards which when put together would amount to some $44 million for one financial year. Although, I must admit that the costing of this is not exactly precise. For the records, Sir, the proposals from the Police Association which represents 6.6 per cent of workers in the Public Service were for salary increases for a 3-year period as follows: 8 per cent in year one, 4 per cent in year two and 3 per cent in year three.

In addition, the Association in seeking to represent its members had requested large increases in wage allowances. If I may give you an example, Sir, to give you an appreciation of what such a request would entail. The Association requested that the duty allowance for a Station Sergeant be raised from $960.00 a year to $3,000 a year and that an allowance be introduced for Constables. These measures would have cost some $4 million annually.

Sir, that is the context in which the negotiations took place. They are the nuts and bolts and the facts and figures and other details of the presentations which Government had to grapple with in association with the various bodies in what I would consider were largely amicable situations and surroundings in which people respected each other's rights and responsibilities. But there was a large appreciation for the welfare and well-being of the country.

On the other side, I have detailed to you what the various bodies presented to Government on behalf of their workers. I think that in all fairness to them I should also give you a rundown on how Government's position was vis-a-vis these proposals. The negotiations began with Government offering some 2 per cent in the first year and none in the second year. This was later improved by Government to 2 per cent and 2 per cent. Later, as a result of negotiations with CTUSAB, that the rate in the first year be changed to 2.5 per cent at the top and 3.5 per cent and 2 per cent across the board in the second year. We were still negotiating here. But as we sought to reach an agreement with CTUSAB, Government improved its offer once again to 2.5 per cent, rising to 3.5 per cent at the Z.38 level, and the equivalent grades in the first year, and in the second year a 3 per cent increase across the board, with the possibility of a productivity bonus for the period 1996 to 1997. This productivity bonus would have been dependent on the performance of the economy and all indicators are that this year 1996 will be a much better year than even 1995. Therefore, we thought we had a reasonable basis on which to make such an offer of a possible productivity increase, with the understanding that we would develop an agreed mechanism, a way of measuring productivity in the public sector. This work is already underway, and had been even before this proposal was made with the National Productivity Board, which has made some progress in this regard. Having put our cards on the table, and having wrestled with and dealt with CTUSAB and the other bodies, I must admit that there was no quarter asked and none given but, like I said earlier, it was done all in the context of respect and national goodwill and seriousness, level-headedness and patriotism.

1.05 p.m.

All of this led to a meeting on 25th January, 1996 with CTUSAB when our offer was accepted on the condition – I must admit that even when CTUSAB was agreeing it was still fighting for better things to the very end, quite rightly, Sir – that Government agrees to improve conditions of service on a priority basis. We felt that this was a very fair request and it coincided with the Government's overall intent and policies and therefore we were all on the same wave length. That same day, 25th January, 1996, we also met with the Police Association and that body stated it could not settle the wages aspect of the negotiations without a full commitment on the other allowances for which it was agitating over the period of the last few months. Government gave the Association the assurance that the other proposals were receiving serious attention and negotiations would continue, as indeed they are all like now.

Having settled with CTUSAB and the Police Association, we then met with the National Union of Public Workers the very next day, 26th January, and made the very same offer to that body. While it was observed that the two groups were only two percentage points apart, due entirely I must say to the movement on Government side – Government had moved, I think, some four times – the Union did not accept that offer and indicated it would have to meet with its membership. It also indicated, in all fairness to it, that it was happy with the offer in the second year since, as it said, Government had acceded to its request on the second year but not on the first. The point is, and this must be said for the record, for public enlightenment, that up to that point NUPW had never modified its original request for a 5% and 3% increase across the board for 1995-97, while the Government, as I said, had moved its position four times. Since then NUPW has modified its position somewhat, requesting 2.5% at the top rising to 5% at the bottom of the scale in the first year, while maintaining its request for 3% across the board in the second year. That was the general attitude of the NUPW to the negotiations, that is where it stood until we went to Parliament to try to give effect to the salary proposals and agreement for all categories of workers.

Sir, I might mention that I am aware that the NUPW has threatened to take this issue to the ILO. My understanding is that the ILO approaches these matters in a fashion where it seeks to establish whether the settlement in question was fair, whether it represented a majority of the sector involved, and once that is so – I am no expert on this, but this is my understanding of the situation – they generally accept what has emerged from the process.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The most representative union organisation, I am sorry. If I might just refresh your memory, Sir, NUPW would have had some 43.7% representation, while the others would represent some 56.3%; a clear majority of CTUSAB and the Police Association.

Sir, while I am dealing with that matter, I must for the record and for further appreciation understand that the settlement that Government determined was what it could best afford and in the best interest of the country at the time. It also had to take into account that the gaps between the top and bottom in the rungs of the public service as regards pay structure had been closing very steadily over the years. In 1959-60, for example, this gap was the ratio of 1:15 and this fell a decade later, 1969-70, to 1:10 and 1992-93 it was 1:5.5, as against what obtains in the rest of the Caribbean. I hate to make such a comparison, but just to give you what the ratio is like to bring the point to bear that unless Barbados continues to be able to reward and attract top quality management, the quality of the public service will suffer and, by extension, the quality of the performance of Government and the quality of life in Barbados will suffer if we are not able to attract top quality management, top quality trained persons. The current ratio in Jamaica is some 1:12, not that we are seeking to return to any figures in that area, but I am just seeking to illustrate that we have to be cognisant of what obtains in the rest of the Caribbean with whom we are competing for personnel, and in many instances to manage our public sector, to work in our public sector.

A further examination of the compensation packages being offered by Government indicates that when compared with the private sector, the public sector's wages are extremely competitive with the private sector at the lower levels, but when one goes to the higher echelons of the private sector, the private sector generally pays in six figures. That is the norm, that is common in the private sector, something which we are not able to afford in the public sector.

Sir, every time there is a wage increase Government, as a matter of legal and constitutional responsibility, has to come to Parliament to pass legislation to effect these increases in salary. So in any context, wage increases for the public sector are always legislated. But the term "legislation of salaries" has come to be used in a negative context when it has to be done in the sense of there not being total agreement across the board with all bodies and Government goes ahead and passes the measures in order to give effect to the wage increases.

I thought it would be instructive if I were to point out that legislation of salaries really started in Barbados in 1976. That is the jumping off point. It was on June 29, 1976 that legislation came to the House for the legislating of salaries and it would be instructive to the members of the Democratic Labour Party if I can quote Hansard, page 6846, June 29, 1976, in which the whole question of legislation of salaries was dealt with by the Honourable E. W. Barrow, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. That speaker says:

> "What I am emphasising is this. Nobody can get any revised salaries unless you come to the Legislature.
>
> It is impossible, no matter whether I agree with what they want or whether I don't agree. I just want to stress that. The point is, when do I come? If as a Minister of Finance after 18 meetings with the various bodies, four plus two with the Barbados Workers Union and the other 12 scattered all over the rest of them – I really did not come in here with what time the meeting started, when they needed, how many meetings – I had 18 meetings altogether with the various bodies. If at the end of a certain time it is clear that it is not possible for the Government, having the general interest of the community and the taxpayers at heart, to be so irresponsible as to accede to the minimum requests made by the representatives of the public workers, if at the end of that, is there some magic in numbers that you must hold seven meetings or three more or 49 more meetings? My understanding of a situation is that I have made up my mind based on the realities confronting this country today. You can call me the employer, but I am only the representative of the other taxpayers in the island, I am a representative of the employers, call me the General Secretary of the taxpayers and I was confronted by the Presidents and General Secretaries of the public workers, therefore if on their behalf I decide that there is nothing more to be done, I am not sending to England – excuse my using the phrase – for any white gentleman in a top hat to come down here and tell the Minister of Finance of Barbados what we must do in an independent country."

1.15 p.m.

Sir, I am putting it in an historical context to show that there comes a point when...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, are you on a point of order?

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, I shouldn't be hearing you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Government could not go on negotiating interminably. I know on a question of legislation of salaries there is a thin reference quite wrongfully being given and of a line being given that the Barbados Labour Party had said in its Manifesto it would never legislate salaries. What we said in our Manifesto of 1995 which is a document of the House, on page 21, that we would:

> "For the protection of public workers wages and for the proper definition of relationships between employer and employee, we will enact a new Public Service Act and new General Orders."

In addition, we said:

> "Never again in this country will it be possible for a Government to reduce the earnings of its employees without their permission."

That was a pledge made regarding workers and workers wages and within a few short months of taking office we went to Parliament and amended the Constitution to give it flesh, to ensure that as far as we are concerned and under this watch of the Barbados Labour Party, never again would it be possible for workers to have their salaries chopped, cut and severed with the greatest insensitivity that we have seen so far in the history of government in Barbados.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I note the lateness of the hour and I beg to move in spite of the fact that the Honourable Minister of the Civil Service has not yet finished that we suspend this sitting until 2.20 p.m. for lunch and I note that the Honourable Senator has not yet completed his contribution.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: When we broke for lunch, I was making the point and I had set out some of the rationale why Government was forced to legislate these salaries, having made the point that legislation would have been necessary because in order to get salaries paid, legislation has to come to Parliament. In this context, we are dealing with a situation where an agreement was reached with CTUSAB and the Police Association and not NUPW.

Another practical reason why Government had to take this step without the compliance of the NUPW is that for all practical purposes it would have been untidy, a mess and unmanageable, even unthinkable for Government to settle for one set of rates with CTUSAB and the NUPW, so that for example, a maid represented by CTUSAB would be paid a different rate from a maid represented by the NUPW. It just was not practical. It just was not workable and therefore so that all pay and all jobs have equal worth monetarily under the agreement, it was necessary therefore that Government take this step.

It also has to be understood that this step was not taken willy-nilly. Neither was it taken overnight after 2 or 3 meetings or just a few weeks. What has happened is that we felt a sufficiently long period of time had elapsed with negotiations and that it was necessary to take the bull by the horns and face the facts and exercise some leadership much in the same way as leadership was exercised on Monday as regards the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. What has not been realised is that these negotiations really have been the longest on record between Government and the public sector unions. They started in June 1995 and went on for some 7 months and therefore nobody can accuse us of not making an effort to reach a settlement with the NUPW.

On the other hand, Sir, it would be instructive to note that this is not the first occasion on which a government of Barbados has had to legislate salaries without the NUPW's consent or because of NUPW's lack of consent. There are actually 4 previous occasions on which this step had to be taken. In 1976, in 1980, in 1982 and in 1988. If I might, I shall give you an insight into how it worked out *vis-a-vis* what Government legislated as against what NUPW demanded.

In 1976 NUPW demanded a 30% increase at the top and 60% at the bottom. Government legislated 20% at the top and 35% at the bottom. In 1980, NUPW demanded a 25% increase at the top and a 40% increase at the bottom. Government legislated 22.5% increase at the top and a 38.3% increase at the bottom. That was under the Barbados Labour Party, still the largest single increase ever recorded for the public sector workers in Barbados. I am just setting the record straight. I am not being partisan. I am just giving you all the facts as I know them.

Then in 1982, Sir, the NUPW demanded a 25% increase at the top and a 39.4% increase at the bottom and Government at that time had to settle for $108 per month across the board. One would recall that that was a rather terrible economic time and Government could not afford to do better, having done as magnificently as 38.3% previously under previous agreement. In 1988, the most recent one prior to this, the NUPW requested a 5% increase at the top and a 10% increase at the bottom. Government legislated a 5% increase at the top and an 8.2% increase at the bottom. That, therefore, sets in context how governments of various ilks have had to deal with the NUPW over the years as regards non-settlement with Government over wages.

I must make the point that it cannot be said, based on that historical record and based on the more particular record with the Barbados Labour Party, to be anti-union and anti-worker for having to take this step. If a government has to manage the affairs of a country it cannot go on negotiating interminably for a settlement because the longer it goes on it means that the more back-pay the workers will eventually get when there is an increase. The point is that it makes for untidy government and one has to be decisive and take the country's interest at heart and move forward.

Therefore for those who would want to equate this step on the behalf of the Barbados Labour Party as something unprecedented, as earth-shattering and anti-worker and anti-social is futile, if only because it must not be forgotten and cannot be forgotten, that it is the Barbados Labour Party which fathered trade unionism in Barbados and therefore it would be an act of fratricide or matricide if the Barbados Labour Party were to seek to kill its own offspring of whom as I am sure Senator Workman will appreciate, it can be said, "This is my beloved Son [or daughter] in whom I am well pleased."
2.30 p.m.

There is no doubt that trade unionism and trade unions have over the years acted responsibly. The ones who have been irresponsible, the ones who have been mavericks, have largely fallen by the wayside and have disappeared from the acronyms that were used in Barbados to deal with trade unionism. If one remembers BIGWU, *et cetera*, and some other ones of more recent vintage, one would see then that Barbadians can detect when a union is responsible and is reflected in their support and membership.

Sir, it is in that context that one has to judge the action of this Government *vis-a-vis* legislating salaries in the face of a lack of agreement with the NUPW but with agreement with CTUSAB and the Police Association representing the majority of workers represented by those unions. But, Sir, one cannot deal with this issue without having to point out that while public sector workers in general are going to get increases, the tradition and custom that at the same time that public sector workers receive increases those of the Governor-General, Judges, Parliamentarians including Senators, Parliamentary staff, the Ombudsman and the Prime Minister's Personal staff are also increased, and this tradition is being maintained.

I would like to personally throw out a challenge to all those parliamentarians, particularly those who are beating their chests loudly and avidly on this issue in acts of self-righteousness and things of that nature, I would like to challenge those who find that the legislating of salaries particularly for reasons which have been laid out, logical, factual, practical realistic reasons, reasons that were virtually endorsed word for word. The whole thinking was the same way back in 1976 by the then Leader of the Democratic Labour Party. It has to come to a stop some time. You have to make a decision. You have to lead. You have to manage the country. Let us move on.

All those who therefore find that this state of affairs is so unbearable and so undemocratic, *et cetera*, should publicly renounce such increases that might come to them through the parliamentary process and leave the money in the Treasury by some device. Work out with Government a means of leaving that money in the Treasury so that they could never be accused of blowing hot and cold on an issue, or grandstanding, or things of the like. It is very simple. If you do not agree with it, if it is so anathema to your fundamental principles and your whole adherence to the concept and principle of collective bargaining and trade unionism which is at the very heart of trade union representation, then say and demonstrate not true impressions, as has been done some years ago by someone who said they would donate their money to charity and from all accounts never did, but that a mechanism be established whereby they can put their money where their mouth is. Say "this is filthy lucre. I have no need of it. Leave it where it is." I look forward, therefore, to Senator Mascoll and Senator Thompson doing the same if they were so to benefit from such largess.

Sir, one point that has to be made is that while this deals strictly with wages and salaries, an integral part of the negotiations has been the question of improved conditions, improved terms of service and working conditions for workers right across the public sector. It is therefore worthy to note that all the time Government was negotiating it was at the same time bettering and making amends to the conditions of service by which public workers have worked over the years.

One of the areas that has been of great contention among public workers and has received a great deal

of agitation and representation on their behalf by the representatives, has been the whole question of loans for the purchase of vehicles by public sector workers for those who qualify. It was realized that the cost of vehicles has escalated over the years largely through the rise in the value of the Japanese yen. The price of Japanese cars, though international appreciation of the currency has risen tremendously and, therefore, the value of the loan which would have been given for some years was found to be inadequate, that for some time had stood at $20 000 for the first loan. Government has increased that to $35 000. In addition, a second loan which was for some time also $16 000 and had proved also inadequate, that has also been increased to $35 000 for the second loan which means that public sector workers and others who qualify can get a first and second loan of $35 000 to purchase vehicles. We feel that has gone a long way to ameliorate some of their conditions and to eliminate a longstanding source of grouse among them.

That sector of workers who depend on vehicles for carrying out their duties, who have also benefitted by Government's enlightened policy of seeking to make their conditions better as part of a better life to Barbados, these are all steps along the way. Those persons who use motorcycles, for example, and have been limited for a considerable number of years to the sum of $3 000, which at one time was quite a princely sum to pay for a motorcycle, that sum has now been increased to $5 000.

Other points which were worthy of note and steps which have been taken by Government to increase and improve workers' conditions of service include the fact that postal workers are now allowed duty-free motorcycles to carry out their duties. Previously it was really unfair for them to be asked to do that. It was a burden on them to have to pay duty on a vehicle which, to all intents and purposes, was primarily used, and in some cases exclusively used for them to work on behalf of Government and the public.

In addition, we have decided that loans for vehicles should not be restricted to motor cars, as has been for quite some time, but recognizing that the market has changed, people's taste in vehicles has changed, expanded, modified and has become more sophisticated, people are allowed to buy a Side-Kick, because that is a very popular, respectable and respected vehicle. Therefore we felt that we should not discriminate against a particular segment of the society just because they happened to be public workers who, if they had to go to a commercial bank, for example, could go and borrow money and buy a Side-Kick. A commercial bank does not restrict them from the purchase of certain vehicles. Therefore, we felt it was unfair to them not to do the same.

In addition, we have extended the repayment period of those loans from five to seven years thus giving a further ease to the public workers who are benefiting from this concession. In addition, a number of new posts, I think 12 all together, were put on the travelling schedule, thus enabling these office holders to be eligible for vehicle loans.

Added to that, Sir, added to the increase in salaries, added to the fact that they will have their first increase since 1990, added to these increased conditions of service, has been the fact that we have also taken steps to eliminate another source of contention which had to do with the fact that in the past public workers who acted in positions very often found that when it came to retirement, the receipt of pensions and the calculation of pensions on that service were not taken into account. What we have done is that we have agreed that we would amend the legislation to make it possible for those who have been acting in posts, whether permanent or temporary for three years or more either continuously or cumulatively – they had previously had to act three years nonstop without hindrance or interruption to qualify for that period to be counted toward a pension – once it amounted to three years, the full rights of pension would go to that service.

In all of this, Sir, I must ask a rhetorical question and I know the answer from the right thinking colleagues and those who are right thinking but cannot speak, will also agree with me in their heart that these policies cannot therefore be thrown at this Government as being representative and illustrative of an uncaring, selfish and heartless Government. Not when, for example, the lowly workers at the NCC have also come to enjoy the fact that they have been put back on a 5-day week, ending a phenomena which we had not seen in this country for some time but which also arose out of the harshness and the misdeed of that party's Government putting them on a 3-day week with all the consequences to their livelihoods and their family's livelihood. We have taken steps. We have passed legislation. We have provided money for those workers to be returned to a 5-day week.

Sir, the settlement which we are privileged to be associated with, and which we are pleased that the majority of the organizations representing workers have seen the light and wisdom of, has a cost. This settlement has a cost. It is estimated that this settlement when extended to Statutory Boards will cost the Government some $15.254 million in the first year and an additional $15.70 million in the second year. It is estimated that $15.24 million will only represent 0.5% of GDP and therefore it does not pose any danger to the financial solvency or viability of the country.

2.40 p.m.

We also intended to increase the washing and travelling allowances and other allowances for uniforms and what not, something that has not been done since 1988. As a matter of fact, Sir, that $15.24 million in the first year represents a figure before income tax is taken out and when it is taken out workers should get some $12.1 million in their hands, a significant sum to be injected into the economy at this time and public workers can expect to receive or most of them can expect to receive their share of that $12.1 million around pay day, March 1996, which is about March 25. The back pay will be paid by then and as a matter of fact, the Ministry of the Civil Service is now in the process of preparing circulars to be sent to the various Government Departments and the various Ministries to enable those involved in the process to begin calculating and preparing the various documents so that public sector workers can get their pay. Sir, therefore, I think we can look back on the past several months of negotiations with a sense of satisfaction and a sense of pride that we have been able to unfreeze and unshackle the public workers from a psychology of low increases, that they now again can begin to dream dreams, can begin to rebuild their lives, can begin to regain their homes or take mortgages. They at least can now begin to plan properly with a sense of calm and reassurance for the future.

While we are not out of the woods yet by any means, we have no doubt that under the continued enlightened and constructive management of this Government we are well on the way to recovery, we are well on the way to providing workers and Barbadians in general with sustained period of growth and prosperity and development and that this measure represents part of our step along the way.

We, Sir, felt it was our responsibility that once we have seen that there is prosperity, recovery and relief on the horizon, and not only the horizon but within attainment and it can easily be tasted and felt and seen, we should share that measure of bountifulness with the workers of the country who will, I am sure, share it with the rest of the country through various economic activities. I might also say, Sir, I am sure that the workers who are receiving their first back pay in some 5 or 6 years will not indulge in any indiscriminate spending. I am sure that many of them will put it to very constructive use and will respond to the urgings of the Governor of the Central Bank to the extent of asking people to save more and that they will put some of their money to productive uses and not indulge in frivolous consumption spending, but that they will take this tangible demonstration of Government's intent and put it to good use so that it can inure to the long-term benefit of the country.

I want to repeat my challenge to those Parliamentarians who will benefit and feel that they should not do something tangible about it, something appreciative about it, so that we can all move on to building a better Barbados. This is only the beginning for the Government, Sir, and I will say that while the DLP was last known to legislate to cut wages, the BLP is, through this measure, seeking to restore as a matter of normal human existence and expectation among workers, not only the principle but the actual realisation of a wage increase.

I have great pleasure, Sir, in moving this motion.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, there is no doubt at all in my mind that the civil servants of Barbados deserve better. They were the ones who were asked and willingly took an 8% cut in 1991. They were the ones who underwent all kinds of sacrifice during that period and that any upturn in the economy they should have been the ones to have benefitted from that upturn. I wish to suggest that they have not benefitted to the extent that they should have in the legislation of salaries which we recently heard from the Government side.

The collective bargaining process entails really on the one hand the employers' desire to resist increases in wages and on the other hand the unions representatives' desire to push wages up for the workers. That really constitutes the bargaining process. Within therefore the factors that determine the employers ability to pay, in this case the Government, would be its revenue and expenditure position and consequently its overall fiscal position. Certainly on the union's side the main driving force in determining the level of wages for workers would be productivity and, to a lesser extent, in today's world, inflation.

I have every reason to believe that the Government is in a much better position to pay wages of the kind that they should be able to pay, way beyond 2.5% and I will seek to demonstrate this simply by way of first the Prime Minister's view that in the Barbadian economy there should not be a one percent deficit but that the deficit should be of the order or the magnitude of 4% of GDP, in which case he still has some latitude of almost $50 million to $60 million which he can use in order to make the civil servants better off. The Prime Minister is the person who is suggesting that a deficit of 4% of GDP was manageable in the Barbados economy and that he intends to pursue that kind of deficit so that he can do some social engineering. Ironically in that he has in fact been able to manage an even tighter ship than the Democratic Labour Party. So even within the philosophical moorings of the Prime Minister there is scope for increasing the level of expenditure and consequently the level of the fiscal deficit in this fiscal year and beyond since, as I said, he is convinced that a one percent deficit of GDP does not constitute an adequate enough level to allow him to do social engineering.

In the case of the civil servants I think that they definitely are in the position where they require some kind of social engineering to bring them from where they were in 1991 to a state that reflects the upturn in the economy. I am going to demonstrate, as I said, that they are deserving of an increase way beyond what they are getting. On the one side, therefore, I am saying that the Government is in a better financial position to be able to pay and should be less resistant to an increase in wages for the civil servants and on the other hand I am very concerned that the trade unions did not pursue an even stiffer path to get wages for workers of a magnitude as I suggested before would be far more rewarding.
2.50 p.m

I will be able to demonstrate this by way of information provided in the Central Bank documents recently published. There is no one in this Chamber or in the Lower Chamber who can dispute the fact that there has been an increase in productivity within the Public Service of Barbados since 1991 and that is easy to show. It is well known that almost 4 000 workers within the Public Service lost their jobs in the post-1991 period. If we were to check this information in the Central Bank documents, we would see the output within the public sector has not declined and, as a consequence, that simply implies that there has been some increased productivity within the public sector. On the principles that exist within the Incomes Protocol, the civil servants are therefore entitled to an increase in their remuneration on the basis of the increased performance that they have exhibited since the 1991 period. So from the point of view of Government's ability to pay, that is there, and also from the point of view of justifying the increase based on productivity, that is there. That is why I am concerned that the collective bargaining process broke down so early in these talks. I have every reason to believe that the NUPW was not given the kind of break that they should have been given in this exercise and that to a large extent they were left out on a limb. That is a concern, because it is well known that they represent the greater share of the public workers in Barbados.

Sir, let me, however, before I develop this argument further, go back to the 1990 period to demonstrate that in fact over that period, in spite of the fact that there was no agreement to increase wages, that 95 per cent of the working population benefitted from the direct tax reforms of the day. As a consequence, no one can say that there was not an increase in the disposable income of these workers. In fact, in that post-1991 period a number of payroll taxes were removed from the payroll of employers as well as employees in the form of stabilization tax, levies and some other reductions. But I am certain, having gone through a whole set of analysis in this area, and being justified by such accounting firms as Ernst and Young and Peat Marwick, that more than 95 per cent of the working population in Barbados did in fact benefit by way of the reduction in taxation and that they had an increase in disposable income over that period of time.

Let me however explain the principles that existed then. It was felt that low income earners who were not paying any income taxes should have been relieved of the levies which they were paying, because there were other allowances and deductions in the system putting pressure on the system and therefore more or less maintaining the increased burden of taxation on the lower income levels that should not have been there in the first place. So to facilitate people in higher income categories, there was in fact an increased burden of taxation on the lower income workers that should not have been there in the first place and the 1992 direct tax reforms were designed to remove that burden on the lower income earners in Barbados. In fact, it is there for all to see that there was a benefit in terms of the increased disposable income of these kinds of workers.

Let me also say that since the 1991 period all the major economic indicators suggest that this economy has been restored to a healthy situation. There has been growth since 1993. There was rapid growth in 1994 because of the initiatives of the Democratic Labour Party. There has been some slow down in growth in 1995. There is no doubt that the foreign reserves of Barbados have reached record levels in 1994, again under the Democratic Labour Party Administration. There is no doubt that there was a return to employment in the areas where we would like to see employment, that is within the private sector. There is no doubt at all that there has been an overall improvement in the balance of payment environment within the Barbados economy. More importantly is the investment climate which has improved to the extent that we had record levels of investment taking place in the Barbados economy in 1994. Those factors suggest to me and all rational thinking individuals that the environment for collective bargaining was there in the favour of the worker, and it is surprising that the trade unions of Barbados did not seek the kind of advice that they should have sought in reaching the kind of position which they eventually reached. Therefore, I am saying that they made errors in terms of allowing Government to reach a point where they have legislated salaries in the 1996 period. This comes against a back-drop where the Government used perhaps the first occasion that it got in this new Parliament to restore or in fact to bring legislation to suggest that civil servant salaries will not be cut. What I wish to suggest is that, even though cutting of a wage may be a more harmful exercise than the deprivation, in this case depriving workers of their salaries which they are deserving of is equally dangerous to cutting. Therefore, when you legislate you are in fact depriving workers of the kind of increase that they are justified in having, based on their performance.

So that, in principle, the two bits of legislation counter each other. On the one hand, you are legislating to prevent individuals from getting an increase in salary that they are deserving of and, on the other hand you are suggesting that you are in fact the workers' representative to the extent that you will not permit cuts in salaries when the occasion may be warranted. I cannot understand the conflict in the principle. If you are going to say that you are taking away a salary from an individual, you have deprived him of that salary. Then to suggest to me to legislate is in fact something that is normally done because all salaries are legislated, since they have to be brought to the Lower and Upper Chamber, is really to carry logic to its full extent.

Let me say, Sir, that in 1976 the process of collective bargaining started under the Democratic Labour Party but it was in fact outlined earlier that at that time the request was in the order of 60 per cent at the bottom. Those of us who understand figures, and even those who do not, would recognize that to legislate a 35 per cent across the board was in fact a significant increase in salary at that time. What we are seeing is the legislation of a small magnitude of 2.5 per cent.

I am saying that given the economic circumstances in Barbados, the civil servants first of all get an increase to justify that the sacrifice which they underwent during the post-1991 period is one which is deserving of some recognition, and that should have constituted a basic increase in salary for all the workers within the Civil Service. I am suggesting that on the basis of the increased productivity in the Civil Service there should have been a further increase in concert with the principles of the Incomes Protocol to the same civil servants. I am saying that a 2.5 per cent increase does not in fact represent the kind of increase that workers in the Civil Service should be getting at this stage because there are two factors that should have been attended to: (1) They did not get an increase since 1990; and (2) having asked to be more productive, the civil servants of Barbados have responded very well to the call and the information is there to show.

I am, therefore, saying that if we were to calculate from the data provided in the Central Bank Report, to have given the civil servants of Barbados a 2 per cent productivity bonus would have been reasonable in the circumstances, that is, on top of an increase in salary. That is on top of a basic increase in salary because of the kind of sacrifice that they, as I said before, underwent, a basic increase of about 2% or 3%, such that a 5% increase across at the top and maybe a 7% increase at the bottom could have been justified given the economic circumstances which we now find ourselves in, thanks to the management of the Democratic Labour Party in the post-1991 period.

3.00 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Who is going to pay for it? It can be paid for out of the purse of the public, because I am saying that there was a principle established by the Prime Minister of Barbados that he can carry a deficit of 4%, which gives him room of a magnitude of $60 million more without doing damage to the balance of payments of Barbados. This was stated by the Prime Minister in his reply to the 1994 Budget, and having got the opportunity to manage the economy he has not gone on his principles, but I expect that. There is scope within there for that to happen.

More importantly, Sir, we have had a situation where there will be increases in allowances across the board as a consequence of measures that were promised some time before. I am suggesting that that increase, as much as it would benefit the individuals who would be entitled to it, the first call on the public purse at this point in time should have been the civil servants. To tell me that you are now going to take the benefits which have been derived since 1991 and spread them to individuals who were not asked to undergo the kind of sacrifice is to my mind lacking in principle. That $3 500 in allowances that will be added on top of the $13 000 allowance will be available to no less than 30 000 people in Barbados and will represent for the Government a costing of no less than $25 million. If you are saying that the public service has responded to the call to be responsible and to increase productivity in Barbados, then the civil servants of Barbados should have been the individuals to have had first call on the public purse. In that light I am saying that civil servants are deserving of a much better increase than we are presently seeing in these legislated salaries. That is because–

> the Government ought to be less resistant on the basis of the fact that the revenue is there;
>
> the Government ought to be less resistant because they have been forced to run a tighter ship in terms of their capital expenditure;

and as a consequence of those two factors the Government is in a position where its fiscal deficit is not in a position to undermine the foreign reserves of Barbados. So there is ability on the part of the Government to pay, and I am saying that on the part of the trade unions, the representatives of the workers, they are in a position where they should have been able to push more effectively for increases in productivity, and this can be demonstrated by way of the information provided in the Central Bank's documents.

More importantly, I am not giving any National Productivity Board in Barbados five years to con-

struct employment indicators within the public service. I wish to suggest that in those five years they will not have completed the exercise of providing productivity indicators across the 56 different departments within Government. In any case, that is not important, because at the end of the day the thing that will determine whether or not a civil servant in a particular department gets an increase in salary is whether the Government can afford it. Therefore, we still have to bring the discussion to a macro level. Can Government afford to pay the increased wage that will be demanded as a result of a productivity bonus? You are saying that there may be differential productivity across the board within the various departments. How do you expect Government, with limited resources in terms of management, to be able to go across the respective departments within the civil service and on a basis of differential productivity performance pay a different rate to different individuals who may be in the same S scale or Z scale? How can you justify it? It does not make sense to me. How will it happen? How will you give an individual in one Government department, whose department might have increased productivity by 10%, an increase in wage commensurate with that increase and then give a similarly located individual in the Civil Establishment a 2% based on the performance within his department? It cannot happen at that micro level, so at the end of the day it will require Government to have a broad macro indicator to determine its capacity to pay and whether or not it will pay civil servants on the basis of a productivity bonus.

On that score I am suggesting that the evidence provided in this document is sufficient evidence for the trade unions to have pushed more for an increase in productivity or increase in wage for workers on the basis of productivity, and Government, if it were willing to do so, to be in a position where it can say even though we do not have productivity indicators at the level of the departments, we are convinced on the basis of this information provided in this document that there has been an increase in productivity. It does not make sense to tell me that you are waiting on productivity indicators, it could have been done. It is easy to do, it is easy on the basis of the information provided to justify giving the civil servants an increase of a magnitude way beyond 2.5%. That does not constitute the present purse for Government, wages and salaries is of the magnitude of about $450 million and 10% of that is $45 million. Half of that is about $23 million. I am therefore saying that a 5% increase was within the bounds of Government's revenue capacity to pay in this particular fiscal year and that there is no one here who can tell me otherwise in relation to the ability of Government to pay such an increase. You cannot justify it on any other ground.

I suffered as a worker of the Central Bank, not only in terms of a reduction of 8% but also in terms of an increase in the unemployment levy which was double at the time. What was important about that is that a prominent member of staff within the civil service does not pay unemployment levy, so you can therefore see that workers within statutory boards during that period not only suffered to the magnitude of an 8% cut, but they suffered also in terms of a doubling of the unemployment levy. I must say, however, that on reflection I am very glad that I contributed to uplifting the economic state of Barbados, in that I was able to make a sacrifice that people within the private sector did not make in a similar magnitude, even though they would have made a sacrifice. I am therefore saying that now the time has come for Government to take that sacrifice and convert it into something meaningful in terms of monetary reward for the civil servants. They can do it. There is no one who can convince me otherwise. They can do it both within the outlined fiscal deficit of the Prime Minister and the existing revenue and expenditure patterns which they have embarked on in this new regime. They have hardly had a capital works programme of which we can speak. They in fact came to these Chambers last year and decided they were going to spend something of the order of $160 million or $170 million, and it is fair to say on the evidence provided that they have not been able to spend half of that amount. Therefore, somewhere in the kitty, within the Estimates, there is that kind of provision. The same Administration suggested that it would not bring supplementaries to any of these Houses, the Lower or the Upper House, and yet still for this fiscal year so far we have had no less than 15 supplementaries being brought. It was supposed to be a sin to even come to the Chambers to ask for a supplementary and it was suggested by the Prime Minister at the time that there is no way that he would be pursuing any such management strategy that will make him come to these Chambers in order to have some form of supplementary.

3.10 p.m

He suggested that it was because of the inadequate forecasting of the Government of the day that they had to come back to get the supplementaries at the time when they came. Now, Sir, we can see all about us that the management of the fiscal affairs of government can be brought into question. The most recent episode is evidence of it. Then you can tell me that you are not compensating individuals at that institution for the increased productivity which they would have in fact brought to bear in the post-1991 period, but you are finding it fit to send home 4 individuals in that institution who would have contributed to the productivity at the institution and who would have been in a position where they managed quite effectively.

In fact, in our system of government it is known that the Minister is ultimately responsible for any such deeds yet now we are hearing that it is the civil servants who have to be brought under the gallows. It is this same Administration that mid-year 1995 asked for a monthly management report to be submitted by the workers of that institution. That report was submitted and you are

now telling me that you were not in a position before to understand that that institution required better management of its financial system. How do you then suggest or even try to say on the one hand that you had management reports on a monthly basis but it took you 18 months to be in a position to say what was actually happening at the institution. It does not make sense.

It does suggest to me that there is really an urgent need by this Government to find ways to improve the management of a number of departments across the board and although we have seen increased productivity across the civil service we are now being told that the public sector workers are not deserving of an increase beyond what they have gotten in this legislative approach adopted by the now Government.

Sir, we have had since 1991 an increase in crime in Barbados, according to the information, and it was said that that is as a consequence of the economic situation. Now I wish to ask this question. Why am I speaking of crime? If there has been an increase in crime in Barbados and the policemen are responsible for crime it means that they would have been working harder since the period 1991. They would have been called upon...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. The policemen are not responsible for crime. So I would not like it to be said that this Honourable Chamber is saying that the police are responsible for crime. I don't think they are responsible for crime. They are not criminals.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The policemen are responsible for solving crime. More importantly, Sir, what has happened in the last 2 years is that they have actually realised a reduction in the level of crime as well as the success rate of solving crime. It therefore means that there is again evidence that policemen in Barbados have been working more productively during the last 3-4 years than in the time period before.

On that basis alone, it means that if we measure productivity as an input versus an output, it then suggests that policemen are entitled to more remuneration than they are presently getting on the basis of the evidence. There is no one that can dispute it. We have heard how all along there has been an increase in crime. We have heard that the policemen have been able to reduce effectively that crime rate within the last 2-3 years. It therefore means that they would have had to be more productive. As a consequence, they are deserving of a productivity bonus. That is what I am suggesting. There is no one that can dispute that.

Therefore, I am saying that there is evidence within a particular unit of government to justify an increase in their remuneration on the basis of productivity. We cannot dispute that either. You do not need to have an overall assessment of the public service to be able to determine whether or not the public service is entitled to an increased productivity bonus. You do not need to have it. It is impossible to do it for every worker within the 56 departments of government because it is too costly an exercise to push through. There are no management systems of the kind within the departments of government that could permit individuals to be able to measure the output of individual workers.

As a consequence, Sir, I am saying that they will never be in a position in the Civil Service to be able to assess each and every worker and that each and every worker can never be in a position to be fully assessed within the public service in order to be able to determine whether or not they are deserving of a productivity bonus. The management structures within government departments are not adequate enough to get that kind of output. The Ministry of the Civil Service does not have the manpower to go across the civil service to determine productivity measures for each and every individual. Even within the existing structures that we are seeing in certain department there is not that kind of structure. How do you assess the productivity across the public service with people performing many different functions? How do you do it? You do not need to have as I said before a measure of productivity of each and every worker across each and every department. So I have difficulty in understanding how the trade union movement in Barbados could have succumbed to the kind of pressure that they succumbed to. They succumbed to the pressure. The environment in Barbados is appropriate and right for the civil servants of Barbados to demand a much better pay than they are presently getting. The evidence is there to show that Government itself has said that it can afford to run deficits beyond what it is presently running.

The revenue position of Government is supposed to be secure. In fact, in 1995, Government realised a surplus on its fiscal budget. If Government is running surpluses on its fiscal budget why cannot it pass on some of the benefits to workers? Who are we trying to fool in this country, Sir? All the evidence is there to show that the collective bargaining process should have been continued in Barbados to the benefit of the civil servants and we have trade unions in Barbados, as I said before, succumbing to the pressure of Government. It should never have happened at this stage. The circumstances are vastly different to what they were in 1991 and 1990. The circumstances are different because of the management of the Democratic Labour Party. There is no doubt about it. Who can dispute it? Nobody can dispute it. I don't even need paper in this kind of debate. This debate is all to do with emotions, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Be careful with missiles, Senator.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: This debate is about evidence. I am going to repeat for the benefit of this Chamber that the trade union movement in Barbados succumbed too easily to the pressure placed on it by the Government in the most recent debate in terms of the re-negotiation for wages. That is what I am saying on the basis of evidence.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber, and I believe maliciously doing so, because he knows what he is saying to be untrue. No pressure was brought to bear on the trade union movement. The trade union movement exercised the same national spirit and patriotism that it did in 1991.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would just ask that the word "malicious" be withdrawn, Senator Trotman. I think it certainly imputes an improper motive.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: I withdraw the term, Sir.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I wish, Sir, to do something which may be unprecedented. I wish to more or less go back and repeat my statements before for the benefit of Senator Trotman.
3.20 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Rules forbid repetition. You have only limited time, so I would suggest you proceed with your speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It does? Well, Sir, I will couch my language in a way that gives me the same output with a different input. I am saying that the environment as we see it in Barbados is not one in which salaries should have been legislated so early. I am saying that the civil servants of Barbados who took the pressure in the post-1991 period should have been the first to receive any benefits. In spite of the fact that they will get a small percentage increase, the evidence is there to show that that increase should have been bigger. There are two approaches that should have been used. One, those individuals should have been given increases based on their basic salaries because of the sacrifices they took, and then they should have been given increases based on productivity changes that had occurred.

Sir, I am now going to make reference to the data which is available to make my point. On page 178 of the Central Bank document, Annual Statistical Digest, 1995 for the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, the real Gross Domestic Product within the Government sector was $112 million in 1992, 1993 and in 1994. There was no change. Over that period no less than 4 000 public sector workers lost their jobs.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the Barbados Labour Party went through this country of Barbados during the election and suggested that no less than 4 000 lost their jobs. I am now simply quoting a figure provided by the Government in order to prove my point that with a significant reduction in the labour force, that output remained the same within the public service in real terms and the only way that could have occurred is if indeed there was an increase in productivity among all workers within the public service or across the board. I am saying that on that basis and that basis alone there is justification for an increase in workers' salaries in Barbados. There is no reason why on the basis of what we have now that the civil servants of Barbados could not have been given a 2 per cent or 3 per cent productivity bonus as well as an increase in their basic wage.

I am saying, Sir, that on the basis of affordability the Government is in a position where its expenditure position has been reduced, because it has been unable to commit itself to a capital works programme. There has been a reduction in the fiscal deficit in Barbados and it is this Prime Minister, I reiterate, that suggested that a 4 per cent of GDP was adequate for management of the Barbados economy to provide social engineering. On that basis and that basis alone the Government has available to it no less than $50 million to $60 million in additional revenue which it can spend, and that is what I am saying.

As a consequence, Sir, I am saying that the Government should have been in this collective bargaining exercise far more attentive to the needs of the workers of Barbados. Based on the evidence provided and the sacrifice which workers undertook since 1991, the unions could have been more pivotal in getting a better salary for workers in Barbados. It has nothing to do with whether or not the unions had Barbados at heart. This has to do with the information and the economy which suggest that on all indicators, in terms of cost, foreign reserves, low inflation, increased productivity, in terms of everything else that there has been an increased and improved environment for which public sector workers should have been given some increase in their salaries.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: If the unions need advice on these kinds of issues, the advice is free because I feel strongly about it. I also feel strongly that there is no way ...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, that is an aside. This is evidence, a lot of ideas to suggest that workers should have been given more. As I said before, this same Government is now on course to giving between $25 million and $30 million per year to every Tom, Dick and Harry as a consequence of restoring $3 500 across the board, that in an environment where civil servants sacrificed they should have been the first ones to have been given back any sort of remuneration. Sir, it cannot be a question of affordability because in other places they were willing to forego. How could it be a question of affordability or ability to pay when the same Government is in a position where it is going to restore these allowances to individuals, private sector allowances, individuals who would have had mortgages from the 1960s, who could not reclaim for mortgage interest and the like? How could Government be doing this?

Any such initiative should be an initiative to encourage people to own new homes, not to give compensation to individuals who would have had mortgages back in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s at the expense of the public sector workers in Barbados. That point has to be made. It cannot be a question of affordability. It cannot be a question of the ability to pay on the part of Government so, therefore where was the slip up in the collective bargaining process? It was on the part of the trade unions not to have pushed and pushed more effectively for increased wages for public sector workers in Barbados and that is my view based on the information provided.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: No one can dispute the information. The information is solid and very reasoned. The evidence is there to show. It is not anything that fell out of the sky. The information is provided in its logical form from the information of the Central Bank Reports.

Sir, I have a lot of time to speak on a number of other issues because there are other Resolutions, I think seven of them. There are quite a few so I do not need to extend myself. What I am going to do now is to reduce my speed and just bowl a few outswingers. I do not need to blow at top speed all the time. I have a long time here to go for the rest of the evening so I am going to haul in the troops and come back later for a second spell, because this is a long time. I will have a chance to respond to any allegations made by any other Member of this Senate.

On that score, Sir, I am saying that the civil servants of Barbados, and I will finish on this note, are more deserving of an increase than any other group of workers in Barbados and that the collective bargaining environment is there to justify increases way beyond the ones they have got. I am saying therefore that I am not pleased with the kind of position that has been reached by this Government in legislating salaries at this time in 1996 because the economic environment is too good, the financial circumstances are right. We have a situation in which the workers have, in fact, demonstrated a willingness to increase their productivity and on that basis and that basis alone I cannot understand the need for the legislating of salaries at this time.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the measure before the Chamber. Like any good trade unionist, I will have concerns, and I will always have concerns if there is an inability on the part of the negotiating parties to settle the matter before them by resolution between or among themselves. Therefore I would wish publicly to indicate that I have concerns that there has not been the opportunity for the NUPW to reach agreement in the negotiations with the Government. Having said so, Mr. President, I am perfectly well aware of the fact that this is the very first time in the history of multiple negotiations with whoever formed the Government that we have had a situation where Government did not have to negotiate with 16 or 17 different bodies and on this occasion the negotiations took place only with three different institutions. On the one hand the National Union of Public Workers, on the other hand the Police and, if there were three hands, on the third hand the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations.
3.30 p.m.

I would hasten to say that it is my understanding that if we continue on course it will be the last occasion when we shall have to have negotiations in this manner, because the National Union of Public Workers are *bona fide* members of the Congress, and it is my hope that they will be able to negotiate with the group. In fact their own leadership may be the ones to lead the negotiations on some future occasion because the leadership is a democratic position chosen from time to time and the person who leads in the negotiations would be able, from time to time, to reflect whoever, in the opinion of the congress is the person best suited to negotiate with the other side.

I would need to make the point as well that the Police Association, in my view, would not have wanted to negotiate separately except that the law, as it currently stands, put a position in place which makes the police pursue a particular line. The Police Association, the Prison Officers Association and the Fire Officers are all part of what one might refer to as the disciplined forces and they have been under a position where they are not able to take part in the affairs of their membership in a way that the trade union would normally want to do.

We have made representation since October 1994 to the Attorney General. He gave an assurance at that time. He has followed up that assurance with actual correspondence in which he has indicated to us that we should outline clearly what are the areas that we find offensive in the present legislation and he has given a commitment that it will be changed and therefore it is my hope, Mr. President, that, in future, negotiations will involve everybody acting as one.

As a matter of fact, in most other things, we act in one common position. We have constant discussions, we are constantly under consultations regarding what is right and what is proper. I say that, particularly in this regard, because ever since 1991 when we were thrown together as a body of independent persons, not having a common thread guiding us, when we were suddenly made aware that we were on the edge of a precipice, when for the first time we realised that Barbadians would lose jobs, the currency might be devalued and our competitive position was in dire difficulty we took a position, as a coalition, now a congress, that in whatever we do we would put Barbados first. We are not latter-day representatives of the workers of this country who conveniently decide to say, trade union, because there are short-term benefits that we want to derive. I do not apologise, Mr. President, to anybody for saying that. When in those dark days we were trying to put Barbados first all those who shout loud now and say "trade union" could not be found. However careful and skilful and knowledgeable they are in economic matters they could not be found.

On the few occasions that I was able to get assistance in some of those matters that I had to deal with it was certainly not in the quarters that have spoken loudest that I found that guidance and support. When we dealt with the matter of wages, when we dealt with the matter of conditions, we dealt first of all, Mr. President, with the position of our country. We dealt with the level of pay which we felt the country could take and when in 1993 we decided that we were going to agree to a prices and incomes policy in which there would be a freeze on wages and salaries there were several people at that time who felt that there was no need for a freeze on wages and salaries. We felt that it was justified in the circumstances and we felt that the Government of the day and the employers who were leading the employers group and the leaders who were using the trade union were acting in the best interest of Barbados to arrive at a decision to have that freeze and we persuaded our membership generally, and Barbados as a whole, to follow in that direction. I wonder whose pressure we succumbed to at that time. I wonder where these latter-day protectors of the interest of the working class were at that time.

I wonder, Mr. President, why it is that we cannot separate those matters which are higher issues than political issues from those matters which are political issues. If you would allow, Mr. President, anyone who would suggest that the position which we took in 1991 and in 1993 led to the current position I have as being a Senator, I might then have to wonder why it was that I did not get a Knighthood in 1993. Stanley Goddard was given a Knighthood. I was offered a Silver Crown of Merit and I told you all to keep it because so far as I was concerned, Mr. President, what I was doing was not being done for narrow partisan interests, it was being done in the interest of the masses of people in this country and it is still being done in the interest of the masses of people in this country. When the position of a governmental change came it was the dear Lady, the late Dame Nita, who asked me to serve in this position. So the position of Senator, Mr. President, should not be cheapened by any one, I am sure it could not be cheapened by anybody inside the Chamber, so it should not be cheapened by anybody outside the Chamber. The only other person who did so try to cheapen it is now dead.

The relevance and importance of our reaching these positions have to do with how we envision the country, the growth and the development that it is taking at a particular time and how we can contribute to that development and that growth. I dare anybody to say that our position was not honourable when we took a position in 1991 not to allow those people who wanted the march to become political and not to move it to become a march against the Democratic Labour Party and the Prime Minister of the day but to keep it at what it was, which was a demonstration to prevent people from paying for their own severance, a demonstration for reducing the amount of unemployment benefits that they were, a demonstration to suggest that we wanted the number of people who were to be laid-off reduced, a demonstration to suggest that where the lay-offs came and we expected there would be lay-offs that each family in Barbados had to have at least one breadwinner. When we did that, we did it very conscious that there would be people who would jump on a platform and criticize the labour movement. But we felt that there were honourable people on all sides who would come out to say that the trade union movement is honourable and does not permit itself to succumb to that kind of infantile and puerile pressure. In similar fashion, Mr. President, we would believe that those persons would remain consistent on all sides and, whatever the wind of change or political fortunes may be, we would expect them to maintain that level of integrity at all times.

3.40 p.m

This Senator, Mr. President, though he left the Democratic Labour Party, he remained faithful to his commitment and he never went public to indicate to anyone the reasons why he left the Democratic Labour Party. He is still not going to do so now. This Honourable Senator, when he left, he sat alone and he made

decisions in the interest of the people of Barbados and quite frequently those decisions supported the Government and the party that he had just left to the extent that he was accused sometimes of still being a Democratic Labour Party Member.

Now, Mr. President, I do not want to get into politics but this is about the welfare of the people and about wages. It therefore introduces the possibility for people to misunderstand what is being done and why it is being done. When wages are being negotiated, they are negotiated by the Congress of Trade Unions and by the Barbados Workers Union bearing in mind, Sir, that we have in this country a private sector and a public sector all of whom are very delicately involved in the process of trying to make improvements in their conditions of employment from time to time. We had very carefully worked out over a period of time where we felt settlement levels could have been arrived at and I am sure if there had been a different Government, whatever debate would be today and the arguments by some people who may change positions, that those factors which guided the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations would have remained the same. We gave a commitment to the Government in 1993 that we were not going to seek to have an increase in wages and we also gave a commitment regarding what we would expect in terms of pressure on the Public Treasury. We continued to honour that in 1995 as a Congress, moving from a Coalition to a Congress. If there are Members of this Honourable Chamber who have a problem with our honouring our commitment to the people of Barbados, to them we apologize most profusely, Sir, but indicate regretfully that we are not able to change from that high road and join them where they may want to be – where the water flows to the sea.

Sir, in the matter of having to legislate salaries and in the matter of the level of the settlement which has been arrived at, people can have disagreements with us and we do not mind those disagreements. We do not even mind the quotations which might suggest that a settlement level could have been found elsewhere. What we mind is the suggestion that says that those values which we brought to bear to the negotiations are of no relevance if they are known, and if they are not known that it makes it worse. Because the parties who speak so loudly have not sought to find out what governed our decisions, and that efforts would be made to suggest that all of those people who met as a Congress – let us leave Senator Trotman out of it – but all of those honourable members of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations who met and continue to meet have been driven by factors of weakness, fear, ignominy and of yielding supinely (I think that I saw that word somewhere) to political pressure – that is totally unacceptable. Perhaps one might accuse me of that because I used to be a politician and I thought that I had risen to a position where I have become a states-person, but now I realize that that is not necessarily correct. But are we to understand that all of those other honourable people who have given of their time and their energies to help to stabilize this economy in Barbados and to try to take it forward can be accused under the protection of this Honourable Chamber of heinous behaviour which is not behaviour that is becoming of a noble man or a noble woman? Are we supposed to exercise that kind of licence in such a manner that is to be deplored? Where is it within the negotiations that anyone can say that at any point in time the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations did not take the total economy into consideration? Who is there to tell us today that Barbados is so well off and so well positioned that we are completely out of the economic and financial woods and that we do not have to bother still whether devaluation is going to be a factor that we have to address? Why fool ourselves and why try to fool the public on any side that Barbados has now risen to a position of eminence economically and we do not have to fear anything so we can proceed and do as we like? I have opposed the Government for those reasons and I have supported the Government for those reasons as well. And where I will not accept anybody arguing is where he would say that the Trade Union Movement of Barbados should move so to position itself for narrow financial gains for membership that it loses sight of the fact that we have to carry forth the whole of this country.

I remain committed, Mr. President, to the first reason that prompted us to enter into the first Protocol and that first reason was that people had to find work. So you had to find work. You had to prevent as many as possible from losing their jobs and then give as many others jobs as is possible. In 1993 when we dealt with the first Protocol, that is what governed it, Mr. President. When we entered into negotiations, every single member of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations decided that they would rather not have an increase than to push for one and as a result of having an increase have anybody not get a job in this country.

We have been hoping to see even more jobs in this country. I have come, Mr. President, to 1995 in the second Protocol and I have said that when we entered the second Protocol jobs were still at the very centre of that second Protocol and we entered into job protection. Where you see we have a fight now, Mr. President, with the public sector or the private sector on jobs, is because we have given a commitment on our side and we expect the Government on its side, and the private sector for its part, to try to provide jobs for the people of this country. If the Honourable Senator is saying that we should not be concerned with the provision of jobs, then he must speak more clearly, because I did not hear him too well. If the Honourable Senator is saying that we should not make sure we have jobs in

any sector, in any area, and that some should work and others should go unemployed, then I have a problem, because in any event we should all have a right to employment and every single one of us should move towards putting in place such measures that would make it possible for access to employment to be possible. Whether we are talking about those who have the objective of putting a profit at the forefront, or those who in the public interest run the economy, the same underlying concern must be with us. What are we going to do with those thousands of our brothers and sisters who have no jobs or who are under employed? What drove the Congress in this situation, among other things, has been that concern. For somebody to take such a noble notion, to take such an honourable position and to argue that it represents a succumbing to any pressure, is for that person to be dealing in a manner that does not relate to the truth.
3.50 p.m.

I have, Mr. President, no brief for any political party, I have only a concern that we do not permit ourselves in situations of this sort to move the political argument to the extent that the political party takes up innocent persons and maligns them. I don't mind myself, but the negotiations have not been a one person thing. If it were me alone, I would not mind, because when you attack me that is water off my back. That is not a problem.

The reality, therefore, of what is before us has to do with what we are striving to do. I have only given you one part so far of the negotiations as we understand them, as we intend those negotiations to work themselves out. We have said, as Senator Murray indicated earlier, that we would be prepared to reach agreements at a particular level, always provided that the Government understands that the level of pay which there is in an agreement is not all that there is to that agreement. Very critical to a collective agreement, especially in the public service, are the conditions of employment under which those people work. Just a couple of days ago we were again looking at some of those conditions, especially where the nurses are involved, and we were able to point out to the Government that in many of those conditions people are being significantly disadvantaged in relation to other workers in that they do not get shift allowances, overtime pay, or that they do not get adequate equipment to work with. Only today I have had to ask one of my colleagues to go to a certain work place in the public service because we perceive that the people who are working in that area may be working in health facilities where the conditions are endangering their welfare. We are seeking in a number of those matters to have conditions addressed as being as important as, if not more important than, the level of pay that those particular persons will be deriving. That information was put on the table, not by me, Sir, but by the Senator who led in this debate, because it happens to be a condition that applies in this case. Am I to understand that these latter-day representatives of the people know better than the elected leaders what it is the people want when they instruct us to negotiate on their behalf? When the people give us a set of conditions that they want us to put forward on their behalf, are we supposed to neglect those conditions because some people for political gain would want us to take different positions?

There is always the possibility for anybody to argue for more. Brian Lara scored 501 runs last year and I heard somebody argue that he did not make enough in that game. I heard somebody make that case. It is easy, Mr. President, for anybody to put together a group of words. It is much more difficult when we have serious business to deal with in the interest of the people for us to arrive at resolutions. In fact, anybody can quarrel, but it takes a certain kind of capacity to bring about a settlement.

When we looked at the matter of the conditions and we realised a number of those conditions which have been outstanding for a very long time – and I do not wish, Mr. President, to put a date to any of the conditions, because this is not a political presentation, so I am not going to say when the conditions have been outstanding from or whom they relate to – but when we put together those conditions as they relate to the various groups of workers and the various associations of workers and trade unions within the public sector, we were satisfied that the amount of money which we were asking the Government for was almost as much as we were asking for in the wages proposal we had put forward. Many of them are conditions which would help to make for greater efficiency. I would like to believe that in the good faith in which we have approached these negotiations we will continue them, and that the level of maturity which we have exercised up to now, without having to succumb to any pressure from anybody inside or outside of any Chamber, will be the same level which will maintain the quality and the character of these negotiations.

I wish to go beyond that, Mr. President, to make the point that the quality of the public service we are going to have in the future is not going to rest alone on whether people are going to have 2½% or 3½% or even 5%. The quality of the public service we are going to have will relate to the conditions under which people work, and paramount within that position of conditions will have to be the level of security a working man or a working woman is able to find in his or her job. No job is secure, whether in the public sector or the private sector, or in Parliament, but what we have to bear in mind is that although a job may not be secure we must still think to secure the conditions and the environment that would make people satisfied that the job is available if you want it and if you work hard enough to keep it. I am not talking about

the argument of downsizing, in case anybody thought I was into that, I am talking about security of jobs in a situation where you can do something about it. I am making the point, and making it very, very clearly, that in the public service, therefore, as in the private sector, we concerned ourselves with trying to create an environment where jobs would be secure so that when a person goes to work, that person will believe that his or her job is not only there but there is a possibility for his sister, or her sister, or brother to be able to find work as well. We believe that is a matter of significance, because if you are not secure in your work you are not going to be able to respond to any request for making that job more efficient and more productive. Therefore you are not going to be able to rise to the challenge to make Barbados more competitive. Then again, Mr. President, there may be some among us who are not interested any longer in that need for competitiveness in our economy. It may have phased itself out after the first Protocol, because there may be some who were interested in it at that time because it suited their brand of arguments at that time and now they may no longer have any interest. It may be that if by an accident that they got into a position again where it suited them they would want us to forget this argument that is being put forward today.
4.00 p.m.

Now I cannot be a person of convenience, Mr. President. My "yes", and my organisation's "yes", must remain yes, whoever is the government. The position we adopt for and on behalf of Barbados must remain the same. Therefore for this reason I stand behind the position of the Congress of Trade Unions and argue that we reject out of hand any insinuation or other comment which would suggest that the negotiations and the level of settlement were not in the best interests of all the parties.

I thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, first of all let me say that I wish that we did not have to participate in a debate which is legislating salaries because none of us on this side wish this to continue. We would prefer if we can reach settlement with all of the parties concerned, but we recognise that at times we have to take steps in the interest of the country. While we don't like it, we understand that we have to do it on certain occasions but our wish is that the mechanism would be in such a place that we can negotiate with all the public sector interests and come to an agreement so that when we come to Parliament we would just be rubber-stamping what was agreed by the concerned parties.

Sir, be that as it may, we are here now. First of all, I want to commend the parties concerned, those who reached an agreement for working in the interest of the country. We must realise that the public service represents approximately a quarter of the work force and not only that but it sends an important signal to the rest of the community because a lot of people look at the way the Government settles and base their wage settlements on that.

Therefore Government must send the correct signal to the nation as a whole regarding pay salaries because we are not yet out of the woods. We have made significant progress, but we are not yet out of the woods. We are on the road to full recovery and we cannot afford to let the gains that we have made in the past few years be frittered away in any sort of manner.

Sir, we are not disadvantaging any group. We are offering 3½% for the lowest paid workers in one year followed by a 3% in another year and Sir, the Prime Minister said that there is going to be a productivity bonus. That is what we are here discussing: 3½% for those workers in the Z scales in the first year a further 3% in the second year and the promise – and we keep our promises, Sir – of a productivity bonus when the two sides are in a position to look at the numbers and arrive at an acceptable figure.

Sir, we are not cutting pay. We are increasing pay a little above the rate of inflation because the rate of inflation is around 2%. So we are making the worker a little bit better. In other words, his spending power would be increased by a little bit. That is what the settlement is all about. We are increasing the spending power of the workers and in addition we are going to reward them for productivity gains that were made in the past year. That is what we are doing.

I want to say, Sir, that Government is not like an ordinary employer. An ordinary employer makes profits and out of that profit the workers have to ensure that they get a fair share of the profits made by the company, to which they have been the main contributors. The union has to ensure that the workers in that organisation get their fair share of the cake. Government does not make a profit. If we look at the figures every year Government spends more than it takes in. Governments have always run on a deficit and that has to be supplemented by either foreign or domestic borrowing but governments are always spending more than they take in, in the form of taxes and fees and various other things. Sir, I am talking specifically of the Government of Barbados. We have always historically run a deficit.

Therefore, Sir, any time we increase our expenditure, it has to come from basically one source, that is, from taxation. It must come from taxation because there is a limit as to how much we can borrow out there. If we look

the national debt and the figures are here for those Senators who may think that I am trying to deceive them.

The figures show that in 1985 the national debt was $1 100 million. By the end of 1995, it had reached $2 492 million. By September, 1994, it was $2 372 million. So they have doubled the national debt. Sir, we cannot afford to go on like that just adding debt on debt. We have to make sure that we minimise that as far as possible and therefore we cannot afford to run large deficits. It is as clear as that. It has to come from somewhere and you either tax the people who are already overtaxed or increase the national debt with the subsequent effect of increasing expenditure because you have to service the national debt. So we are on a slippery slide, so to speak. We have to make sure that our expenditure matches our revenue, because to increase taxation would obviously lead to increases in the cost of living, especially indirect taxation, which impacts immediately on the cost of goods and services in the stores and shops around Barbados. So you will be back to square one.

Any wage settlement that has to be financed by an increase in our taxation is illusionary, primarily because the cost of living is going to go up commensurate with the wage settlements. Therefore, Sir, all that is going to happen is that you give them more and the goods that they buy will eat up any increase and as a result our competitiveness will be eroded.

We have to be very careful about our paying our way in this world. We have to be competitive. Tourists do not have to come here. There are alternative destinations and if our costs skyrocket then we would lose business to other destinations. We have to make sure that our costs are kept down. It is better, Sir, to have a wage settlement at this level and contain costs than to satisfy some desire to gain popularity. Increase wages beyond your ability to pay and the result will be that we will tend to lose jobs we could have saved.
4.10 p.m.

Sir, that is the clear equation. We have to make sure that our competitiveness is maintained. That has to be the policy of this Government because we have to earn foreign exchange. Our manufacturing sector which is now growing, which they put a lot of punitive taxes on, we had to remove them in order to get them going. What were we supposed to do then? The short gains we have got which resulted in increase and improvement in the manufacturing and other sectors, that gain cannot be frittered away like that. We have to make sure that our costs are kept down.

Sir, we are not doing it to the disadvantage of the workers because, as I said before, we are allowing increases above the rate of inflation which means that at least we would be able to maintain our standard of living and go a little bit beyond. Not only that, Sir, we must not forget the effect of this home allowance. The home allowance of $35 000 will mean that a person who is at the 25 per cent threshold will have, especially those and most Barbadian own their homes, that home allowance will mean $875.00 for the lowest paid worker and $1 400 for those earning in excess of $3 000 a month. So, Sir, as a result of that home allowance which was taken away in 1992, it means that all Barbadians, especially the vast number of those who own their own homes, can benefit. Not only that, Sir, it is now going to encourage or make it possible for Barbadians to do what all of us aspire to do, own our own homes. That is a basic Barbadian desire.

When I hear the Senator criticizing the home allowance, he is criticizing our efforts to ensure that Barbadians improve their housing and as a result generate extra employment for those artisans like mason, carpenters, tilers, and so on. That is what we are doing and to be criticized for that, to be castigated, and be vilified for bringing in the home allowance speaks volumes about the mentality of the Senator.

Sir, I must remind you that this Senator was advising the last Government. He was their advisor. He had an office and I am told that the office at Bay Street was too local for him. He had to remain in Church Village. That was the mentality of the honourable Senator. Sir, he is making basic flaws. When I hear the Senator speaking on statistics I am reminded of a quotation which says that he who uses statistics use them like a drunken man uses a lamppost for support rather than for illumination.

The member is quoting from the *Annual Statistical Digest* but he is only quoting those figures which support his argument. Sir, I want to give the Senate the benefit of all the figures so that they can make their own assessment of the situation. He is saying that as a result of the layoffs productivity has increased. I want to go to the source, as we would say in Greek, the logos, the source. On page 198 it says: "Employed Labour Force by Industry Group" and it has a section there for Government.

Sir, the Honourable Senator should look at this column. In 1988 the average number of people employed by Government was 20 800, 1989 – 19 500, 1990 – 21 300, 1991, election year – 23 200, 1992 – 20 900, 1993 – 20 900, 1994 average 19 400. So what has happened with Government employment is that noting that an election year was there, they increased employment in the Government sector to an extent which was not sustainable. What happened in 1991 was that they laid-off those people whom they had just taken on but they did not really decrease employment in the Government sector. All that happened was that the ones they took on last are

still working. I made that point in the Senate and you must check my speech again. The ones that came on last still worked but the ones who were working for a long time got sent home. But the Government employment remained virtually what it was in the pre-election period.

Sir, if you are going to use that to calculate productivity, that argument will not be to the benefit of the worker because if you go back to page 178 and you divide Government output under the column "Government Services" by the number of workers you will find that the level of productivity in 1994 was less than that in 1989 so that is what the figures are saying. If you are saying the figures are wrong, we can argue about that. The member is using these figures for his convenience and I am saying that whenever he does that he is betraying his lack of knowledge about statistics. If he is going to use the page, give us the whole figure, give us the whole picture, but he continues to try to fool the public by trying to use figures.

Sir, it reminds me of another saying, that figures do not lie but liars will figure. Sir, that is not appropriate because he is not a liar. Sir, his argument is a little bit false on that score and he must not persist in using arguments which are not sustainable by fact because I know that he is well trained but he is just trying to confuse us by quoting half a figure here and half a figure there to give the wrong figure. He must not do that. He must not feel that we are fools. He has a sort of contempt about him for everybody else, that he is the only person that went to school. He is the only person that got educated.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think Senator, you are being personal in your references.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I apologize. I did not really mean to be so.

Sir, the point I want to make is that we must not feel that Government has an inexhaustible set of resources there that it can pay out as much as anybody wants. The point is this that it is in Government's political interest to pay as high a wage as possible. It is in the political interest because we want to get re-elected. If we could pay 20 per cent we would pay 20 per cent because we do not want to be a one term Government. We want to get re-elected so it is not in our interest. We would be the biggest fools out.

Sir, the point is that we have to pay an increase because we have to ensure that the workers are able to maintain their standard of living in order that their spending would be maintained and, if anything, a little bit improved, so that the jobs which result from this spending would also be maintained, so we have to balance the equation. We cannot afford to pay a bundle, neither should 'we. It does not make economic sense for us to hold wages down. It does not make political sense. It does not make economic sense because we want to make sure the workers spend money. We want to make sure that the workers are able to employ a gardener, if possible, or someone or the other to keep the money in circulation. Hence, if we cut wages then obviously we defer spending and put the economy back in decline. It is a balancing act between our desire to pay as high a wage as possible without breaking the Treasury and, at the same time, ensuring that the standard of living of the worker is maintained so that he can contribute to the economy in the way he was previously.

4.20 p.m.

It is a delicate balancing act. Too far East is always West, as the old saying goes. Sir, the Government and the Union must be commended for reaching this balance which will add to the improvement in the economy because in the final analysis that is our goal, that the gains we have made are maintained and improved upon. So it is a balancing act and the Government cannot be wicked to withhold from the workers something that they can legitimately and in an economic sense pay. It does not make sense either politically or economically.

The Honourable Senator knows that. He was adviser to the last Government and in 1991 he advised them to cut salaries and in 1993 he advised them to freeze salaries and now that we are increasing them by 2½% and by another 3% and by productivity bonus he is quarrelling. When he had the chance he cut and then he froze. Sir, as far as a butcher goes, he cuts the meat and then he puts it in the freezer and now that we are thawing it out he is complaining. You cannot please the man but, Sir, I believe Government has done the best it could under the circumstances and all of us in here wish from the bottom of our hearts that the Government could have paid more because I would get a bit more and you would get a little bit more but we are not going to break the Treasury. We are not going to push the economy into decline.

Sir, in the last year, by our efforts, we managed to get 7 000 more Barbadians working at the end of 1995 than at the end of 1994 and that, Sir, is in the Report of the Statistical Department. We are proud of that, Sir. The only person whom I hear criticising the figures, not the leader of the Democratic Labour Party, not the leader of the National Democratic Party but one Senator Mascoll. He is the only man, Sir, who does not like to hear good news about the economy. Whenever there is good news he seeks to go and invent bad news. He cannot take good news.

Sir, he is talking about the improvement in the economy but if the economy improves it must result in jobs. I cannot see how the economy has improved and the people are not working. That is not improvement as far

as I am concerned. We do not believe in jobless growth. Growth that is not accompanied by jobs is not growth as far as I am concerned. So, Sir, in the last year we have managed by our efforts and by the co-operation of the rest of Barbados to get 7 000 more people working. This year we hope, Sir, and it is a big wish but I hope it comes true, that we surpass the figure of 1995 because our aim is that by the end of 5 years to have removed the scourge of unemployment from Barbados.

I feel, Sir, we are well on the road but we cannot slack our riding now that we have seen light at the end of the tunnel and not, Sir, an oncoming train. Sir, we have to make sure that the same scrutiny we applied to the economy, the same care that we applied in the last 1½ years is given the same massaging, the same nursing that caused it to employ 7 000 persons in the last year. We have to continue with that. We are calling, Sir, upon the whole population to understand what we are going through. I am glad to say that in spite of the ranting of Senator Mascoll most of the unions and the public sector agree. They did not agree because they are BLPs, they agree, Sir, because they understand the situation and say, look, it is better to take a little bit now and get things going than to go and use what you have and cause a shortage in the economy and put us back to where we were in 1991 when the Honourable Senator was advising the Government.

Sir, we are not going to build anything like Sherbourne or a school or a polyclinic. We are going to give the workers what we think the economy can afford, because we want to make sure that we do not have to increase taxation. Rather, we are also allowing them a little relief in terms of the allowance. Sir, when you add up all of these things you will see that the worker is in fact improving his station in life and that, Sir, is our goal.

So, Sir, with those words I want to commend again both sides for coming to an agreement.

Sir, I honestly wish that the NUPW had agreed to the proposals. I honestly wish that, Sir, but that is life. We hope, Sir, that the next time the NUPW will come into the fold of the organisation that has been formed so that they can negotiate with one voice, so that when we come here next time what we would be doing would be just rubber stamping an agreement that has been reached by goodwill and common sense on both sides.

So, Sir, with those remarks I want to support the Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution before us on the Civil Establishments (General) (Amendment) Order, 1996. I would like it to go on record that I fully endorse all the comments made by Senator Trotman regarding the position of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations.

I would also like to say that we are aware that much work has to be done in the area of productivity, and indeed the Barbados Registered Nurses Association started this work with the National Productivity Board, and we did develop what is known as the performance planning and review tool for continuous assessment of each and every nurse employed in the Government Service which also include their interpersonal relations with the patient, the public and each other.

Now that document is just gathering dust and I urge that it be taken out and used. It has been discussed with the nurses in the various organisations. It was also discussed with NUPW and that is the type of document, Mr. President, that is needed in order to identify and pick up any problems regarding the giving of patient care that is not in keeping or is in keeping with the nursing profession. It is very important that this document that was developed with the National Productivity Board be used as soon as possible. We are aware that the Government is not a bottomless pit. We are also aware that there have been discussions on conditions of service during the process of negotiating and I sincerely hope that you soon reach an agreement regarding shift work differential for the nurses. Because, Mr. President, shift work means working in the morning and in the evening and studies have shown that it is detrimental to family life. It is very important that we come to some agreement regarding some form of compensation for the nurses.

4.30 p.m

Mr. President, I would like to confirm that the Congress of Trade Unions and the BRNA included were involved in negotiations in good faith and were not there to succumb to any pressure from anyone. I would like it to go on record that what was offered was fully discussed with the nurses and it was accepted by the nurses and then communicated to the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations. This means that there was no pressure whatsoever about telling the nurses what to accept and what not to accept. They made their own decisions themselves. We look forward to continuing negotiations on the conditions of service that have been submitted and to come to a resolution as soon as possible.

In closing, I would like to say that as a trade unionist myself we do not like to see or know that it has not been possible for one of the members of our family to conclude negotiations and reach agreement. We hope that in the future it will be possible for everyone to come to some form of an agreement.

I support this Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Workman.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution before us this evening and to speak very briefly, because I remember an occasion when the greatest of all trade unionists found himself in a situation which I believe my goodly Senator Trotman found himself in this evening – what I may call a hypocritical challenge. On that occasion, he asked those around him to show him a coin and it showed that there were superscriptions on each side of the coin. Jesus was a great trade unionist and liberator of the poor. He fought for the under-privileged. So there was the political side to the debate today but whether we have come to legislate salaries or whether salary increases have been achieved through collective bargaining, in the final analysis the important thing is the other side of the coin, which is the use of the increased salaries and allowances. I think, Mr. President, we need to look at this side of the coin, not the mere fact that civil servants and others will receive increased salaries but how can they use those salaries to the best advantage of themselves and of the general society in which we live.

Money is concentrated power. It is only concentrated power when we have it in our hands and when it can be put to use, not when it is lying idly by in the bank. It is good to have savings, but I think we need to come to the stage in our society where our people need to understand the true value of money. While I am happy to see that Government has made facilities available for increased terms for repayment for motor vehicles and even to get other types of vehicles, like Side-Kicks as Senator Murray informed us; and while these are good, I think that we need to teach our people that we should not just go and get motor vehicles willy-nilly but that we should get those new vehicles where our job performance totally requires that facility.

Mr. President, we need then to teach our people that whatever this increase is we can look back and see how we were managing on what we were having before and set aside a good portion of the increase towards things that are lasting, things which will give a good investment, things which will increase; perhaps on things like home improvement where facilities can be made to make the home more comfortable for family life and family communication and for study facilities for our children. I am sure Senator Murray and Senator Symmonds will agree that it is necessary for our students to be able to study in comfortable surroundings. Certainly in this day and age we do not want the children studying by lamplight but we want to know that they have a good fluorescent light and that they can have somewhere that is away from the others who are watching television and so on. We will discover that these little additional rooms in the house will become necessities as we have advanced technology where we need to be able to set aside somewhere in that home where one individual may be able to use his or her computer. So I think our people need to look at these increased salaries and see how best they can use them for that type of facility.

I would also like to see that these monies are used for business investment. Generally speaking, Mr. President, many people in Barbados believe that business investment is just for a certain set of business people. But we need to teach all of our people that all of us must be business people and that some business does not begin big. In fact, no business begins big and those who start small in 1996 will find themselves perhaps in 2001 being medium sized businesses and they can continue upward from the very little increase which has been given at this time. One good channel, Mr. President, for the investment of these funds could be through credit unions and other cooperative institutions and, of course, as good Barbadians, some of this can be put aside for land purchase and for educational advancement in general.

I believe, Mr. President, that it is to this type of productivity and bargaining that the trade unionists must now move. We have come to the point where agreement has been reached and this will be for a fixed period; but in the interim, what does the trade unionist do? I think that it is toward the use of money, time and opportunities that the trade unionist must seek to educate those who are less fortunate than others in our society so that they may receive good education and sound training in the use of money.

Mr. President, that is all I wanted to say on this increase of salaries and join with others in supporting the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I believe that we have had a very interesting and stimulating debate on this measure. I would like to commend all Senators for their contributions, because in some measure either by stating or challenging material they have understood what Government is seeking to do through this Resolution.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend CTUSAB. Senator Farley and I have been part of a process involving CTUSAB. I must say that I cannot subscribe to the belief that the trade unions, represented by CTUSAB or otherwise, have in any way come even near to selling out the workers' interests. Indeed, in respect of CTUSAB, I have never met a group of more dedicated nationalistic Barbadians who, no matter what was being discussed, no matter how much narrow self-interest might be beneath the surface, have always stuck to the high ground and have always ensured that the total well-being of Barbados

and the workers involved came first and foremost. Therefore, I must repudiate any attempt to denigrate them and to commend them for the qualities they displayed and to urge them to go on to do the same in the future.
4.40 p.m.

Sir, with those few words, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PART-TIME OFFICERS) ORDER, 1996

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1996

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, this measure also seeks to accord the increased wages to teachers. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, the issues in this Resolution are similar in intent, not necessarily in content, to the Resolution before. I wish to use this Resolution to respond and update the Senate on some of the issues which outlined the previous Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Member has announced his intention to breach the Standing Orders and I would ask him to move ahead in a manner which would respect the Standing Orders, which prohibit commenting on previous matters that have been passed, except the matter is specifically recommitted for discussion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The relevant Standing Order is Standing Order 34(2). A valid point of order. Senator Mascoll, please continue.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, it would be unreasonable for the Leader of the Senate to suggest that in this debate, which deals with issues relating to legislating salaries for teachers, I cannot address issues pertaining ...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, I believe the Honourable Senator is reflecting on the ruling of the Chair. The Chair has already quoted the relevant Standing Order and the Honourable Member should simply comply.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Standing Order speaks of reconsidering any specific question upon which the Senate has come to a conclusion during the current session, except upon a substantive motion for rescission. I think once I have drawn to the Honourable Senator the provisions of the Standing Order that he will stick within its terms.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I wish to suggest that in this Resolution a number of the issues pertaining to the collective bargaining process remain in this particular Resolution, and therefore I am entitled. Let me go on.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think I make the judgment on these matters. Please proceed on the matter that is before us.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. I want to suggest that in this Resolution on the teachers there are reasons to suggest that we have to look very carefully at the whole question of measuring productivity across the teaching profession in Barbados. The whole question of evaluation of teachers is critical to any determination of the remuneration which they are deserving of.

As far as the historical evidence shows, there has been since 1946 some significant reduction in the pupil to teacher ratio both at the primary and secondary levels in Barbados, and therefore over that period of time one would think that on the basis of assessment, quality teachers would have shown some substantial increase in their productivity efforts over the years. On that basis I am not convinced in this particular legislation of teachers' salaries that sufficient thought was given...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President. As far as I understand it, there is no legislating of teachers' salaries because the Teachers' Unions agreed, as far as I understand it, so I don't think we are legislating teachers' salaries in the sense that we are legislating for those represented by the NUPW.
4.50 p.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: If I may continue Sir. I will ignore the previous contribution.

There is no doubt that systems have to be put in place at all levels across the teaching profession to be able to evaluate teachers as reasonably and as effectively as possible. I have every reason to believe that when we look across the primary schools that we see substantial variation in the quality of education provided and that certainly is going to have implications for the kind of remuneration received by teachers within the various primary schools.

A similar point has to be made at the secondary level. What I am wishing to suggest is that any kind of mechanism which is provided within the primary school should take into consideration the different quality of students as well as the different quality of services provided at the various primary schools across the island. There is no one standard measure which can be employed to make an appropriate evaluation of teachers. It is going to be difficult in the absence of adequate management structures at the primary level and also the secondary to be able to get the kind of management systems in place to effect proper evaluation of teachers across the board.

There is certainly cause for concern when one thinks of the kind of responsibility that head teachers have in the system. There is no evidence in the school system that a proper management structure is in place to assist head teachers and even the Ministry of Education with the proper evaluation of teachers in any of the schools across the island. Therefore, I want to say that it is difficult to understand how across each of these major activities within the public service the respective representatives of these workers were able to arrive at a remuneration with Government which was the same for all categories of workers. I make that point in light of the present emphasis that is being placed on productivity to suggest that given the different quality of the staff, the different quality of services which are provided across the departments, that there should have been some variation in the requests for the various categories of workers within the public sector. That is simple.

From 1993 onward we have been placing increasing emphasis on the whole question of productivity. It is not like the previous years where a collective bargaining process could be conducted mainly on the basis of the inflation rate and some other consideration. What we are now seeing is a new environment in which we intend to concentrate far more heavily on the whole question of productivity and there is no one standard measure of productivity that can go across the different departments within the public sector. It is a straightforward, logical argument that unlike previous years where one could have used an inflation rate which is an inflation rate for teachers, for policemen and for nurses that the whole bargaining process has now to be shifted towards more information since the measurement that we are using is more specific to a particular department. No one can dispute that so it therefore makes it difficult to understand and I reiterate how in the new environment where the focus is no longer on inflation as the major indicator for collective bargaining that we could have had such agreement across the respective category of workers within the public service. That point is extremely strong in terms of the collective bargaining process. This is certain information which I have had.

We are also going to have information at the secondary level which is going to be of similar ilk where the variation in the performances at different schools will have different implications for the workers in the respective schools. Therefore, if a proper evaluation exercise is conducted one would expect that across different schools we would have in fact different measures of productivity or different outcomes of productivity and as a consequence one would expect that on the basis of that productivity measure there will be different rates of remuneration across secondary schools.

Therefore, I reiterate that whereas before we put our focus on one measure in particular where the primary objective was to maintain the real wage of the worker and that was done by increasing nominal wages at at least the same rate of inflation it is no longer an environment where that can hold and that therefore introduces the whole question of information and data. How do we get the kind of information that is going to guide us towards proper measures of productivity across the respective departments within government. That has to be addressed at every level within the economy. It has to be addressed at the level of Government, at the level of the individual unions and as a matter of urgency for workers themselves.

I reiterate if we are saying that your compensation has more to do with your ability to increase output versus what you put into the job then you ought to have fair measures to determine whether or not individual X or individual Y gets an adequate compensation. That is a simple set of logic.

Prior to this environment, you could have used one standard measure across all departments to arrive at an outcome and therefore it made consensus reaching a far easier target than it would now. That is the context in which I question and query why it is that certain positions were reached almost overnight and in truth and in fact the collective bargaining environment in Barbados should be one that is prolonged. It has to be prolonged in light of the difficulties that would arise from trying to measure productivity. If indeed the average collective bargaining process in the past lasted 2 or 4 or 5 months then almost by extension the collective bargaining process now should be almost double that exercise, because there are no appropriate measures within the system to determine where workers should be in relation to where they were. There are no adequate measures so it smacks of almost ignorance to suggest that you can expect some determination or some consensus to be reached on the part of these unions almost overnight. That could never have been the case. There has to be something wrong within this collective bargaining system that we have seen in order to reach the kind of determination which we are reaching at this stage.

I reiterate that Government's position is far better than it was in the past. It is a much healthier position and I wish to suggest that Senator Barker was absolutely incorrect in trying to suggest that productivity is an average measure where you can take an output and divide it by the amount of employers and say that that is a measure of productivity. Productivity cannot be measured like that. Productivity which is an input/output relationship has to do more with the question of marginal measures that has changes over time than it has to do with averaging at a particular point in time. That was an absolute error on his part to try to take the Central Bank Report and use it so willy-nilly as to suggest that there was not an area of increased productivity within the public service.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Senator is responding to some statements that Senator Barker is purported to have made but I do not recall Senator Barker having spoken in this debate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senator who has raised a point of order is quite right. You are referring to a previous debate and not to the present one.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I am saying let me take back Senator Barker's name and title and suggest that it was said and it is not important whether or not it has been said. I am saying that to measure productivity using an average measure is not a correct way to approach the measurement of productivity and therefore without reference to Senator Barker, I am saying that any such measure is not going to capture the spirit of productivity and therefore should not be used in any determination of productivity within the civil service or within the educational service. It certainly cannot be used. It has to be disputed.

We have heard in other places, not in the Senate, all kinds of consideration being given to the economy and how it has performed. We have heard of the creation of jobs. We have heard about how the economy is doing and yet we have a situation in which we are now being told that Government's financial position is not sound enough to afford a better remuneration for the workers. Yet we are hearing that the economy has done this and that. We have heard within the last 12 months, although erroneously, that 7 000 jobs have been created and that again is a misrepresentation of the truth, because the spokesmen in that area took a point to point estimate, used it and then averaged the unemployment rate and compared a counterpoint estimate for the employed an average of the unemployment rate across the year. If the spokesmen were suggesting that 7 000 jobs were created then the spokesmen should have had the guts to quote a 16.5 per cent unemployment rate as at December. They were unable to do that because they knew that people would not accept that unemployment has fallen by five percentage points from 21 per cent to 16 per cent. Therefore, in order to mask the issue, we have had a quotation, that is, a point to point quotation on the employment levels versus an averaging of the unemployment rates across 1995. That is why we had a quotation which suggests that the unemployment rate stood at 19.7 per cent as at December, 1995.

5.00 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Yes, you did say that. You said that in the daily newspapers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. Given that the Standing Orders forbid references to newspaper articles, I would ask that all of the material which the Senator is attributing to that source in the newspaper be struck from the record.

Mr. PRESIDENT: As I understand it, he is not quoting from a newspaper, which is forbidden, but he can make reference to something which appeared somewhere. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Of course. I never quoted from the newspaper. I am suggesting that the spokesmen on that side ...

Aside.

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

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: That side did something which a former Prime Minister did before in comparing a point to point inflation with an average inflation rate because it suited his purpose at the point in time. I knew because I prepared that information the same evening of the Budget debates.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. I must speak up for the civil servants who come under my Ministry because a release...

Mr. PRESIDENT: On what do you rise?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Sir, because the Honourable Member is ascribing to civil servants improper motives and I want to make the record straight. As you know, Sir, all releases are approved,

not by me, but by someone in the Ministry. I know exactly what went out in the GIS Release and the GIS Release specifically mentioned 16.5 per cent at the end of December, so for the Honourable Member to come and say what he is saying is misleading the Chamber and reflects badly on the Statistical Department. Sir, it is one thing to make sport at politicians but when the officers of a department are involved, the Honourable Senator must not make statements which reflect on their honesty and integrity. The GIS specifically mentioned that at the end of December the rate was 16. 5 percent.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will treat your intervention as a point of elucidation on the basis that Senator Mascoll has given way. Please continue.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR MASCOLL were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I can understand Senator Barker's unease with this debate, given his contribution to the previous discussion surrounding job creation in Barbados. I will repeat that the information sent out suggested that a two percentage point decline at one stage resulted in 2 800 jobs and a two percentage point at the same stage resulted in 7 000 and it had to be wrong. That is what I am saying. Anyhow, Sir, that information is important.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I hate to interrupt an Honourable Member when he is making a contribution. However, I really must question his adherence to Standing Order 34 concerning the content of his speech and his relevance to the debate at hand. I believe we are debating the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1996 and I question the relevance of his contribution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed. I will rule on relevance when necessary.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, on the question of unemployment, it does affect the teaching profession as well so I am within my right, I suspect, to deal with this issue here.

Let me get back to basics. The point is this. Within the Teaching Service in Barbados there are no apparent methods for evaluation based on productivity of teachers. There are none. I am saying that within the scope of an Incomes Protocol which is in place, to have reached conclusions of the kind reached, I am wondering on what basis it was reached given that there should have been consideration of productivity issues within the collective bargaining process. In the absence of any measurable productivity I cannot see how there could have been consensus reached across the board at all levels of the primary schools, secondary schools, schools with low quality, schools with high quality, schools with low outputs, schools with low inputs ...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, schools of low quality? I do not think the Honourable Member should reflect that there are some schools of low quality in Barbados.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That, unfortunate though it might be, is the Senator's opinion.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I have not called any names, Sir. I have not called the names of any schools.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have ruled. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: So I am suggesting, Sir, that there must be something wrong within the collective bargaining process.

On the question of affordability, I am saying that there must be some concern for Government's ability to pay wages and remuneration in the teachers' profession. There must be some consideration and the consideration is that Government is in a favourable position to be able to pay teachers higher than they are presently paying them within this legislated framework. That is what I am saying. And indeed the circumstances then in previous legislation in 1976, 1982, 1988, 1990 might have been different because we are seeing and we are hearing boasts of an economy that is getting out of the woods, though we have heard that the economy is not yet out of the woods, and when it suits the Senators on the other side to quote that the economy is healthy and in a position that is viable for purposes of posturing, they quote that. When it suits them to say that it is not yet out of the woods, so that they cannot give civil servants an adequate compensation, then they say that. I am saying, Sir, that we need to know precisely where our economy is at. Is the economy in a position where Government can afford to give teachers far better compensation? Is the economy in a position, Sir, where that can be done? It seems to me that given the boast about job creation, given the boast about the foreign reserves, given the boast about the fiscal surplus of Government, given the boast about growth within tourism, the boast about growth within the manufacturing sector, the Government must be in a better position to be able to remunerate these workers, especially teachers, in a much better way than they are presently doing.

5.10 p.m.

That is the bone of the argument which I am putting forward. Is it the case that that can be done? Is it the case, Sir, that within the philosophical position of the

Barbados Labour Party, headed by the Prime Minister, he can afford to carry a much higher deficit than he is presently carrying? Is that the case? I am saying it must be the case in this particular debate that we can show by way of example, by way of demonstration, that teachers in this country ought to be entitled to a much better form of remuneration and the first opportunity we get, coming out of the so-called decline in the economy, we should have been looking to compensate teachers to the magnitude that we know they are deserving of. I am not convinced that such an attempt has been made. I am not convinced in light of the White Paper reform which we have had debated in this August Chamber before, in light of the human resource development projections which we are making in order to make Barbados a sustainable economy, that sufficient attention was being given to the role of teachers in this exercise. There is no evidence that special attention has been given but yet still we are saying that into the twenty-first century we are focussing on human resource development, yet still we are saying that we are seeking to reform the educational system in a way that we are consistent with the economic needs of Barbados. Why then cannot we single out the teaching profession for special treatment within the new environment, within a new vision for Barbados and therefore compensate them to the magnitude that they deserve?

Is there not reason to believe that in this environment where we are seeking to refashion and reshape the Barbados economy, where we have given some expression to this concept at the Barbados Tourism Authority that we can do it in similar vein, identify individuals within the civil service who are indeed in need of special consideration and in this case I am suggesting that in light of all that has been said, in light of the new vision that we are hearing about, in light of the new emphasis that we are placing on education, in light of the new vision for human resource development, that the teacher stands out as a critical concern in that exercise in order to develop the human resource needs of Barbados.

In that sense, Sir, I am saying that we need to reshape and redefine what a teacher is in the new Barbados and if we are saying that that teacher has to assume a new position within a new Barbados, then he must be considered far more favourably than he is being considered at this time. No one can deny that we are putting increased emphasis on education. No one can deny that that is the so called vision, no one can deny that there has been talk about the informatics sector being developed, no one can deny the introduction of new technologies into the system. It therefore means that we are expecting an increasing burden to be placed on the shoulders of teachers in this country and as a consequence I am suggesting that we need to revisit the status of the teacher within the overall income levels of our workers. This unguarded emphasis which we are putting on tourism is in some sense misguided because of its vulnerability, and is a concern of mine.

We seem to think, Sir, that almost overnight we can bring tourism to levels within this country that we have never seen before and therefore, in a sense, we are elevating a sector that remains vulnerable to a position ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would you please wind up, Senator Mascoll?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, can I ask something? How much time do I have, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your time has expired. Just finish your sentence, please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am saying that the same way in which we have seen increasing emphasis placed on tourism because of our concern for foreign exchange, that increasing emphasis has to be placed on the teacher who has to make a very, very valuable contribution to the human resource development needs in this country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, I am sorry. You do in fact have time. You are the first speaker for the Opposition on this particular Resolution, so you have another 30 minutes.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I thank you very much. What I am seeking to do now, Sir, is to put back on my gloves. I had turned, heading for the pavilion. Having been given another chance, a new breath of life, I should continue on my journey. I will reiterate that certainly in the new Barbados there has to be some concern given to the teaching profession, and I say that because it is important to say it. There is no doubt, Sir, that in terms of the division of the Government's pie, education and health will remain the two most important sectors within the public sector, but if we continue on the present path we are on, it is clear to see that an increasing proportion of the pie must be directed towards the educational system in Barbados. There is no way in which we can restructure and reform the educational system without understanding that we can only do so if resources are available. Therefore it is highly inconsistent on the one hand to be addressing the issue of reform and then on the other hand to be suggesting that we can cut the budget in Education and still expect to yield the same kind of results that we would expect to yield within the next 10 to 15 years. On that score, Sir, I invite the Government to pay more attention, not only to spending resources on developing the physical needs within the educational system, but also on developing the human resources within the educational system. What that really means is that increasing emphasis has to be placed on training teachers and giving them the opportunity to go

on to tertiary level training, to go on to vocational training, to get the kind of needs that would be required of them in order to be able to help transform the economic landscape of Barbados.

There is no doubt in my mind, Sir, that in the coming Barbados those kinds of requirements are going to be inevitable, that we may very well see rather than 30% or 25% to 30% of the budget of Government being spent on education, that that may have to be increased to some other level. What that will therefore mean for Government is greater management of other areas within the economy.

Getting value for money, increasing productivity within the teaching profession is critical to a long-term projection of increasing output within the educational system and the only way that we can in fact go close to doing that is if we provide the proper facilities for teaching, if we go increasingly so towards computerisation both at the primary and secondary level, if we go towards providing further teaching aids within the educational system, if we also think in terms of providing some form of adequate transport for our teachers in the form of car loans that may be made available to them and also if we think in terms of distributing or allowing specialist teachers to go to specific schools in order to give of their expertise at appointed times. There are a host of things that we need to consider in order to ensure that we do not only put an additional burden on the teaching profession. But we are willing to compensate them to the extent that is necessary to justify the increased work load which we intend to put on them.

5.20 p.m

In short, Sir, I am asking that not only should we have greater input into the teaching profession if we expect output, but we have to think in terms of putting systems in place that will allow us to be able to give those teachers the kind of remuneration that they are deserving of. I am not convinced that any attempt has been made in this recent collective bargaining process to address some of the more critical needs within the teaching profession. Therefore, I am saying that there is need to re-look this area because of the special emphasis which we need to put on the teaching profession in the new Barbados. There is no evidence at all that there has been any discrimination of the teaching profession within the system. I am saying that that should be the case. There is definitely a need for us to reallocate the resources which we have in our system towards the more critical areas if we intend to transform the economic landscape. Because you cannot be saying on the one hand that you intend to transform the economy and on the other hand you are saying that you intend to transform the social environment without also reallocating resources within the Public Service. It does not make sense. The status-quo cannot be held in the same way as before. It has to be refashioned. We have to reshape and the only way we can reshape is if we start to reallocate the limited resources which we have towards their most valued use and that is important. There is no evidence in this new collective bargaining process to suggest that any such consideration has been given to elevate the teaching profession to a level that is consistent with what we expect of that profession.

I am therefore urging the Government to reconsider the needs of the teaching profession and to go so far as to reallocate resources towards that profession to ensure that sector contributes in the kind of way which we expect them to contribute. They are more critical to our needs in the new Barbados than the nurses and therefore they ought to be elevated to that position in a future Barbados. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I had not thought that it would have been necessary for me or indeed for anybody to have to speak on the various sub-heads in this area when once we have had the first debate. But it is necessary for me to rise to indicate that I support the Resolution before the House and at the same time to make the observation that I am hopeful that the statements which have been made by the former speaker, Senator Mascoll, are not statements which are given to the public in the form that they have gone. Because if that were to happen then the public would be very seriously misled regarding what the negotiations were all about.

It is very clear to me that there is at least in one area complete and absolute ignorance regarding the recent negotiations and the outcome. I agree with much of what Senator Mascoll has said regarding the importance that attaches to the teaching profession. I also agree with him regarding the importance that attaches to the nursing profession. I also agree with him in what he did not say regarding the importance that attaches to the Police Association and what attaches to the importance of the Prison Officers Association and the Fire Association and indeed with every other sector of workers. I would wish, Mr. President, to make the point that the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations have been very conscious of the significant role which various categories of workers have played historically and will have to play in the future of Barbados. In fact, we recognize, and everybody else recognizes, the pivotal role which teachers will have to play. But the Teachers organizations, and there were three of them, are as conscious as the rest of us are in this particular regard. They met democratically and in their deliberate wisdom submitted a body of proposals to the employer regarding what they wished to have between 1995 and 1997. They have also recognized that there will be the need for a complete review of the status of teachers particularly against the reformation which will take

place in the Public Service and the Teaching Service as a specific sub-sector within the Public Service. But the teachers are mindful of that and the Teachers Unions are mindful of that and they are doing whatever is necessary in that regard. It is really a little gratuitous and I am putting that very mildly; because in this Honourable Chamber one is not always able to express oneself with the force of conviction that one has regarding these things, Mr. President. But it is a little gratuitous to have someone, however wise or however unwise that person may be, to make *ex cathedra* pronouncements regarding what the nurses, teachers and others have done as though he was invested with some divine prescription from Christ himself and were given to speak for these people who were not able to speak for themselves. I think that it is insulting to the teaching profession and to the teachers' unions for him to suggest that something underhand or improper took place overnight in the negotiations.

I do not understand why the teachers' unions should have someone make that kind of observation when they negotiated, when their executive spoke and when they sought to have ratification of their positions, when they ratified and gave instructions to the Congress, that someone not privy to those discussions, except perhaps in the middle of a nightmare in the early hours of the morning, should want to suggest that in those negotiations anybody for the teachers was not on target and was not fully apprised of the concerns which teachers had and indeed, Mr. President, still have. To suggest that it is difficult to understand how we were able to arrive at an agreement and to give the impression that in these negotiations the position of a bonus payment has entered into our consciousness in such a way as to obscure and otherwise disjoint the settlement that we have arrived at: to do that, Mr. President, and to have that carried forward would be to mislead all the public servants and indeed the rest of intelligent Barbados.

The reality of the matter is, Sir, that we have agreed that productivity is going to become a significant element in the Public Service but that insofar as these current negotiations are concerned the agreement has been arrived at on the basis of the standard arguments which are before any reasonable body of negotiators. Having got that settlement level, we have also agreed that insofar as 1996 and 1997 are concerned there is available a productivity payment which has yet to be negotiated, provided there is productivity and provided we are able to reach an agreement and there will be a pay-out. Perhaps it is not generally known, but it is necessary for me to say at this point that the teachers made it very clear early through their representatives on the day of the settlement that insofar as the teachers are concerned they are conceptually opposed to productivity measurements at this time in the Teaching Service. Therefore, they have rejected the notion of a bonus payment arising out of productivity for the teaching profession.

5.30 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Don't thank me, because you don't understand what you are talking about. We have represented that particular point, Mr. President, to the negotiator for the Government. That has been made absolutely clear and in fact in my letter I indicated that it had to be known as a condition and that it had as well to be clear within the Chambers in any debate that that was the position of the teachers.

But that does not say, Mr. President, that there is not going to be a bonus payment. It says that the teachers do not accept the concept and it says, furthermore, that the teachers, as indeed all of the rest of us, are in continuing discussions at our own individual trade union levels, as well as in ongoing discussions with the National Productivity Board in this particular respect. Nobody is going to deny the concerns the teachers have and should have regarding the peculiar position in which they find themselves in a classroom if productivity for them were measured in the same way that productivity were measured for somebody at the Post Office or somebody at the Ministry of Transport and Works. What in fact was the very last position that was discussed, and that is before them and before the Productivity Board, is that productivity in the teaching profession is not intended to measure the number of 11+ passes, it is not intended to measure the number of "O" Level passes, and in fact it cannot be agreed unless the teachers themselves sit down as a body and decide what it is about themselves they want to measure. That is a point that was made absolutely clear. We do not have an agreement on it yet, but so far the understanding is that if you are working in an environment that productivity should be part of the directioning you give yourself, because you should know where you are, where you want to go and you should be able to measure your progress towards that objective. The teachers, as indeed the nurses, as indeed the doctors, as indeed everybody else, are clear in the understanding that nobody can take a set of values and thrust them down their institutional throats and make anybody believe that that is a productivity result.

So far as the Congress is concerned, in 1997 we will have negotiated by that time an understanding by which we will determine what will constitute the elements, whether they are key performance indicators or whatever other approach we will use to determine the elements that must be measured for a share in 1997 out of the 1996-1997 year. The teachers are aware of that. Their position has been properly represented by their President and their Secretary and has been passed by me to the Government negotiators, so there is no question that the teachers know and we know and that in examining their position there was no problem of their understanding where we are.

Let me explode yet another myth, Sir. The teachers, the nurses and everybody else recognise that there are various ways by which we are going to be able to address their particular areas of concern, and whereas I will never wish to downplay the value which anybody attaches to his or her own worth, especially his or her own job worth, I would wish to make the point that the teachers themselves determined what was the level of the submission they would have. It was they who determined that the submission would be made for everybody and it is they who recognised the value of the argument, which otherwise would have been acceptable, that we would try and get the same level of increase for persons who were earning the same basic wage. So that if a person is at the level of a Permanent Secretary, whether that person is the Chief Education Officer or Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, or Permanent Secretary in some other Ministry, the level would be the same. By the same argument, if the person is at the level of a Janitor or a School Meals Worker and that compares in the teaching service with any other area, that level of earnings would get a different level of increase. That is understood at the same time the parties realised that we had to move to looking at the specific needs of the groupings, and those needs have been represented in proposals for various conditions. Those needs are also going to be recognised in the level of submissions which will flow from the reformation exercise which is to come.

I think it would be highly improper, Mr. President, if Honourable Members were not to hear from me, and to hear from us, that we are of the view that institutions which are not able to answer for themselves in this forum are really placed at a very sad disadvantage when uncalled for attacks are undeservedly made upon them, where those attacks can serve no other interest but to give the perception to those people on the outside that someone somewhere else was being mischievous. We know that nobody in this Honourable Chamber has the capacity to be mischievous, but at the same time on the outside one would be likely to get the impression that there is some great guru who was emerging, some great messianic force that is rising up to take over and become the great leader of this country, and that the trade unions are the first target for that person's domination.

I would urge, Mr. President, that we remain human, because he who would be chief among us himself must be the first and most humble among us.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Well, Mr. President, I think that all I need to do, except to do otherwise I think would be to be accused of being a sadist, if I had used some of the notes I had to respond to Senator Mascoll, Senator Trotman did such an excellent job that all I can do is to beg that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INCREASE IN SALARY OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INCREASE IN PAY TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND CASUAL EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, this also relates to the earlier Resolution dealing with increased pay for public workers, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

5.40 p.m.

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INCREASE OF RATES OF SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF THE PERSONAL STAFF OF THE PRIME MINISTER

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: This relates to the earlier Resolution dealing with increased pay for public workers and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 10 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INCREASE OF RATES OF SALARY AND ALLOWANCES FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANTS TO MINISTERS

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, again this is in the same vein and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I do have some concerns about this particular Resolution. I have already indicated publicly that I have no difficulty with the political decision that has been made to appoint personal assistants to Ministers. That is a political decision and I believe that that has been a decision taken. It has gone the route of the discussion and I therefore don't wish to reopen that, but we did have a reason, that is to say, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations to raise this

matter at the level of the Prime Minister because we were concerned about the job functions. We were concerned about the provision for hierarchical advancement for public servants and therefore we wanted to have certain assurances and then we were concerned about the level of remuneration. We told the Prime Minister of those concerns and he made it clear to us that he would ensure that the possibility for progression within the public service was not stymied nor obstructed by the appointment of such officers. They will remain outside of the civil service and therefore will not interfere with that arrangement. We decided that we would reserve our position on that and wait to see how it works out before we make further representation; but in the matter of the level of remuneration we have a concern and he advised us at the time that the Cabinet itself had also recognised what we were saying because we were expressing those views even before we got to meet him and that the Cabinet had consciously made a decision to review the position of the salary in this particular area and whereas the Cabinet had made a former decision they would bring this salary level to $28 800 per annum.

I was therefore surprised and indeed my colleagues within CTUSAB have been very surprised to see that the level is now more in the region of $39 000 and we are of the view that either this is an error or that it represents a failure to keep faith on the part of the Government and so because we would want to be sure that there is no misunderstanding and we don't want for there to be a position of the Prime Minister not to have maintained the position where we had an agreement, we believe that this Chamber might wish to postpone further discussion on this matter and that it should wish to have the minutes of that meeting which was held in December reviewed; because we are of the view that at this level we have gone to a position which will very seriously disturb relativities within the public service. It is likely to cause significant problems and difficulties, jealousies and annoyances, which could only be properly proportioned when you look at them *vis-a-vis* another debate we had some time ago within the tourism sector.

We know we are going to have to be doing some re-examination of salary levels and do some restructuring. We heard a few moments ago the very fair case that teachers will have to be reviewed and there will have to be a re-examination of structures and we are of the view that a reclassification exercise is bound to take place; but we would believe that we would be treading on very dangerous ground if we pushed levels up of some people who may not have experience to a position where they are bound to cause an escalation within the public service of upgradings that will then cause too many problems for other persons for whom a similar consideration was not made.

I am of the view, therefore, Mr. President, that this matter should have further review and that we would need to come back to that commitment of $28 800 as a level for this matter. I would therefore beg that the Leader of the Senate would take this on advisement and that we should defer for further consideration.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I understand the Honourable Senator's concern. I was present at the meeting when this issue was discussed and the Prime Minster did not give a specific figure because Cabinet had decided that it would, when the salary was being altered, be in the region of about $3 000 a month. That was the general ballpark figure and I think what has emerged therefore fits into that range and what you see here represents the Z3 position.

This is an attempt not to put it on the same level as the personal assistant to the Prime Minister because it was determined that they did not have exactly the same duties, but the figure was to be in the region of $3 000 a month about $36 000 per annum, so I think that what you see here represents that ballpark figure. No specific figure was given at the meeting. The Prime Minister's Personal Assistant is paid at a different level. I think it was just a misunderstanding.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I would like to say that there is a far difference between $36 000 and $39 000. This figure Z3 or $39 169.80, after the increase, is way above that of nursing sisters in the public service who have done 3 years general training, 1 year midwifery, sometimes psychiatry and administration. It is not fair, Mr. President.

Mr. President, it is above other senior nursing personnel who have undergone 5 years' training and are functioning at very high levels making life and death decisions. I do not feel that this is being fair to our nurses. I can only speak on behalf of nurses because I know the nurses. The nurses' morale is already very low as one could see and I would like to hope that this be deferred for further discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this matter really relates to the increases to Personal Assistants. Now, these Personal Assistants, when compared to the persons which Senator Rickinson made reference to, one can come to the conclusions she has come to. However, the same considerations that would have entered into the establishment of the post of Personal Assistant as part of the personal staff of the Prime Minister are the relevant considerations that must be entertained in considering this position.

The Personal Assistants to Ministers, just like the Personal Assistant to Prime Ministers, are part

of temporary staff. All those persons on the Prime Minister's personal staff, the Personal Assistant, Press Secretary and the like, live and die with that office. The consideration therefore in determining not only the duties of these Personal Assistants but also the level of salary bore that in mind so that unlike persons with tenure in the public service who will be entitled to gratuity, pensions and the like at the end of the day, provision has been made as one would make with temporary staff throughout the system instead for the usual contract gratuity because it is recognised that this post for any individual who takes it is not a permanent post. They are not part and parcel of the general service. They do not enjoy the benefits, conditions, protection and the like associated with the service and if one is to be able to attract anyone with the relevant skills to perform the duties in such a temporary environment, some additional consideration must be made.

The point, Mr. President, is that when one looks at a broader range of comparative occupations that just over $3 000 a month for what is in effect very, very temporary employment, one cannot reasonably make the comparison with persons who have security of tenure which will allow them to be able, for example, to go forward and make long-term financial commitments in a way that someone who is in a temporary job, whether that temporary is one year, five years, two months or whatever. Ministers come and Ministers go and when the Minister goes that Personal Assistant will go, to where? Nobody knows, but they are not part and parcel of the service and if one is to make a comparison one must make a comparison with persons in a comparable position. The only relative and relevant positions are those of Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister and Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition.

I really would think it is not comparing like with like to compare Personal Assistants who are appointed to the Minister and who lose their jobs when he loses his, to persons who have longevity and security, prospects for promotion and all of those things that accrue to persons in the general service. In fact, one of the considerations that persons will often weigh when they are considering the choice of taking a job in the private sector and a job in the public sector is not only the relative wages but the relative security. There are a number of persons I know who have opted over the years, for example, to work in the public sector earning a lower salary based on their qualifications and so on, but for whom, because of their own personal situation, would rather have the security that one associates with occupation in the public sector because they do not inherit any wealth with work in the comfort of knowing that at the end of their working lives they will have a gratuity and a pension to tide them over during their retirement years. That is entered into as a consideration in choosing to take a smaller salary in the permanent establishment of the civil service than they would in the private sector. I would suggest, Sir, that in terms of considering the remuneration of persons in temporary positions as Personal Assistants, that one has to use those very real considerations. These people are basically contract people whose escape clause is so loose in that it is tied to the longevity of the Ministers, that they really cannot be expected to go too much below what is intended there.

Sir, like I said, the point of comparison would be the Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister and the salary attached to that post is some $56 000 currently. That will move from $56 698 per year in the first part of the agreement and the second part to $58 399. The Press Secretary $43 556. In the one case S5 and the other scale S9. What the thinking of Cabinet in this matter was that although we were talking Personal Assistants across the board, who would agree to have two grades almost, if you like, of Personal Assistants? While one would be in the category of S5, as I indicated in the salary, we would seek to avoid too wide a disparity in this matter by hovering something in the region of $38 000. Basically, the proposed increases are on top of those salaries that have been set.

Sir, I would therefore want to just reiterate that the comparison has to be made with other temporary positions either in the Government Service or in the private sector and that it is unfair to compare the other conditions of service that accrue to persons in the permanent establishment in the public service and who have the Public Service Commission to stand between them and any transitory Government, as the nature of Governments go. The fact is that Personal Assistants will live and die with their Ministers and as temporary employees ...

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: On a point of order, Sir. I must get this in as a point or order otherwise I cannot get it in.

The Honourable Member, Sir, is misleading the Chamber when he imputes that I am making a comparison between long-serving members and temporary members. In fact, I am merely saying that there was an agreement and the agreement is not reflected in this, therefore, we should defer consideration.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, in wrapping up I think I must make a few remarks. It is unfortunate that a very noble idea has incurred so much vilification, not necessarily in this Chamber but outside of it, to the point where lots of people would like to see it die a natural death. The point is that this is a high risk job. I myself have been a Personal Assistant and it is an extremely high risk job. It is a job which, at the end of it – and I think this has to be reflected therefore in what the remuneration of the holder of

the position will be – it is a highly politicized job. You are branded as political for the rest of your life and you are not easily re-employed.

I myself after I ceased to be a Personal Assistant and there was a change of Government had hell, if that is not an indelicate word, to get my due regard and reward even though I had been seconded from a statutory board. I agreed to be severed because I did not want to cause any inconvenience or embarrassment to a new Government. I had to wait about a year and a half before I got what was due to me under the Severance Payment Act. There was a deliberate attempt to prevent me from getting another job, so it is not easy.
6.00 p.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, the Senate dividing as follows:

Ayes: Senators Hon. R. R. Farley, Hon. P. C. Goddard, Hon. G. S. H. Murray, Miss C. Y. Forde, T. E. Barker, Miss O. P. Symmonds, N. P. Welch, Miss J. C. Odle, D. T. Gill, Mrs. V. J. Davis and J. A. Workman – 11.

Noes: Senator C. LeR. Trotman and Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson – 2.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the adjournment of this sitting but first I want to take the opportunity to indicate that the Honourable the House of Assembly is now in recess until March 12, 1996. We have cleared the matters before us and therefore it is unlikely that we will meet prior to that date. I beg to move therefore that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die.*

As indicated, Sir, the House of Assembly will not meet before March 12. I will also, Sir, whilst I am on my feet, want to indicate that in terms of the schedule for the presentation of the Estimates and subsequent debate it is proposed that the Estimates will be laid in the House of Assembly on March 12 and debated during the week of the 18th March for the entire week and the Honourable the Senate will be debating the following week, which begins on the Monday of the following week. We debate on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday if we need to. We will debate on those first three days of the week, so Honourable Members can prepare accordingly. I would like to move the adjournment, Sir.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate sine die.
6.08 p.m.

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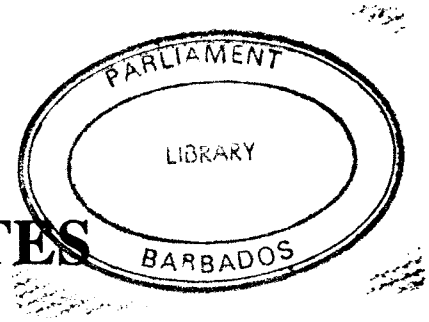
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WORKMAN, Senator J. A.

THE

SENATE DEBATES



(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Monday, March 25, 1996

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Monday, March 25, 1996 at 10.15 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 Foreign Trade and International Business)
Senator the Honourable G. S. H. MURRAY (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)
Senator T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, G.C.M.
Senator D. T. GILL
Senator N. A. LYNCH
Senator N. P. WELCH
Senator J. A. WORKMAN
Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON
Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN
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:

1. Charter on Returning and Overseas Nationals.
2. The Estimates of Expenditure 1996-1997 and Schedules of Personal Emoluments.
3. The Land Valuation (Fresh Valuations) Order, 1996.
4. The Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 1996.
5. Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended December 31, 1992.
6. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1994.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

1. A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73.

2. A Bill to amend the Police Act, Cap. 167.

3. The Appropriation Bill, 1996.

I beg to move, Sir, that these Bills be now read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES) ORDER, 1996

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution concerns the remuneration and allowances for Members of the House of Assembly and the Senate. As you will recall, Sir, this Resolution was not considered with the other Resolutions which were consequential on the increases in remuneration granted the various persons acting in the public service. You will recall as well, Sir, that the Members of both Houses are granted increases at or about the time of increases granted to public officers.

There was an error in the figures noted on the Order as it came from the Other Place, therefore we did not consider that Order when it was submitted. The Other Place has subsequently rescinded the original Order as it was passed, passed the new Order with the appropriate corrections and what comes before us in this Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 1996 represents the corrected Order as has been sent up from the Other Place.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 1 – THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1996

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to lead off debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1996. This Bill seeks the Senate's approval for the grant of a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados during the financial year ending 31st March, 1997. This Bill seeks approval for the grant of the sum of $771 219 616. The approval of this Appropriation Bill represents an important part of the Government's budgetary process. As indicated in the Objects and Reasons, the sum of money required is for use in the service of Barbados. The figures, therefore, that are included in the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill represent the dollar value assigned to the policies and programmes to be implemented during the financial year 1996-97. These estimates are also required as part of the constitutional process, and they are required on an annual basis to debate and consider and give approval for monies to be used out of the Consolidated Fund in accordance with sections 108 and 109 of the Constitution.
10.25 a.m.

Sir, it is important that in this debate and in debates such as this that we understand the numbers as represented, as the total for the Bill as well as in the Schedule, relate to the Government's activities and objectives for the year. These Estimates this year are cast in the framework in which we have during the past year been laying a foundation for economic recovery on the one hand as well as building a launching pad for sustained, economic growth and development in the future.

These Estimates are therefore short-term in nature on one hand in that they relate to a specific and finite period, the financial year ending March 31st, 1997; but they are also long-term in that the part of the policies and programmes which are implemented are really intended as well to have a long-term and beneficial impact on the economy as a whole. In fact, on the broader society, because these Estimates are not limited to economic matters although they might be expressed in economic terms. For example, the emphasis given in these Estimates are on expansion of resources to the social sector for things like human resource development, expansion of resources to areas of health, recognise that there is a long-term developmental objective that must always be borne in mind in framing these estimates of expenditure.

I propose Sir, and I believe it is also my responsibility in introducing this Appropriation Bill to give some background to the performance of the economy in the previous year as well as to look at our performance with respect to last year's Estimates of Expenditure and use that as background against which we develop these Estimates for 1996-97. As indicated, Sir, last year the Estimates were framed over the recognition that we needed to lay a firm foundation for growth. We recognise as well that during the fiscal year 1995 to 1996 there were a number of constraints with which we would be faced. Chief among these was

the fact that we would be experiencing something in the region of about a 26 % decline in sugar output as a result of the drought situation.

Also recognising that the tourism sector was not necessarily expected to grow at the same rate as it did in the previous year where that growth was fuelled by a number of once in a lifetime events. We did not anticipate having in 1995 another global conference and another England Cricket Tour of the West Indies. Therefore, although we expected growth in the sector, we did not necessarily expect the growth to be at the same rate as it was in 1994. We also recognise that there would have been some debt/service obligations to be met, for example the $40 million Japanese loan that was called. Those were among the constraints we recognised as we prepared the estimates for 1995-96.

We also recognised that in framing of an estimates of expenditure Government has a responsibility to ensure that it balances the objectives of moving the country forward by way of spending as much funds as is prudent to do so; but also recognising in the context of the economy of Barbados the importance of setting the level of the deficit within the context of the availability of the financing as well as the nature of that finance. For example, Sir, there are extremely different outcomes to be derived from financing a deficit by means of foreign project finance, foreign commercial finance and domestic finance. In each case of preparation of Estimates these considerations must be taken into account.

Looking at 1995-96 that fiscal programme was approved in March last year as was required and it projected current revenue of some $1.1 billion and capital expenditure of some $1.2 billion. The GDP at that time was estimated to have been in the region of $2.9 billion, just short of $3 billion. It was projected that the foreign financing would have been in the region of some $162 million and domestic financing would have been some $94 million.

In terms of the revised estimates, I will be able to indicate at this moment that the projected out-turn indicates a rate of growth of around 2% in real GDP, inflation in the region of 3.1%, a growth in retained imports to the order of some 15.5%, revised projections with respect to current revenue of some $1.148 billion and current expenditure, including amortisation, projected at some $1.232 billion. Capital expenditure – and I will deal more with this in some detail as I proceed – is projected at $121.5 million and this will produce a deficit of some $205 million.

Sir, this would represent a deficit in percentage terms if you use the Accountant General's basis of some 6.8% of nominal GDP which is now estimated as just over $3 billion, and if you use the basis employed by the international financial institutions this would represent less than 1%, almost equating fiscal balance.
10.35 a.m.

I must, at this point, Sir, make the statement that when we speak of these different bases for indicating the size of the deficit, we must understand what we are talking about. I remember from time to time, and on a previous occasion heavy weather was made of the fact that we were indicating a deficit in terms which are used by the international financial institutions. Specific reference was made to the IMF at that time and it was suggested that one could not do that unless one was indicating that there was a presence of that institution on the island and all such other arguments. What must be clearly understood is that in order for comparisons to be made, one must always compare like with like.

Barbados, as a member of several international institutions, the World Bank, the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank and several others, conforms in terms of its reporting requirements to the methodology adopted by those institutions. It is only if the methodology implied by those institutions for measuring GDP and other economic indicators is implied, then it allows for comparisons to be made among the many nations of the world, most of whom are members of these institutions.

When the IMF publishes its annual report or publishes its monthly economic and financial statistics, when the Inter-American Development Bank publishes its annual reports and its countries' reports and regional reports, when the World Bank publishes their reports, persons all over the world, including Barbados, are able to make sense and are able to compare the performance of the various countries because they are using a standard basis of measurement and that is fundamental, so fundamental that I really believe that in 1996 I should not have to make this point. But given the fact that that point seems to have been misunderstood on previous occasions, and I would not want to say deliberately so, by persons who should know better, I would want for the benefit of members in general to ensure that we are quite clear.

The international financial institutions' basis does not necessarily indicate that our books are being prepared by some third party, or we are under the dictates of any extraterrestrial institution. What it does indicate is that we are, as members of these various organisations, adopting the common methodology used by all of the over 160 countries of the organisation to ensure that we can compare. But we are also bound by the Financial Administration and Audit Act to follow the Accountant General's basis for record keeping which would produce, the way it is done, figures that are different from those by the international financial institutions.

Let me give some examples of why there would be this difference. Now, to obtain the fiscal balance on the financial institutions' basis, all of the amortisation payments and expenditures undertaken to do things like clearing intra-public sector arrears must be deducted from overall expenditure. They are included in the Accountant General's calculations but they must be excluded from the international financial institutions. In addition, the operations of the Printing Office as well as the Airport are shown on a net basis because as far as the international financial institutions are concerned, these are commercial entities. We do not necessarily treat them that way here in Barbados but you need to net these out in order to arrive at the figure.

Additionally, the receipts concerning repayments of previous loans and the like are shown separate on the revenue of the Accountant General's basis but they are shown net on the basis used by the international financial institutions. There are several others but those are some of the basic differences between the two bases, and they indicate why you will hear of a 6.8 per cent deficit on the Accountant General's basis and an almost zero basis using the international financial institutions as a standard.

I hope, Sir, that as we proceed in this debate that that particular misunderstanding, or misrepresentation will not rear its head to seek to obfuscate the issue which we want to discuss.

Now, Sir, to look at the revenue in 1995/96, the current revenue, based on our projections to March 31 this year, the end of the current financial year in which we are presently functioning, it is projected to increase by some 6.2 per cent rising to a figure which I indicated earlier of $1 148.9 million. Now, that increase which is in the magnitude of some $66.9 million must be explained. I must make it quite clear to members that not every increase in revenue has to come from an increase in the level of taxation which is levied on the economy and that again is an important point because we know these issues have a way of being distorted. Revenue growth is normally to be expected to bear some relationship to growth in the economy. The exact relationship will vary depending on the type of taxation and the areas in the economy in which the growth has occurred so that, for example, the key features of the increase in revenue for 1995/96 relate to increases in taxes on incomes and profits as well as taxes on property, and taxes on goods and services.

Now, taxes on goods and services, for example, are expected to grow by just over 12 per cent. This will reach a figure of about $364.4 million in total. Though both income taxes and corporation tax take increases by some 13 per cent for income taxes, and 14.4 per cent for corporation taxes, there was no increase in the rate of tax that was levied. But the growth in the economy which would have fuelled the increase take for those areas, for example, increased employment as well as average pay increases granted in the private sector of somewhere in the region of 3 per cent, would have had their impact on the increased take for income taxes. The increase in corporation tax would have arisen out of the increase in real economic activity that would have occurred in the economy. But it is important to note, Sir, as was carefully indicated by the Minister of Finance, so as not to disturb the trend, if you are projecting a trend. We need to indicate what are the unusual occurrences in circumstances which are really blimps along the line, Sir, as oppose to part of the continous trend line.
10.45 a.m.

It must be noted, Sir, that part of that 14% increase, or $16.8 million in Corporation Tax increase, arose out of an exceptional intake in the region of $6 million which was really in the nature of a windfall take from a particular enterprise. So that we need to understand that in terms of looking at the trend with respect to the growth of income tax.

We note therefore that the increase of Income Taxes and Corporation Taxes really arose out of increases in the rates of pay, increases in the higher profitability of the business operations and the like.

Now in terms of one of the other major areas in which increases occurred, Sir, which prompted the increase in revenue, was increase intake concerning the tax on property. One of the main elements of tax on property, Sir, would be land taxes. The land tax intake would have improved because of the collection of some arrears that were outstanding, as well as the increase efficiency of collection, Sir, of the Land Tax Department.

It is anticipated that the programme for the collection of arrears will continue, but for the coming year, which I would deal with in detail, Sir, further in this second reading for 1996/97 the intake is expected to increase Fresh/Valuation, which as you will be aware, Sir, fresh valuations are done every three years and 1996 is the period for the revaluation of properties for the triennial 1996/97, 1997/98 through to 1998/99.

Now taxes on goods and services also projected an increase by some 8.7% over the figure for 1994. Consumption taxes, Sir, which were the main contributor to this increase, you will remember that those rates were last adjusted in 1993. So again the projected increase in revenue intake does not relate, Sir, to an increase in rate of tax but really it reflects growth in the level of consumption in the economy, and that point must be made clear, Sir.

Again I repeat, not every increase in total revenue is necessarily caused by the rate of taxation. Again, Sir, taxes on International Trade are expected to grow in the region

of 7%, Sir, and this is in accordance with the increase in retained imports.

There were, Sir, within that broad spectrum of taxes on International Trade, there were some areas of decline, for example, the question of stamp duty on motor cars which would have declined as a result, Sir, of the measures in the 1995 Budget which granted some much needed relief to persons purchasing motor vehicles with an engine capacity of less than 1600cc as well as, the fact, Sir, a number of importers are sourcing goods from Caricom would have had some effect there.

The other important point to note, Sir, is that in terms of non-tax revenue, a decline is expected there, something in the order of 30%. The major component of that reduction of non-tax revenue relates to the reduction in the level of profits of the Central Bank of Barbados. So that, Sir, the revenue performance for 1995 was quite good. In fact the revenue performance for 1995/96 was one of the factors that would have lead us, Sir, to a position of almost fiscal balance at the end of 1995/96.

In respect to current expenditure, Sir, for 1995/96. Again, I must repeat that I have to give this background, Sir, so that we are able to cast our 1996/97 Estimates in relation to what is expected out turn for the current financial year, as well, Sir, as to analyse the reasons behind the expected out turn.

Current expenditure, Sir, to the end of this financial year ending March 31, 1996 is expected to increase by 4.4% over the 1994 figure, Sir. The main component of that, Sir, would be higher outlay on domestic debt, increase in personal emoluments, something in the order of an average of 6%, Sir, an increase in the procurement of goods and services as well as retirement benefits. Current transfers, however, would have fallen below their 1994/95 level.

Now, Sir, in relation to some of the components I would want to hight on the current expenditure side for 1995/96, the expenditure there, Sir, on debt service increased by some 3.1% over 1994/95 and that increase would have amounted in the region of $11.2 million.

For wages and salaries, Sir, would have had an increase in the region of some 6% or $24 million which would have been split between the increase in the statutory personal emoluments, which are not reflected in some of these figures in the Appropriation Bill, Sir, as well as in the increase in other personal emoluments.

These relate, Sir, to the increase that was agreed on between the public workers, and the Government of Barbados during the current financial year and which, Sir, have been brought to account during this current year. In fact, I believe that the Ministry of the Civil Service should be, sometime today, or shortly hereafter be paying the arrears on those salary increases and that pay cheques from April 1, Sir, would reflect the additional 3% increase which was part of that settlement. Additionally, Sir, the increase in personal emoluments, especially other personal emoluments, for the year 1995-96 would have reflected two things or maybe even three. It would have reflected a return of a number of workers who had been on a 3-day work week and who would return to the 5-day work week so that without an increase in the number of staff there would have been an increase in the cost of staff.
10.55 a.m.

Sir, as you would recall, that return of workers, particularly at the National Conservation Commission and the National Assistance Board as well as several other agencies of Government, necessitated supplementary expenditure so that the wage bill would have increased without an increase in the number of persons employed in that particular instance.

Another way in which the other personal emoluments vote would have increased, Sir, is that there were a number of agencies of Government who had not been making the appropriate provision for the payment of National Insurance and other benefits and we decided that hiding these figures in order to reflect what would appear to be good fiscal performance was not part of our strategy. We, Sir, decided that we needed to bring these matters to account and again, Sir, supplementary provision was required to take care of the arrears in the payment of National Insurance and other benefits relating to persons working on behalf of Government. We propose to keep those payments up-to-date. That again affected places like the NCC where persons who had already been savaged by being reduced to a 3-day work week found themselves unable to benefit with respect to their holidays because as they were on a 3-day work week they fell into the hours of work that would have been more part-time and therefore they were not entitled to their holidays, although I understand that in the negotiations and discussions relating to the first Prices and Incomes Protocol and the reduction of staff and the reduction of work week there was some understanding and agreement, Sir, with the last administration that persons pensionable rights, rights to holidays and so on would not have been affected. It turns out, Sir, that at the end of the day they were. After being savaged by being on a 3-day work week they then found themselves not being able to claim certain benefits from the National Insurance because in several cases those contributions had not been paid. So, Sir, we decided that they had to be brought to account and that accounts for part of the increase in personal emoluments.

The other source of increase would have been an increased number of persons employed in the Government service. There were a number of areas in the Government, whether it be central Government or in Statutory Corporations where there were critical shortages of persons required to perform various tasks. That situation was corrected during the course of 1995/96 with the employment of additional persons in several areas across the Governmental service in order to ensure that the quality and efficiency of the services provided to the public would be improved.

I will give specific examples, Sir. In the Ministry of Public Works a drainage unit was established and staffed with a complement of persons whose onerous task it was to correct the situation of neglect which had pervaded the drainage system in Barbados. We have a situation, Sir, where the legislation empowers as well as mandate Ministry of Public Works in the areas outside of the City and the Ministry of Health in the areas of the City to maintain drains and water courses and the like to ensure that the ravages which one associates with floods are prevented as much as possible or mitigated where they do occur and situations such as what occurred at Weston, St. James and what occurred in Woodbourne or what occurs from time to time in Holetown and what occurs in various other parts of the island including Bridgetown would not continue to be a permanent feature of life in Barbados.

We know very well, Sir, that water courses in Barbados have not been well maintained. We know that the various suck wells which are located all over the island, both public suck wells in terms of those which form part of road networks as well as private suck wells on plantations and housing developments and so on have not been properly maintained over the years and we consider that because of on the one hand the positive impact which the maintenance of these water courses and suck wells have on taking water off the surface and reducing flooding as well as the impact which the use of these suck wells have on aquifer recharge that it was important for us to establish this unit.

Again, Sir, another problem that had to be confronted during 1995/96 was the threat posed to the health of all Barbadians by the overgrown conditions which had developed all over the island as a result of the frequent rains which we had during last year and as a result, Sir, the neglect of properties which a number of Barbadians unfortunately continued to exhibit. So that whilst it is important for us to address that problem on a medium and long-term basis, that is the neglect which Barbadians tend to have for their properties, Sir. We have too many absentee landlords, whether they be absent by being in a distant land or absent by being in the next parish but many persons have property which they do not inspect. As a result of the overgrown conditions we had a situation where at the height of the dengue outbreak we needed to remove some of that pending forestation and ensure that we were able to reduce the breeding places available to mosquitoes as well as to take care of another problem which we have not quite licked yet, that is the problem of rodents.

In the Ministry of Health, Sir, a unit was created which debushed a number of areas where the situation was particularly severe. There are several other examples, Sir, which we can give but generally speaking there were areas in which there was an increase in the number of persons employed in several government departments. I would like to cite one other example, Sir. Part of what I would discuss in relation to our slowness in being able to implement certain capital projects relate as well to the absence of project management teams in a number of Ministries where major projects are being executed and, Sir, in spite of the drive to improve efficiency by having more being done for less there comes a point below which you cannot go. For example, Sir, in the case of the Ministry of Health where you would have had one project management team attempting to manage the South Coast Sewerage Project which has four sub-contracts. The West Coast Sewerage Project is at an entirely different stage of development. Because the South Coast is at project implementation stage where you are managing contracts and you are having to deal on a daily basis with quantity surveyors, engineers, signing off for persons to be paid and so on, whilst the West Coast Sewerage Project is at the stage of development and conceptualization, feasibility and pre-feasibility and that requires a different level of activity. There is also the matter of the project implementation for the preparation of a sanitary landfill at Greenland as well as several other projects within the Ministry.
11.05 a.m.

Sir, there was need to have additional project management resources and that story repeats itself in the case of the Ministry of Tourism which has been given responsibility for the implementation of the Carlisle Bay Development Project, the wider Bridgetown Re-Development Project, the St. Lawrence Gap Re-Development Project, the Speightstown Re-Development Project as well as special development zones in the Scotland District and the like, Sir. Again, if we are to drive that process, I am sure you will agree as someone who knows about projects management that one needs to have dedicated project teams with good project management skills to ensure implementation as well as to protect the interest of the taxpayers. We do not want a situation which occurred in a previous project many years ago which I will not name at this point, Sir. But we had a situation in which a major international construction firm with its own project team including their attorney, surveyors, and project managers and so on were interfacing with one or two

Barbadian clerks operating on behalf of the Government. The result, of course, was that by simply slipping up of the signing of certain documents by specified times the Government of Barbados found itself having to pay out after the appropriate Court case and so on $7 million in addition to the cost of actually constructing the building. That situation, Sir, resulted from the absence of project management skills.

Sir, there are very good reasons why there has been that increase in wages and salaries. Expenditure, Sir, on Goods and Services would have increased by some $15.5 million over the previous year which is just under 14 per cent and Retirement Benefits are estimated to rise over the previous year by some $13 million.

Sir, Capital Expenditure is an area in which the projected expenditure was not attained. In fact, the Capital Expenditure is projected to amount to $121.6 million. Now part of the reasons for that and before I get into that, Sir, I will look at two components – capital formation and capital transfers. The capital transfers rose. They increased by some $17 million largely due to some adjustments that had to be made. The Government of Barbados had to make provisions for some $10.9 million to the Barbados Development Bank to redeem some of the National Development Bonds which had matured. As you know, the BDB was in no position to loose up. In addition, some $3 million had to be used to clear some arrears with respect to the Sherbourne Centre. To the benefit of that, $3 million could not be used for new work. But $3 million was required to clear arrears on the Sherbourne Centre and $1.5 million was transferred through the National Sports Council for the construction of an astro-turf hockey field at the Wildey Sports Complex. That site is adjacent to the gymnasium. But capital formation is what we want to look at. That $1.5 million is money that is well spent.

The capital formation is expected to total $71.8 million. This is some 4.2 per cent below the 1994-95 level. Now there was under performance in this area. Some of it, Sir, related to some of the situations that I indicated earlier where the absence of some project team would have impacted negatively on our ability to execute, but also some of the difficulties would have arisen out of the need to renegotiate a number of the terms of the agreements which were reached by the last administration with respect to some of these projects. For example, our ability to draw down on one of the World Bank's projects. The World Bank's Human Resource Project related to the commitment which was given that fees would be charged at the U.W.I., Polytechnic and Community College. Those terms of agreement had to be renegotiated to ensure that bright Barbadian children should not be disallowed or should not be obstructed from fulfilling their full potentials by going on to the Polytechnic, Community College or the University of the West Indies for higher education simply for want of fees. We took a decision that as a matter of policy we could not in all consciousness in order to gain access to this loan relegate to bright children of poor Barbadian parents from being able to fulfill their true potential for themselves, family and for the nation.

Again, renegotiation had to be done concerning the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project which had some conditions in there relating to the Transport Board, bus fares and structure of the Board and various other matters relating to transport and we could not in all consciousness consider ourselves meeting.

There were also delays in signing some contracts. For example, with the South Coast Sewerage Project, there was a delay in signing Contract 4 again because of some policy decisions which had to be made concerning connection to private residences. As you know, Sir, within the catchment area of the South Coast Sewerage Project, there are a number of low income communities and we had to ensure that on the one hand we did not have the situation which arose out of the Bridgetown Sewerage Project where the initial years of the project were plagued by problems with low hook-up from the system because not enough people were connected. But we also did not want to have a situation where the less fortunate persons economically in the society would be savaged by any requirement to connect to the system. So that we had to alter the contract to ensure that we were able to meet those twin objectives. Additionally, we found that a related matter concerning the installation of water meters and the contract was not necessarily enthusiastically taken up because of the low volume of work there and there had to be an amalgamation of these two contracts to make the thing more worthwhile. 11.15 a.m.

There were a number of difficulties that affected our capacity to implement projects. We are satisfied, however, that at this point in time we have a number of signed contracts in place and that during the 1996-97 period these projects will be ready for implementation. It is against that background that the Estimates for 1996-97 have been created.

To look at 1996-97 in some detail, we are projecting Current Revenue of $1.22 billion and Current Expenditure, including amortisation, of $1.264 billion. We are projecting Capital Expenditure at $235.1 million, which will produce a deficit in the order of $279.7 million, which equates to a deficit on the Accountant General's basis of 8.6% and on the basis used by international financial institutions 1.5%.

The assumptions underlying the figures that we have developed. We are assuming an inflation rate in the coming fiscal year of 2%. We are also expecting real

GDP growth of 3.5% and growth in retained imports of 9.8%. We are projecting a nominal GDP in 1996-97 year of $3.181 billion.

Sir, before I move further into the presentation, I want to make the point that prior to these Estimates being presented to the Honourable the Senate and the Honourable the House of Assembly, much ado was made by the Opposition about a circular which was sent, as is the norm, to all Accounting Officers who are normally at the Permanent Secretary level concerning some indicative guidelines for the preparation of the 1996-97 Estimates. The Financial Administration and Audit Act mandates and makes provision for the Director of Finance and Economic Affairs to issue instructions concerning the preparation of Estimates. The relevant Section of the Act that relates to that is Section 10(1)(a). These circulars have been issued for years and they are commonly known in the service as the budget circulars. What they basically do is to outline, based on the information which the Director of Finance and Planning has at that time, what is the likely economic outturn. Based also on the previous year's allocations, the Director of Finance and Planning would give an indication of what expenditure ceiling Ministries should strive for, but that of course relates to a situation of the last year's figures which would have been informed by the last year's programme. Unless we were going to accept that we are in a very static situation in which programmes will not change from year to year, we can only treat those figures as indicative. They are an essential guideline that must be laid down, and the circular not only gives indicative figures but it also gives other instructions in relation to the preparation of Estimates.

For example, the circular might indicate what are the types of projects for which priority will be given. It might indicate projects that have already been approved by the Planning and Priorities Committee, projects for which foreign financing has already been secured, projects for which contracts are already in place as being of a higher priority than projects that are now at the early stages of preparation. The important thing is that the fact that the circular is a guideline from public officer to public officer based on the current and the previous year's situation is borne out by the facts. The fact of the matter is, Sir, that in every year the actual allocations as embodied in this Estimates document before us, and all the ones previously, differ from the budget circular issued by the Director of Finance and Planning, for the simple reason that in 1994-95 or 1995-96 the projects submitted by individual Ministries might have seen major projects in education, transport or labour, and in the current year or in any given year those previous projects would have been completed and new projects in new Ministries initiated. So that what transpires after these indicative figures are given is that the individual Ministries will meet with the Ministry of Finance and put forward their proposals, and based on the Government's policies and priorities a new formulation is given where the allocations in some Ministries will go up in one year and go down in another, but there is no fixed and static allocation of the pie as if to say in every given year Ministry X will be given 25%, Ministry B 35%. It does not work that way.

I just thought I would make it clear that we should really try to perform an exorcism and purge ourselves of any thought, any misunderstandings that might have been planted in our minds by the heavy weather that was made out of the standard annual circulation of the budget circular by the Director of Finance and Planning to the Accounting Officers in the Ministries which simply indicates what the figures are based on the previous year's performance, which indicates the dates on which he would want to have submissions for Estimates and which indicates other administrative details relating to the preparation of the Estimates. I just thought I would want to make those points.

These Estimates for 1996-97 are predicated on the assumptions I have given, but in addition they are prepared within the framework in which we understand that the economy is on the move. We recognise, however, that we are not yet out of the woods. We are not assuming that the economy is all of a sudden invulnerable and impervious to any external, or indeed internal shocks, for that matter, but we are satisfied that all of the indices are pointing in the right direction. We are therefore casting these estimates in that framework.
11.25 a.m.

This year, we are going for a larger deficit that we did last year. We are however satisfied that that large deficit will not do any violence to the economy. It will not do violence to the balance of payments position, because the deficit will be largely financed by foreign project finance. In fact, the larger deficit will be fuelled by the larger capital expenditure for this year which is driven by larger foreign finance projects. In fact, Sir, it is significant to note that the level of domestic financing which will be required to finance the $279.9 million deficit is less than what domestic financing was acquired for the last 2 years.

In fact, Sir, for 1994-95 and 1995-96, in each year, $102 million of domestic financing was required to finance the deficit. For 1996-97 we are down to $88 million of domestic financing. Sir, we are satisfied about what we have been able to do in that regard.

Now I would want to provide some details of the revenue and expenditure projections for 1996-97. Current revenue for 1996-97 is projected to increase by 6.2%. I must make a point here, Sir, on current revenue. This debate is about the Appropriation Bill. It concentrates

on the revenue side of the budgetary equation. We must however cast these plans for expenditure within the context of what our revenue projections are. These revenue projections that I am making are obviously based on the assumption that nothing changes in terms of the nature of the revenue and the base on which that revenue is collected.

Clearly, Sir, the matter of revenue raising is one which is addressed usually by the Minister of Finance in his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals and the changes can be made to the revenue base whether taxes are levied on one sector or the other. So we are not here pre-empting the Budget and this is not a replacement for the Budget. But based on the current levels of taxation and the current sources of revenue we are making projections on their performance so that when I indicate a projected increase of 6.2% in current revenue that is not an indication of tax increase from this point. It is really a projection based on what is currently in trend and other adjustments could of course be made by the Minister of Finance in his Budget presentation.

We anticipate, Sir, that the major components of this 6.2% overall increase in revenue will be a 7.8% increase in taxes on goods and services. That will be the major increase fueling that area. We expect that taxes on incomes and profits will increase some 3.5%. We anticipate that taxes on property will increase by some 4.3% and again the land tax is a major component of that and I mention that we are at the beginning of a re-evaluation period. In fact the re-evaluation order was laid in this Honourable Senate today. Tax take from import duties are expected to grow in relationship to the growth in retained imports and are expected to grow by some 6.1% and non-tax receipts projected to grow by some 8.3%.

That brings me into the area that I really want to concentrate on, that is the expenditure side of these Estimates, which is our major consideration here today. The current expenditure for the coming fiscal year, 1996-97 is expected to total some $1.264 billion and that would be an increase of 2.6% over the previous year, which is 1995-96. Expenditure on goods and services are projected to increase by 1.1.%. We are projecting that current transfer of funds will fall by 1.3% and it is important to note that the total current transfers would be some $282.9 million. This bears a relation to some $24 million in supplementary appropriations for the current year, 1995-96, which were in the nature of unusual current transfers that had to be made which do not form part of the normal financing requirements for which our transfers are used by the various statutory boards and other entities.

Effectively, if we are to compare like with like, we really have to compare the trend components of current transfers to really understand the relationship. We need to net out those one-off transfers which were required in 1996-97 for that purpose.

Those transfers, Sir, to the various institutions – I will highlight one or 2 of them – will go to agencies such as the Barbados Defence Force, transfers for pensions will be in the region of $68.9 million which, by the way, is higher than what is indicated in the circular from the Director of Finance and Economic Affairs as indicative figures. In the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture the Barbados Community College gets $10 million, the University of the West Indies $28 million and in fact some of the unusual current transfers which I made reference to, that arose during 1995-96 related to the payment of arrears to the University of the West Indies.

We have had a situation in which a number of these arrears have had to be brought about during this year. I am sure Senator Mascoll is glad that we allow him to get his salary. We have also had to work within the university system to insure that their level of accounting and their level of record keeping became better synchronised with the Government of Barbados' own economic planning. We would not want to be continuing to be carrying arrears to the University of the West Indies which are really the result of matters not within the control of the Government of Barbados.

Sir, we also have transport for school children, some $2.1 million which is the cost of moving children around the island on a subsidised system. We have the Barbados Tourism Authority some $34.4 million, Sanitation Service Authority – $18.5 million, NCC – $17 million. You will recognise that the NCC's allocation would reflect the return of the 5-day week. I believe that legislation would come to this Honourable Senate shortly to give effect to Government's declared intention to expand the role to the NCC and the legislation needs to be amended to allow them legally to undertake a wider range of public activities under the interest of maintaining the environment.
11.35 a.m.

Increased allocations have been granted to a number of social sector agencies such as the Child Care Board, the Welfare Department, the National Assistance Board and the like. The Barbados Investment Development Corporation covers transfers of $5.6 million. Those are some of the highlights of some of the current transfers.

It is important, Sir, to note that we are seeking to improve the level of efficiency of these organisations. We are seeking to ensure that the level of expenditure to these organisations is justified and that these institutions do not become a major drain on the resources of the country while at the same time ensuring that the level of services

which are provided by these very important institutions for which current transfers are given, for example, those in the social sector and those involved in the promotion of tourism and investment, and the like, are given adequate resources to enable them to pursue their programmes which my colleagues will deal with in greater detail. Those are some of the main highlights of the current expenditure that I would want to refer to at this point in time.

Now, capital expenditure, Sir. This is the area in which we are projecting a significant increase over the previous year. The figure of $235.1 million is nearly doubled for the current year. This figure relates to both capital formation as well as capital transfers and capital lending. The capital transfers are projected to decline by some $17 million. This derives from the fact that again in 1995/96 quite a substantial portion of capital transfers that were made related to one-off type of expenditure and they will not by nature be required in 1996/97. Again, the capital transfers we will be making, and these will be transfers to the various agencies for them to execute their capital programmes, include the Barbados Investment Development Corporation $5 million, National Standards $300 000, the National Housing Corporation $1 million, the Sugar Incentives and Sugar Development Scheme $2 million, Rural Development $4 million and Subscriptions to various international financial institutions and the like $6 million.

I would also want to make the point on this matter of capital transfers. As indicated, part of the reduction relates to the fact that there are a number of one-off payments that have been made during the previous year which would not be needed but also we are seeking to better relate the projects which are to be financed with the nature of the finance which has to be used, for example, Sir, my own Ministry and the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation. We have a capital programme which is worth some $25 million if it were to be fully executed in one year. We have however capital transfers allocated for 1996/97 of some $5 million so that is a deliberate decision because the nature of the capital activity proposed to be undertaken by the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation relates to the construction of factories and office accommodation for the manufacturers and the information services sector. You have therefore the situation in which you will be seeking to finance long-term projects, projects that will have a 20 or 25-year life income stream attached out of Government's cash.

Therefore, rather than allocating in one year $25 million in cash to finance a capital programme which is commercial in nature, which has an income stream attached, we have made the decision that the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, as it is empowered by the BIDC Act, will seek to have those projects financed by local, regional or international institutions and have the income stream from the projects service the debts associated with the project. We would therefore be in the position to use the resources freed up as a result for other non-commercial capital activity for which funding may not be so easily obtained. The reduction in capital transfers does not necessarily translate to a reduction in all of the capital activity of the statutory corporations. In my own Ministry, that is the case.

Only last week, Sir, we held meetings with various financial institutions to indicate to them our plans for capital works and to put them on notice of the approaches we will make. For example, we have a situation in which we allocated 143 000 square feet of office space during 1995/96. We are currently constructing some additional space somewhere in the region of a 52 000 square feet building which is all taken by a single tenant, the information services industry and the building on which construction has started which will provide approximately 40 000 square feet. That is already fully spoken for while at construction stage so we are currently right now out of stock of available space for the information services industry.

The Planning and Priorities Committee has granted approval for the construction of a new state of the art information services building on the last available lot in the Harbour Industrial Park. That is the one adjacent to BICO and Barbados Cosmetics Ltd. where persons park when going to cricket. That parking area will soon not be available. I think Senator Workman used to park there. But it is important that projects like that be executed because the experience we have with investment promotion of this nature is that when investors are ready to move with their projects, they do not want to be delayed for 18 months to two years while waiting to get office space, so we need to have an inventory of space available for the information services industry and for manufacturing in general in advance of demand. That is what this Government is going to have.

Mr. President, one of the reasons as well, while we are making use of the Harbour Industrial Park is that we had entered into agreement with BarTel and BET to provide specific infrastructure, that is the area in Barbados in which there is the highest level of fibre optic infrastructure, in addition to which there is also a dedicated microwave link which would allow for an alternative from the Harbour Industrial Park area to BET and hence internationally. I am saying, Sir, that building that we are soon to construct, Sir, that is going to be $7 million alone, Sir. So that the size of our Capital Programme is not necessarily reflected in the size of the capital transfers because of its specific policy decision that we took, Sir, to seek to finance our various projects in a manner which is most suited to the nature of the project. So that

those projects, Sir, at the BIDC, with an income stream attached are better financed by means of some long-term instrument, whether be a loan, a bond or whatever, Sir, than out of Government's cash resources. That is capital transfers.
11.45 a.m.

Sir, let us deal with capital lending. Capital lending will rise by some $5.5 million, mainly an increase which will result from another draw down of the CDB, funded rehabilitation programme of the Barbados Agriculture Management Company, Sir. Capital lending, Sir, of the Capital Expenditure, of $235.1 million would be some $193 million, Sir, in capital formations.

Now, Sir, let us take a look at these various projects. These projects which are to be capital projects which are to be implemented in 1996-1997, Sir, include a number of projects which are fundamental to Government either on the one hand laying the foundation for future growth and development, for example the projects in the social sector, the education project, the hospitality institute and I will outline them later.

Some of them are in the nature of projects which are for the protection of the environment which is an important long-term matter, Sir, such as the coastal conservation project and the like, that have, not only environmental impact but economic impact, in terms of the tourism industry and the like, as well as those projects which are important in facilitating private sector growth and development, as well as improving the quality of administration of public services.

Important to note, Sir, with these projects is that approximately 50% of this expenditure will be coming as 30% of the capital formation, I should put it that way, Sir, will be coming as foreign financing. In fact, a larger percentage of the actual capital projects, Sir, because it is a non-project capital formation component of some $37 million that tends to somewhat hide the facts that the bulk and the majority of the funding for this Capital Works Programme will be coming from foreign financing.

Let us look at the projects, Sir. Within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, we have projects such as the Conset Bay and Skeetes Bay improvement. Those projects are to be funded by the EDF, European Development Fund are worth $1.1 million in total, Sir, with $1 million of that being funded as the foreign component, the bulk, the lion share, Sir.

The Cheapside Market funded by the Chinese Government, Sir, $4 million, the Northern Fisheries Development, again foreign financing, $700 000. It is important to note that these projects are projects which are meant to provide improve opportunities and improve facilities, Sir, for the small business people in this country. Sir, we have heard lots of grandstanding and grand charges about these Estimates not including any measures to help small people and so on. The only thing that these Estimates do not include, Sir, is a percentage in the dollar, as a cash grant, to every individual who is to be considered small, Sir.

If you look at the projects that are implemented, if you look at the programmes and policies, not just in the Central Government but through its agencies, which my colleagues will discuss today, Sir, you will see that they provide opportunities where there were none and they expand opportunities where there were some.

These projects, I do not know of any large business persons, Sir, who will be selling in the Cheapside Market. I do not know of any large fishing companies that will be operating out of Skeetes Bay or out of the Northern Fisheries Facilities, Sir. The funds, which we have been able to secure for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Cheapside Market, were funds that were previously earmarked for the construction of an exercise hall as part of an expansion of the Gymnasium Project.

Now we have to set this in context, Sir. What was being considered as this exercise hall was a large multi-purpose facility where people would go to do badminton and gymnastics and a number of interesting and important sports. However, Sir, the reality of the matter is that when we look at our priorities, if we had to use this $4 million for sports I do not know how in the context of Barbados, and what Barbadians can consider important sporting activity, how an exercise hall for those things could rank ahead of a Cricket Academy to ensure that we are able to raise the level of cricket in the Caribbean, and on the more parochial level get a few Bajans into the team. The other thing, Sir, is that I do know how in terms of sports that could rank higher than other things.

We are also satisfied that there is a large commercial private sector element, Sir, along with the association that are working hand in hand, in provision of exercise facilities of all top types and sorts, Sir. In the context of limited funding available, there really is no need for the Government to set up an exercise hall when there are private sector people who go there.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Yes I go to Jenny's Body Shapers, Sir, at 5.00 a.m. or 5.30 a.m. to reduce my heart attack, so I do not need to go to an exercise hall as part of a Gymnasium Complex. But, Sir...

Asides.

Mr. President, I know that you do not hear asides but some Senator wants to test the results of my going to the Gym but that is not a matter which we can test on the Floor of the Senate we would have to make other arrangements for that. But, Sir, back to the point. We have recognised the importance, Sir, of the provision of proper facilities for the vendors of this country. The vendors represent an important element of the small business sector in Barbados.
11.55 a.m.

This $4 million which will refurbish the Cheapside Market comes, and must be considered along with the funds which are being spent for the construction of the Vendors Mall at Palmetto Street which is presently under construction and we could all take a walk out there to look at it, Sir. It must be considered along with the second phase of that Mall which is to be constructed on the site of the Trafalgar Hotel. It forms part and must be considered along side the opportunities for vending that have been created at the Oistins Fisheries Market and I would invite all Honourable Senators to visit Oistins on a Friday or Saturday night for an interesting experience, Sir – clean, exciting, good fish, good entertainment. We are providing opportunities all over this island for small business people.

We do not propose that whilst we have markets which are in a dilapidated condition with vendors who can only now function in the forecourt, or the outside, that we should spend money on those other things. So we have been able, Sir, to renegotiate and to obtain financing for the Cheapside Market. That will also, when it is developed, Sir, form part of the wider redevelopment of Bridgetown which again, Sir, once Bridgetown is redeveloped and we are able to expand the areas of commercial activity more opportunities are provided for small business people, either those who establish more formalised businesses in additional commercial space that becomes available but also persons who are into more casual vending because more persons can be expected to visit Bridgetown and thereby provide a larger market base on which vendors can operate.

Our fundamental view, Sir, is that vendors should not be relegated to having to relieve themselves in the alley ways of Bridgetown because there are no sanitary facilities available. Vendors should not have to brave the sun at its hottest, the rain at its wettest and the air at its coldest in order to do their business. We want to see an improvement in the standard of the operations and in addition to these physical facilities that we will be providing we will also be providing the necessary managerial advice and wider technical assistance to improve the success rate of these businesses.

We would want, Sir, to see a situation in which a new entrepreneurial class develops in Barbados. We are concerned that over the years we have not had as high a rate of, not just success, but succession in businesses in Barbados. We would want to see a situation in which the small business sector, the working class person who gets into business, be able to grow and develop, not just in terms of the size of the business but the way in which he views his business that he would see his business as being a possession which he can bequeath to his heirs and successors and assigns. We would want to see that businesses be given the appropriate advice and assistance to enable them to do that. That is not something that happens just by accident. It is something that has to be developed and has to be planned for. The business has to be structured in such a way that that happens.

The first generation entrepreneur, as I will label him, needs to recognise that he needs at an early stage to bring his children and other relatives and so on for an exposure into the business because business at the end of the day is a way of life and all of us, whether we like it or not, are creatures of history and the inheritance which all of us bring from the previous generation, largely depends on the exposure, social, economic, whatever, so that the role, as I see it, of this present generation is to be the writers of that history to ensure that subsequent generations are able to benefit from a rich inheritance not just in terms of the viable businesses that are passed on but also from the accumulated experience, the entrepreneurial knowledge and skill which is developed by having a close interaction between the first generation entrepreneurs and their children. So that is the kind of thing we are looking for and these Estimates are making a contribution in that direction.

Now, Sir, some of the other capital projects: Renovations to fire stations, $300 000 and this is the first phase of a wider range of development to take place. There are new fire stations to be built and other persons will discuss these details later but basically, Sir, the outside of natural disasters like hurricanes and so on, Sir, which thankfully do not occur frequently in Barbados. Fire is perhaps the most destructive element in Barbados.

Unfortunately as well, Sir, fire tends more to affect the lower income groups in the community largely because the lower income groups tend to live mainly in timber housing and in some of these areas the houses are relatively close so that in the twinkling of an eye a person's livelihood could be gone in a puff of smoke. We still see it as part of our social responsibility to do what we can to, on the one hand educate and on the other hand prevent and on the third hand, if you can have three, to mitigate so that the whole question of the fire station is an important one.

Other projects, Sir, which would be of value, improvements at the forensic lab, renovations and improvements to a number of buildings for the courts and so on. The justice system has some aspects which are

not the most pleasant, Sir, mainly in terms of the facilities under which both judicial officers, as well as the general public that must interface at some point in time with the courts either in civil or in criminal matters. Improvements, Sir, are provided in the sum of $1.8 million.

Now, Sir, in education and Youth Affairs there are a number of major projects that are being undertaken, financed largely by foreign sources, Sir. The primary education project for the construction of a number of new schools $7.4 million of which $7 million is foreign financing. The human resources project with the World Bank, $3.5 million of which $2.5 is foreign financing. The Hospitality Institute of the Barbados Community College, $2.7 million of which $1.7 million is foreign financing and this project, Sir, which I am sure my colleges will expand on later in this debate, Sir, is again an important mixture of the social sectors and the economic sectors. Clearly tourism is our major industry and in recognition of the fact that human resource development is an important contributor to economic performance the improvements made to the hospitality institute, made mainly by the construction of 20-room hotel would serve as the corner stone of a new plan for the further development of this institute.
12.05 p.m.

In fact, Sir, we would like to think that the Hospitality Institute of the Barbados Community College will become the Hospitality Institute for the Eastern Caribbean region. One of the things that we would want certainly to see stressed in the operation of this institute is a strong input from the private sector. It is our view as a Government that there must be an extremely strong linkage between the private sector and the educational institutions, not in the traditional form of merely providing funding where Government funding is short but more importantly, Sir, in seeking to ensure that our curriculum development is informed by the imperatives of tomorrow rather than merely the memories of the past, and that the skills that we are imparting are equipping the persons who leave these institutions of learning for the skills of tomorrow. We need to have our persons ahead of the skills game and it is a moving target. We are not at all saying that when we develop this Hospitality Institute and we develop a curriculum based on our consultations today based on what people see as being needed 5 years from now that that will be the end of it. We need to have mechanisms in place to ensure that in all areas of human resources that we have ongoing dialogue and feedback with the sectors involved to ensure that they are able to benefit from that long-term vision.

The St. Thomas Secondary School, Sir, $8.4 million totally foreign financed. This project is an interesting one which was started and it was stopped, Sir. I am sure that my colleague will elaborate on later, who is both from St. Thomas and the Ministry of Education, the commitment fees. Not one brick was being laid on that project. The only activity on that project was the rapid growth of grass into bush, and bush into trees, and rodents into super rodents. That was the only activity happening on the project, but in the end it was costing us $40 000 a month.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Those are contractual obligations. As you would know, Mr. President, Sir, once you have a project and you have signed a contract for the construction of the project there are various clauses in the contract which relate to whether you want to break off the contract and whether you want to have it in suspension. So that if you indicate to your contractor that you do not have any money right now and you want to ease off, the contract stipulates what penalties or what you must pay him monthly or annually to keep him there. If you break away the contract, then there are recommencement fees and so on. But this only strengthens my point, Mr. President, of the need to have some project management teams managing each and every one of these major projects to ensure not only that we have proper financing up front but that we also are in a position to ensure the proper implementation.

But, Sir, the Ministry of Education Headquarters is no different. The Ministry of Education Headquarters – $4.6 million, Sir, which we will be financing ourselves to complete. That, Sir, is a case again where you either bite the bullet, find the money even if you do not have foreign financing for it to complete, or you pay your retention fees. The retention fees for the Ministry of Education project were hefty as well and again the only activity that was going on at the site was the coming and going of the Chinese who were there. I believe they were successfully planting many interesting herbs. I believe they were doing an excellent business in the sale of Ginseng and other rejuvenative herbs. Sir, I just hope that the prolong suspension of the project and the retention fees that were paid and the retention of those persons who were contracted to do the project does not result in to drastic a demographic shift in the population either ethnicity or number of persons in the City or wider Barbados. But that is always possible, Sir.

Sir, that project was again a project that was suspended. No construction activity but commitment fees had to be paid. Decisions had to be made to recast the thing as a project. The Ministry of Education Project has been scaled down in terms of the overall development of the project site to allow it into a particular financing mode. But also the failure to compete the Ministry of Education Headquarters resulted in the need to renegotiate another contract for the Ministry of Education Project Management. There was a component of the contract that included

the development of a management information system for the Ministry of Education to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of education and that could not be implemented in the current Ministry of Education building. You cannot put expensive computer equipment in a building which does not have proper electrical facilities. So that we have had to renegotiate that contract and hope that the funds do not lapse because of the delays in implementing this.

But moving on, Sir, the Grantley Adams International Airport Expansion – $10.5 million, the Tourism Development Programme – $5 million, the South Coast Sewerage Project – $42.5 million of which $29 million is foreign financing, the West Coast Sewerage Project – $2.6 million of which $1.8 million is foreign financing, the repairs to the Geriatric Hospital, the Coastal Conservation Project – Phase II, an IDB financed project – very important $4.6 million, Environmental Planning and Resource Management $300 000. Again, Sir, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Water Resources Study – $1.9 million, a very important project funded by the IDB. Of that $1.9 million, the IDB is funding $1.3 million. But this Water Resources Study is an example of one of those projects that has important implications for long-term economic development. It is not widely known, Sir, that Barbados is amongst one of the first 30 water stressed countries in the world. When you see the name of Barbados in the ranking of persons with available water resources, we see places like Bahrain and other places that we associate with desert areas. All of us as youngsters came along hearing our parents and grandparents saying that there was a lake of fresh water under Barbados and all we needed to do was to dig more wells. But we know that not to be true. We know that what is available is a certain flow of water rather than a certain stock of water. Water availability is in the context of Barbados a flow concept rather than a stock concept and what we have available to us in any given year based on the rainfall is a certain flow of water. Whether we use that water or not, the water will continue to flow outward to the sea. So it does not accumulate there in any great lake and if we do not use it in 1995 it is there for 1996 and 1997. So that we need to look at the utilization of our water resources. We need to reduce, re-use and recycle but we also need to look at alternative sources in the event of severe drought. We also need to have a clear indication of our maximum capacity in this area and what limits it places on our industrial, tourism and residential development.

The other major project is the Road Rehabilitation Project and again a World Bank Project – $11.6 million of which $7.5 million will be foreign financed. There is the Highway 2A Project, Phase II funded by CDB – $4.2 million, subsidiary roads, tenantry roads, the Bridgetown By-Pass Road – $9.1 million of which $7 million is foreign financed. Urban improvements – $1. 2 million, tenantries relocation and development, the Scotland District Special Works – $1.8 million, bridge construction and a whole series of projects.

12.15 p.m.

Those capital projects, some of which I have just made reference to, are mainly financed by foreign finance, they are all in the nature of project for which contracts are in place and work has either started, continuing or just about to start. We are satisfied that with our deployment of project management teams in the Ministries where these major projects will be executed, that with our policy directive that each major project must have its own project manager and staff, that the problems that can be had in implementing these projects will not be such to frustrate our efforts in this way this year.

We anticipate that we will have a successful implementation. You will notice that because of the significant contributions of foreign financing to finance these capital projects, and we know that capital expenditure is what has caused us to have an increased deficit, we will note that with the increased deficit none of the capital projects will result in any balance of payments difficulties. In fact, Sir, they will be financed by foreign project financing which has been specifically identified. During this year we will borrow less money locally, we will also borrow less money commercially on the overseas market, and those are significant components of the deficit, the size of the deficit is not the only important thing, but the nature of the financing. Also, Sir, these capital projects will result in an expansion of economic activity, resulting in an expansion in the number of persons employed in the private sector by and large, because these projects are largely implemented by private sector persons, the various construction works and so on, but they will also, through the usual ripple effect, stimulate activity in other sections of the economy, what professional economists talk about as the multiplier effect in these projects.

Sir, in summarising this presentation this morning, to lead off debate on these Estimates, I want to make the point that we are satisfied that the resulting deficit of approximately 1.5% of GDP, which results from a total expenditure projection of just under $1.5 million, precisely $1 499.7 million, and capital expenditure of $235.1 million, which is a deficit figure of $279.7 million, that deficit is manageable, that of the $235 million in capital works some $103.3 million will be foreign financing for the capital projects; of the overall financing of the deficit the foreign component will be some $190.7 million and the local component will be, as I indicated, some $88 million.

I want to make the point that our public investment programme emphasises lots of activity in the social sector, both in terms of the project as well as the transfers

to institutions that deliver social services. We recognise as a Government that it is important that given the events of the not too distant past where some of the most vulnerable groups in the society were the worst affected by the policies and programmes which were implemented by the last administration, we need to take positive action to move the process forward so that bulk of works, as you will see under Education, Health and the social services – Child Care Board, National Assistance Board and the like – physical infrastructure would have some 22% of the capital programme, the social services will have 52%, productive sectors would have some 15% of the capital development programme. We are satisfied that these Estimates represent the result of a period of planning and preparation in which the policies and programmes of the Government were discussed and prioritised; we are satisfied that in the context of the performance of the economy in the last year, as well as the projections and the performance of the economy in 1996-97, that our targets are attainable, that the result will be positive both in the short term as well as in the long term; we are satisfied that our strategy which we employed last year in which we undertook a mid-term review has been successful, and we propose to do that again this year.

You will remember, Sir, that during the course of the year, in September-October, we went to the Other Place for supplementary requests. In one instance there was some $32 million in supplementary requests, but the net cost to the Government was $4 million. That is because in that internal review process savings of $28 million had been identified and we will continue to review the performance of the projections which are made for expenditure by the various Ministries and agencies, and we will undertake a re-allocation of these Estimates, subject to the appropriate parliamentary approval, in such a way that in seeking to meet our overall target in terms of overall expenditure and the deficit position, we are able to go with those programmes that are in a state of readiness and make adjustments to those programmes that might not be in a state of readiness.

I therefore have great pleasure in commending this Appropriation Bill to this Honourable Chamber. I am satisfied that these Estimates will result in a better quality of life for our people, that they will result in an improvement in the quality of the public services that are provided to the taxpayers of this country, and that they will contribute to the continuation of the building of a firm foundation as a launch pad for our future endeavours, and that they will contribute to a stimulation of economic activity in this country to the benefit of all citizens of this country, but more particularly, to the broader masses of this country of ours. I beg to move that this Appropriation Bill, 1996 be read a second time.
12.25 p.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move that this sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I must say that the highlight of the last speaker's speech was the silence that prevailed in the Chambers and though I would not wish for my speech to be highlighted in such a way I hope that there will be sufficient silence for the highlights to be recognised.

What I need to do in this year's Estimates is to go back to last year's Estimates to get a feel for the outcome, that is the revised estimates versus the approved estimates, because a number of things that were said then have turned out to be quite appropriate in today's economy. One or two things were said which have been referred to in the Lower House, the fact that there could have been some unemployment as a consequence of the presentation of the Estimates last year but that was not because Senator Mascoll sought to predict gloom but there was an adequate footnote to explain a change in how the other personnel emoluments were presented last year.

The comment made last year was based on the absence of that footnote. However, no one can dispute that in fact I did reference a number of documents from the Central Bank and used my training to explain that the capital works programme would not have been realised in light of the very optimistic financing requirements that were needed to realise the programme. The evidence is there to show this year in fact that the programme did not materialise. In addition to that, what we have seen is some variance in terms of the Approved Estimates, especially for revenue versus the revised Estimates. A little later into the debate I will also explain in some detail why there could have been the kind of variance that we saw in the revenue classifications.

I just want to caution that Senator Farley's comment about the corporation tax state which far exceeded the approved had nothing at all to do with the performance of the economy in 1995, because the way that the corporation taxes are paid where you have almost a year and a half lag between the collection of the corporation taxes and the performance of the enterprise it would demonstrate that in the fiscal year 1995-96 the corporation tax collected would have been based on the performance of the economy one year and a half before.

In essence, you cannot suggest that the vastly improved corporation tax collection is in any way directly related too the performance of the economy in 1995. In fact, once again the stewardship of the Democratic Labour Party comes to the fore when we look at the underlying reasons for the performance of many of the macro economic variables in this economy. So we can dispute that.

I need really to put my presentation this year into its true perspective by dealing extensively with the person who was responsible for the management of the economy and what I wish to suggest in fact is that there is a lot of evidence to show that this economy is really managing the Prime Minister as opposed to the Prime Minister managing the economy. I can demonstrate that by way of a number of examples which I will draw on during the course of my presentation, just to demonstrate fully that the Prime Minister is not really managing the Barbados economy and as a consequence, by prudent management under the Democratic Labour Party in the post-1991 period, what has really happened is that we are seeing the residual effects of that management and there is no evidence, not even a scent of a philosophical position outlined by the Prime Minister, to suggest that anything has been done since September 1994 can be as a consequence of any policy initiative through the part of the Prime Minister, except for a little tax concession here and there.

In the main, there is absolutely no evidence to show, which I will demonstrate, that the Prime Minister is truly managing the Barbados economy.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, I think you need to be careful here. You can comment on the policies of Government or a statement by a Minister in relation to government policy. I think we have to be careful not to permit you to make criticisms of a personal nature. In other words, deal with the policy issues but in terms of personal references, our Rules particularly forbid the conduct of members of the Other Place being referred to except in a substantive motion.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. In fact, that was truly a preamble because of the absence of the water cart.

I will now move into my speech. What I now wish to do is to come to the opening exchanges in my presentation this year. Last year, during the course of the Estimates, the Prime Minister on no less than 6 occasions referred to an employment creation strategy in the Estimates and the fact that I am permitted the official report of March 20, 1995 contains the references. They are at page 787, 790, 798, 799. It is very instructive in this policy position outlined by the Prime Minister to which I will now refer by way of reference. I am quoting from page 787.

> "I believe that employment creation, Mr. Speaker, comes from two sources and two sources only, the expansion of existing enterprises and the creation of new ones and that it falls to us as a Parliament to begin to focus on how we can create the environment in this country in which enterprises can expand and new ones can be created."

This is instructive because even though it is not explicitly stated the Prime Minister is suggesting here that job creation must occur as a result of new enterprises and the expansion of the existing and that when we go further into the Estimates we see that there is no emphasis at all being placed on job creation within the public sector. In fact, what is suggested there is that that is not the strategy for job creation in Barbados that we do not need to have crash programmes to create temporary jobs in Barbados but we need long-term sustainable job creation.
1.40 p.m.

As a consequence, I am going to demonstrate today in these Chambers that the lack of position, or the position outlined by the Prime Minister does not conform at all to what the Barbados economy experienced during the course of 1995. There is no way that one can associate the outcome of the Barbados economy in 1995 with any stated policy on the part of Government.

I will repeat during the course of the presentation. On the issue of taxation there has been a reversal. On the issue of interest rate policy, there has been a reversal. On the issue of fiscal deficits, there has been a reversal. On the issue of energy costs and its importance to the manufacturing sector, there has not been any addressing of that issue so far for the industry. There has been a complete reversal and therefore I am committed to my position that the Prime Minister has not, in fact, dealt with the management of the economy in the way that one would have anticipated.

Let me also say in relation to the whole question of job creation that there are a number of inconsistencies in the Barbados economy. I cannot see any correlation, in fact, between some of the issues which were raised in the last Estimates, as I said, and the so-called job creation effort of 1995. In that respect I wish to quote directly again from the Prime Minister at page 789. By the end of this you will understand fully why I am of the view I am of. I quote at page 789. This is on wages and salaries and the alarming cost of wages and salaries as it relates to temporary staff within the public sector:

> "In this respect, Sir, the Ministry of the Civil Service has reported that during the year to the period of March 16, 1995, approximately 172 temporary posts had been created of which 116 have expired leaving a net increase of 56 temporary posts estimated to cost some $1.3 million for the entire financial year."

What comes through there, Sir, is that 56 temporary posts within the public service were supposed to cost $1.3 million for an entire fiscal year. That is very instructive because if we were to take our minds back to the recent debate on job creation in Barbados, we were only recently told that of the 7 000 so-called jobs created in Barbados in a year ending December 1995 that 2 100 jobs were, in fact, created in the public sector. According to the information presented to the public 2 100 jobs were created in the public sector of the 7 000 jobs.

Now, Sir, if we use the information that 56 temporary jobs would cost the budget $1.3 million, by mere extrapolation it would imply that 2 100 would cost in excess of $40 million over the course of a financial year. The thing about it is that these temporary posts do not include the kinds of salaries we saw being paid to those at the BTA. So I am asking the question, Sir, if indeed we had no less than 2 100 jobs created in the Barbados economy in the pubic sector which, by the way, is contrary to the position of the Prime Minister who is opposed to the creation of temporary jobs or crash programmes in the Barbados economy, if we also accept that the capital expenditure programme which was supposed to be put in place by the Prime Minister...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is quoting a figure of 2 100 jobs and he is saying it is public information. I have not seen that figure so I would like him to tell us where he got that figure from because it is not correct.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I am saying that the capital works programme as presented by the Government would not realise...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, I think the point of order is a suggestion that you may be misleading the Senate. I would wish you to clarify the point in terms of the source from which you are referring.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the goodly Senator would know, since he was the major proponent of this thing...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. I do not calculate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I will allow you to make your point. I would just ask Senator Mascoll to finish his response.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The information was provided by the Barbados Statistical Service. I do not have a copy of the document with me but it is public knowledge and it is amazing that Senator Barker does not know that 2 100 jobs were reported to be created in the public sector out of the 7 000 that were reported in the Press only a couple of weeks ago.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am quoting. I do not have it here with me but Senator Barker knows only too well in his defence when I made an attack on the numbers and he made it public knowledge that 2 100 were created in the public sector over the period of a year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have not given a source from which you referred. I think that reflects on the authenticity as far as the Chamber is concerned.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The Barbados Statistical Service presented the information. I do not have it. The point is that 2 100 jobs were created in the public sector.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have made the point. I think you have no document to support it. It is merely a statement of your opinion. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Furthermore, Sir, that is against the expressed wishes of the Prime Minister in his employment strategy that he will not pursue a path where temporary jobs will be the order of the day.

In addition to that, we have a situation in the same debate where the Prime Minister says:

> "We feel that we can, without putting the external position of the country at risk, increase our spending on capital projects with a view to stimulating some job creation, not large scale, as a result of Government's capital activity."

In this quotation the Prime Minister is admitting, and quite rightly so, that capital works programmes do not create large-scale employment and there is a temporary boost in the area of construction and then it settles right back down. So I wish to ask the question again. How in the absence of our Capital Works Programme which we now admit has not been realised, how in the presence of the stated philosophy by the Prime Minister that temporary jobs would not be the order of the day, could we have had the kind of so-called job creation in the public sector of Barbados over the last year ending December 1995?

1.50 p.m.

It is truly amazing, but I have learnt one thing in politics, so far and that thing is, perhaps, the most profound thing that I will ever learn about politics and it is that patience is, perhaps, the greatest quality to have in political debate because, Sir, unlike normal debate the judges have years and not hours in which they can judge the outcome, years and not hours. So I do not have to rush all the time to present a case knowing that I am on solid ground but that I do not have the support of the Press or others to carry me through in order to prove that a so-called position is genuine and correct. Time is my healer in this case. Time will determine ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order, please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Could you believe, Sir, that we would be hearing in this debate today that the jobs to which I referred were, in fact, not created. I thought that the Government would be proud to say: "I have created 5 000 jobs in the public sector." I am now hearing some run to defend that it could not have been that magnitude though the evidence is there. It was put in the Press, and now I am hearing a completely different position on that.

Sir, I wish to reiterate that on no less than six occasions in last year's Estimates debate we were told that there were two, and only two sources through which jobs could be created, and those jobs – I will quote another page, just to reinforce. I will now quote 799 in this document. He said:

> "Other measures will come very soon, supplementary to what is contained in these Estimates, building on the foundation that these Estimates are intended to create and that will address the fundamental matters that are of importance which I want again to repeat, that we must work assiduously in Barbados to create the conditions under which enterprises can expand and new ones can be created. Those are the only two sources of employment creation. It is not necessarily a 6 months' exercise. We must work assiduously at it."

There are only two areas of job creation in Barbados but yet still I am hearing that all of a sudden in this economy that 7 000 have been created. Where? In which economy? An economy that grew by 2%? An economy where there was no Capital Works Programme? An economy where the Government has admitted not swelling the ranks of the public sector because it does not agree with the creation of temporary jobs? Where, therefore, would these 7 000 have been created? In which economy? This Barbados economy in which I am a member? It could not have been the case.

I am asking the question again. Are these Estimates designed with a philosophy in mind to ensure that we effectively approach the whole question of employment strategy? Rather than seeking to massage employment data we should be seeking to massage the structure of the economy in a way as to ensure that it not only grows, but it grows in a way that is sustainable, and a way that we can be proud of over the next couple of years.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. That statement massage employment data reflects negatively on the public service. Massaging data has very negative connotations and he is saying, Sir, that the people who put out the statistics are guilty of doing something which is infelicitous and I will have him, Sir, to withdraw that. It reflects on the character of the public servants who estimated and who published the unemployment data.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I did not understand the Senator to be referring to the public servants of Barbados.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I did not understand myself to be either so I will ignore it.

The other issue in the Estimates, in fact, happens to be an issue that we have heard quite a lot about over the last 5-10 years in Barbados, the whole question of taxation. Sir, since I do not ever intend to be *ad hominem* in debates in my political life, I propose one strategy, to take the issues as I see them, analyse them and allow the outcome to fall. That is the only way I know and that is what I propose to do.

On that score again on the question of taxation which was supposed to be, when the present Government was in Opposition, a very sensitive area, an area for which we had continuous reference about the tax take, how high it was and how it should be reduced, especially the Member for Christ Church, I now recall, Sir Harold St. John, that was his pet topic, that the tax take of Barbados was too high. The Prime Minister supported him wholeheartedly, and quite rightly so, and this is why I can now address the area of taxation by way of giving a reference.

I am quoting from the Official Report March 1994 at page 4767 where he is discussing the whole question of taxation and I am quoting him again, Mr. Owen Arthur, now Prime Minister:

> "Now we feel, Mr. Speaker, that tax reform in Barbados must be guided by something broader than that, for this country is overtaxed to begin with. If our tax reform is guided only by the principle of tax neutrality; that is changing the composition of taxes

so that at the end of the day the new taxes give rise to the same amount of revenue as the old taxes, if you accept as we accept, and the Government accepts, Sir, that the country is already overtaxed, tax neutrality as a principle only means that the Government is giving the people of the country the very simple choice as between being beaten by a bull pistle as distinct from being beaten by a dog whopper. It is a simple choice, either you get beaten by a bull pistle or you get beaten by a dog hunter. That is all it means."

Now, one would have expected, Sir, that having come to that realisation so early that the Government would have been pursuing a path of reducing systematically taxation over his term of office, and we have not seen any such attempt. We have seen a trivial attempt to give $5 million to the manufacturing sector to have all kind of boast by those receiving the concession, that within the next couple of years we will create 5 000 jobs, and only to be a couple months later suggesting that there is need for more easement.

I am suggesting that that kind of tax concession cannot be said to be an effective strategy for lowering the level of taxation in Barbados. Indeed, what we have had is the pending introduction of an environmental tax yet to be legislated, yet to come through these Honourable Chambers, but it is on the cards for implementation as part of the strategy for effectively managing, or attempting to manage the environment.

What we have seen though, Sir, in these Estimates is an attempt or failure to admit that the revised Estimates of Revenue have, in fact, considerably outperformed the Approved Estimates. Last year I said that it is possible that the revenue collection would not be realised and it was based on the assumptions that were put in this Chamber, the lower GDP growth, the lower import bill, and the absence of any policy initiative to increase taxation. I am on record as saying that revenue could have fallen, but what we have seen is a substantial increase in revenue. Guess what is the source? The source of revenue increase this year, the substantial area, is corporation taxes. That is as a consequence of the underlying strength of the economy. The underlying reform, the impact it will have on the private sector of Barbados, the removal of stabilisation taxes, the removal of levies, the introduction of all forms of cost effective measures to reduce cost in the private sector in such a way that we can see the impact by way of higher profitability and consequently the level of corporation taxes.

2.00 p.m.

This is as a consequence of the management of the Barbados economy under the Democratic Labour Party administration and it is being reflected now so that when you try to associate the increased corporate tax take with anything that happened in 1995 you are wrong for doing that. It is as a consequence of the previous business environment that the private sector found itself, not as the result of any initiative in 1995.

Like me the Government of the day recognised that it would have been in a ticklish position to anticipate too much coming from the import side because if you are going to be protecting your foreign reserves you have to be very careful about the growth of consumption and the Central Bank, in the last quarter of 1995 increased interest rates so as to reduce consumption and therefore protect the balance of payments. It therefore means that this Government also recognises that it could not have allowed import growth to continue at the rate it was going during the first three quarters of 1995 and therefore put a lid in such a way that what we have seen again is rather than a position being put and a position being held, we have had reversal because that increase in interest rate coupled with the increase in interest rate which we had in 1994, December, is still affecting the people of Barbados. After they were promised a relief in terms of interest we have not seen any reduction, any systematic attempt on the part of Government to reduce interest rates and therefore reduce the cost of doing business with the private sector.

We have seen a complete reversal. There has not even been the maintenance of the level of interest rates as they were in September 1994 but they have been increased and this is at complete variance with the position espoused by the then Opposition Leader. So I am committed again, Sir, in saying that the Prime Minister is not managing this economy, this economy is managing the Prime Minister. I will demonstrate that again later.

Last year in the Estimates Debate in this Honourable Chamber I was on record as saying that there is no way that the increase in interest rate of December 1994 could have been temporary because the evidence just did not suggest that. At page 253 in reference to a suggestion by Senator Farley that the interest hike was a temporary move I said, "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 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 would be an increase in interest rates elsewhere that the increase in interest rates in the Barbadian economy cannot be deemed to be temporary, not in the light of the situation that has occurred in the United States." But they were suggesting it was supposed to be temporary. We are now 18 months hence and we have not even seen the removal of that increase. I am asking the question, who is managing whom?

It cannot be the case that you are suggesting to me that you are in charge and yet still in the areas where you took a fundamental position you had not been able, since September 1994, to hold yourself to that position. But the wicket was left in such a state that even though you were making errors on it that you do not have to worry too much about the running rate. You are making errors but the wicket was left in such a state that you can boast idly about how well you are performing in spite of the fact that you have not adhered to any of the positions that you have held during your period of opposition. That is another area where you have fallen. Who is managing whom has to be asked.

Sir, one of the first statements made by the Prime Minister is that the forecasting techniques within the public sector were poor. In fact he went on to suggest that supplementaries will be a thing of the past because when you have supplementaries that is indicative of poor management, that you cannot afford, as a Government, to have poor forecasting techniques. As a Government you cannot afford to bring supplementaries because it is indicative of poor management of the finances. What we have seen during the course of the fiscal year is no less than 16 supplementaries.

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

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. This Government, Sir, at no point in time indicated that supplementaries would be a thing of the past and that the Government would never bring supplementaries. What was indicated was that with prudent management supplementaries should be limited to those matters which were not known up to the time of the preparation of the Estimates and that they would need to be on matters that were properly the subject of supplementaries. No suggestion was made that there would never be supplementaries.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I can therefore, by inference, suggest that the 16 supplementaries are indicative of poor management. Given the comment made by Senator Farley that there was no mention that there would not be supplementaries, but that supplementaries are indicative of imprudent management, I can therefore suggest that by his logic, Sir, that there has been imprudent management of the economy.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, I did not in my last intervention on the last point of order indicate that supplementaries were indicative of imprudent management. I indicated, Sir, that what was suggested was that with prudent management supplementaries would be limited to those matters which were unforeseen at the time of the preparation of the Estimates and are the proper subject matter of supplementaries.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the most substantive issue is this that over the course of the last fiscal year there has been an increase in a tax take in the Barbados economy and that is straightforward because the level of taxation has outstripped the growth of nominal GDP. So therefore even in the absence of prior information I know that the tax GDP ratio has increased over the course of the last fiscal year and this has been the boast and the brag of the Leader of the Senate in his presentation this morning that revenue performed buoyantly and therefore I am saying that there has been an increase in the tax take of Barbados and that that is contrary to the spirit expressed by the then Opposition leader where he was suggesting in fact that there would be a reduction in the level of taxation in Barbados.
2.10 p.m.

I am suggesting that, if the forecasting techniques were improved during this administration, the administration could have predicted the kind of revenue outcome within the corporate tax category in such a way to give some kind of ease to the productive sectors during the course of the Budget of 1995. Because this Government is supposed to be the gurus in the area of forecasting. That was one of the first comments made by the Prime Minister. At page 430 of the 1994 Estimates debate where he said that we have too much of the increased taxation on the backs of people of Barbados in recent times has come from just flawed forecasting. Those were the words of the now Prime Minister then Leader of the Opposition. This is almost two years and I would have expected that those kinds of things could have been corrected and proper measures put in place to ensure that prudent management is in fact the hallmark of this administration. That has not been the case.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: If I may continue. I have noted, Sir, the inordinate amount of time spent this morning on listing the projects under Capital Works Programme. The Leader of the Senate spent time listing projects costing $1.1 million. But this is really an attempt on his part to be apologetic for the outcome in the last fiscal period because my forecast that the foreign financing was far too optimistic last year has come to past and that

it would have in fact put a serious scourge on Government's ability to carry out its Capital Works Programme. More importantly, Sir, the other thing is that the Prime Minister himself imposed a debt strategy which said that he could only borrow $80.9 million. He was suggesting that in any one fiscal period he would only be borrowing to the extent of his foreign interest payments. Therefore, he limited himself last year to $80.9 million. So that if any other thing such as project funds and the like and the heroic forecasting come true, you had to curtail the programme. Therefore, having said that, how then could we have had the kind of idle boast about job creation within the public sector that we heard over the course of the year? The two things are inconsistent. You cannot create jobs without a programme and, even if there is a programme, you cannot create a substantial amount of jobs. How then do you demonstrate by way of information and by way of evidence within the Estimates that you have created these jobs? It should have been reflected in the Revised Estimates this year. They have not been reflected so I am asking were the workers paid? Did we have that kind of increase? It is impossible to demonstrate by way of this information that there has been that kind of job creation within the public sector of Barbados. It is impossible but time is longer than twine and patience is perhaps the greatest quality you need in political debate.

Let me go on to suggest, Sir, that the financing element last year was certainly not the right thing to do. We should not have put increasing emphasis on the foreign financing in the Estimates. Because the entire reform programme was in fact designed to shift the emphasis away from increasing the foreign debt burden towards more effective management of the foreign debt. So to have even gone the route of emphasizing foreign financing was not the way to go. There are so many things occurring this year where we have seen an even greater attempt on the part of Government to reduce its reliance on domestic financing. It does not fit well with our overall concept of where we intend to take the economy. If we are saying that we are putting increasing emphasis on managing the foreign reserves, then we have to be very prudent that we do not build up our foreign debt commitment overtime and undermine our capacity to service that debt. That is precisely where this shift in emphasis would put us. It would put us in a position where in fact we would once be looking for in excess of $300 million in any one year to service the foreign debt. That is not a sustainable position to hold, so we cannot have that kind of scenario.

Sir, I have put the Approved Estimates for last year in a context where I am now able to look back and reflect on the outcome of those figures to show that they were not well put together; for one thing, we did not realize the kind of outcomes which we anticipated in the Estimates of 1995. We have a situation however where we are seeking in the spirit of showing people that we are doing something to create jobs. This could not have come about as a consequence of the management or the vision of the present administration. There is no evidence that there has been any direction in terms of policy initiatives. There is no evidence at all fiscal policy was geared towards effecting that kind of improvement in the employment situation in Barbados. Contrary to evidence, there is evidence that the government sought to increase the cost of doing business in the private sector which would have been a deterrent rather than a factor in favour of the private sector in the area of job creation. So again it is hard to see that in the absence of a vision how we can idly boast about all of these positive outcomes in the Barbados economy. What we have seen once again is the build-up in fact of the foreign reserves of Barbados in a way which could be deemed encouraging, but one cannot idly boast again in the first quarter of any year about so-called record levels of foreign reserves. Because if you understand the Barbados economy during the winter season and during the sugar period, the foreign reserves in fact do build up and as a consequence one can show that kind of increase. If you do not get an increase of $100 million in the first quarter of the year from January to March, then you should not be very comfortable in your foreign reserve management. What you anticipate is a very significant build-up in the foreign reserves during the first quarter...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The Honourable Member is saying a lot of things which do not tally with no other than his economic figures and the history of this country. He talks about sugar money. To just say in the first quarter you have sugar money, he should tell this Chamber how much sugar has been sold to date and where it is coming from? He just cannot throw these statements out to fool the general public when we know and he knows that the sugar money does not come in January or February or the first few weeks of crop. He knows that. He is only misleading the Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, that is no point of order. Please proceed.
2.20 p.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I sat this morning and listened attentively and the Chamber was silent.

Let me attempt to look in some depth at the Estimates for the next fiscal period. In fact, at page 5 of the Estimates this year, what we are seeing is a very strange occurrence in the numbers. In the approved Estimates for 1996-97 we are seeing statutory personal emoluments are expected to increase by just over $12 million for the fiscal year, that is, when you compared the revised number for 1995-96 of $296.5 million with the approved estimates for 1996-97 of $309.1 million we are seeing that that constitutes an increase of just over $12.6 million.

In the row below under Personal Emoluments where we would have temporary staff we are seeing an increase of almost $14 million from $121.7 million to $141.7 million. There has to be something wrong with these numbers.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Page 5 of the Estimates.

Mr. President, the question I wish to ask in order to demonstrate that these numbers have to be wrong, I am saying that here you have statutory emoluments which represent permanent staff within the public sector.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. It has always been customary that you do not discuss statutory emoluments.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, what I am saying is that we have just had a wages settlement and given the distribution of these 2 areas between temporary and permanent staff, one would have expected that the permanent staff would have increased by substantially more during the coming fiscal year than the temporary staff within the civil service. If you have a base of $300 million as compared to one of $130 million, how do you demonstrate having just reached a wage settlement that the increase in temporary staff emoluments would outstrip that of the permanent staff in the next fiscal period. It does not make sense. These numbers don't make sense in the light of what is being stated here for the approved estimates for 1996. When you have a situation in which the permanent staff represent in excess of 80% of the workforce, you should have seen a much greater increase in that category than you are seeing in the temporary staff. Not to mention the actual base of the number. So I have difficulty in understanding the approved estimates for 1996-97. This is a serious matter.

This has nothing now to do with politics. It does not make sense on the one hand neither does it make sense in the light of the fact that we are having a wage settlement. I can only suggest one thing from these numbers. If, in fact, you were to look at these approved estimates you would see that last year in these debates it was stated and quite correctly so that we could not reflect any wages settlement in the approved estimates for 1995-96. If you check page 5 of the Estimates you will see that in the permanent category the approved estimates were $292 million for 1995-96 and that in spite of the fact that there has been a settlement we are only seeing an increase of $4 million in the revised.

Sir, I can only conclude from this information that the wages settlement was so small that it hardly had any impact on the revised numbers. As a consequence, I can reiterate my call and restate my position that the unions could have fought for a much better increase for the civil servants because, according to this information, the revised estimates only reflect an increase of $4 million and we have accepted last year that there is no way in which we can put any wages settlement that was not yet determined into the approved estimates. Now in the revised, we are seeing an increase of only $4 million. The civil servants were sold out? I am asking the question. This should have been a much healthier increase than it is.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Why is it that we are not seeing a greater increase? I am asking the question why don't these figures reflect the increase in the wages settlement in the revised estimates.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Is the Honourable Member saying that the unions which negotiated on behalf of the public service sold them out? That is what you must tell this Chamber in plain words. He must tell the Chamber if the unions which negotiated on behalf of the civil servants sold them out and let it go in the record, because I know where it will take him from here onwards.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator that is not a point of order. Senator Mascoll, you made your point. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: He is not even of the right gender to put words in my mouth.

I want to say that that is a question which I wish to ask. Why is the wages settlement so small that it led to a minimal increase?

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I hate to intervene because the Honourable Member is a source of amusement. What I want to know is whether he would be prepared to repeat that question when Senator Trotman is in his chair?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray, you cannot ask questions. Please allow the Senator to be heard in silence.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, these interventions are unbelievable, but I can understand the need for them. The comments are so profound and so searching that I can understand the need for the intervention. The comments are so incisive.

I want to know, Sir, whether in the approved estimates for 1996-97 there is an attempt here to put some more money in the kitty for crash programmes, temporary jobs because once you have the permanent staff members constituting 80% of the public sector labour force, how can you justify an increase in the temporary which is beyond that of the statutory. It does not make sense.

Is there an attempt to put away some funds to swell the ranks of the employed to demonstrate contrary to what we are hearing that we don't have a policy of temporary job creation within the public service but still when the job creation numbers are being bandied about we are hearing that over 2 000 were created in the public sector.

I go further, Sir. Last year under goods and services we had an idle boast that this category would be reduced by $9 million. I made reference to it in the Estimates debate that unless you are going to put a system of accounting in place to efficiently manage the public sector funds? You cannot say that in one year you are seeking to reduce the goods and services component because of effective management. Once there is inflation or increased prices there will have to be an increased allocation for goods and services. That reduction is what is partially responsible for the inability of certain goods to be provided or items at the QEH. There is a direct correlation between the two things because there is no way that you could decide last year to cut the goods and services component by $9 million and then scramble all during the course of the fiscal period to have supplementaries. This was the source of the problem. In an attempt to get people to believe that the Government could manage more effectively, you cut the provision of goods and services and then scrambled through the fiscal year in order to get a whole range of supplementaries. That was not good and effective management. The other category of expenditure, current transfers...
2.30 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. On the same page 5 that the Senator is making references to there on the goods and services it indicates that there was an increase allocation in 1995 rather than a reduction so the Honourable Member may want to clarify his figures there.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, the Leader of the Senate is making one error. On page 5 of these Estimates he will not see what the approved estimate was for 1994/95. What he will see here is the actual account. As a consequence, what you are seeing is correct but it is because you are not comparing apples with apples. You are making an error there. You should have been comparing the approved estimate for 1994/95 with what was projected for 1995/96 and that is where the problem is. You can go back to last year's Estimates.

On the question of current transfers, having put that out of the way, the Barbados Labour Party administration, the Opposition Party then, criticised the Government of the day bitterly for an attempt to privatise certain areas of the public sector. The thing about that privatisation programme was that it was more designed to ensure that over time Government expenditure would be systematically reduced. It was not just a question of getting rid of a particular enterprise. It was that we were planning systematically to reduce Government expenditure over time so as to shift the emphasis towards the private sector. This is where the vision was. The vision was that people had complained about high levels of taxation but taxation in Barbados is only high because of the size of the public sector and in order for Government to maintain the size of the public sector it has to increase taxes.

As a consequence, Sir, the vision was to systematically reduce the level of taxation and the only way that can be achieved is if you decided to go and look at some programme of privatisation in order to get rid of some of the unprofitable enterprises within Government and even in some sense get rid of so-called profitable enterprises because even though Government might have been realising some profit it is believed that because of the greater efficiency within the private sector that that particular enterprise could still have been under performing and as a consequence the strategy was to deliberately systematically reduce Government expenditure over time. There was all kind of criticism. Now what we are seeing in these Estimates is a revised estimate of $286 million for 1995/96 and an approved estimate for the following year which is lower. Therefore, in some sense this Government may also be on a similar mission whereas they are privately agreeing and publicly disagreeing with some of the international institutions.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is implying that the Government is engaging in some secret activity and secret deals. I believe that is implying improper motives to the Government. The Honourable Senator may wish to withdraw that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think the Senator should withdraw that. He is reflecting adversely on the integrity of the Government.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am reflecting adversely? Sir, withdraw? I will withdraw.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am asking you to withdraw.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: This is your Chamber, Sir. I have no difficulty in withdrawing the comments.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I think you should apologise for that comment. It was unworthy of you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I do apologise, Sir. But, Sir, you are in charge of these Chambers. I respect the President very much. I apologise for that slip of the tongue, Sir.

On the question of the capital expenditure programme, we are now being told in these Estimates that Government is going to increase its capital expenditure programme, in fact, almost double, for fiscal year 1996/97. This is amazing. In fact, the important component of capital expenditure is capital formation. Government is suggesting that in fiscal year 1996/97 that the capital formation programme is going to be of a magnitude of $193.6 million up from a position of a mere $71.8 million in 1995/96. That is a substantial increase in projects.

Now, last year I predicted that the capital expenditure programme would not materialise and this was as a consequence of the excessive reliance the Government placed on the foreign financing. It was as a consequence of that there, excessive dependence.

Now, Sir, we heard this morning a detailed listing of major projects and we were told of the proportion of the project that will be foreign financed. We were told that the emphasis this year is being shifted to foreign financing. We were told all kinds of things. The thing about that is that again that programme is extremely ambitious. The programme that is being outlined here in the Approved Estimates for 1996/1977 is, in fact, very, very ambitious.

I would wish the Government well in executing this program but, again, I have my doubts because I know that foreign financing is not easy to obtain. In fact, all the talk about the ISL we can tell the people that we have not yet received any funds under the ISL. I make that point to say this that the IDB takes a long time between approval and disbursement and even when you think that you can put by fairly securely X amount based on the fact that they have approved, the recent evidence suggests that there is a lag time of almost 18 months between the approval of a project by the IDB and the disbursement of those funds.

I am saying, do not be overly optimistic again in 1996/97 and do not give people the impression either that the reason why the last capital works programme was not realized was because of the Democratic Labour Party agreeing to anything about increasing fees anywhere. That is foolishness. The reason why it is foolishness is because you took the reigns of Government since September 1994 and you would have had time, given that you knew all along during the election campaign that you did not agree to certain positions taken by the Democratic Labour Party administration. You had time to say to the technocrats, that is...
2:40 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, who is "you"?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Okay, Sir, the Government of Barbados had time to say to the technocrats, we do not expect to get these funds because we are privy to certain information which suggests that the last administration agreed to so and so. As a result, we are not expecting these funds to come in. The Government of Barbados waited for a year later, now to come and suggest that the reason why funds did not flow is because the Democratic Labour Party administration had agreed to some position.

The government had time and therefore it should not have budgeted for it in the last Estimates. So do not come playing politics telling people that the government did not get project funds because the Democratic Labour Party failed to agree on this or agreed on that. That is foolishness of the highest order and has to be dismissed for what it is. You had time, the Government of Barbados had time in which it could have told the technocrats that it did not expect to get these funds based on those particular conditions. So do not come down that line.

Now in these Estimates the government is saying that its capital works programmes, is to expand by almost 140%. This is difficult to digest and to understand.

On the whole question of financing, Sir. This Government knows only too well that it is scrambling to find money at this time of the hour, close to the end of the fiscal year to finance its deficit. This is why we have seen a recent effort, in the papers, to raise a substantial amount of financing in Treasury Bills, by the end of the fiscal period.

Almost a mad rush; when we look at the Central Bank reports, we are seeing shifts away from Treasury Bills into Ways and Means Accounts. In December, we are seeing increases in the Ways and Means Accounts. And this suggests that the private sector of Barbados is no longer in a position where, because of lack of liquidity, it can finance Government's deficit comfortably, as it did during the period 1994.

As a consequence, we are seeing now a mad scramble, at the end of the day, at the end of the fiscal period, not only to introduce supplementaries but also to try

and find other sources of financing which have evaded Government during the period, that is the latter half of 1995.

The liquidity in the system was reduced, the Central Bank was forced to introduce an interest rate hike, was forced to restrict consumption, in order to protect the foreign reserves, and what we are now seeing is the residual effects of that at the end of the fiscal period.

Between now and the end of March we are going to get a situation in which a substantial amount of unrecorded revenue/expenditure will come into the fiscal account and therefore, the Government is not yet out of the woods.

A lot of idle talk, a lot of information gathering, but the truth is that there is no evidence that this economy is being managed. There is no evidence of it.

In terms of the projections, Sir, for 1996/97, on the revenue side, we heard this morning that the economy is supposed to grow 3.5%. I said last year in an article, written around March, that while I would not be against the Government or come out publicly against the Government for GDP growth for the first quarter of 1995, that I will not praise them either in the first quarter of 1996 because that was a consequence of the performance of the sugar sector. Therefore we had a substantial decline in output last year and therefore you could not criticise them for that because that was a result of the elements.

This year it is more a result of the management system that has been put in place by the Democratic Labour Party. What we are now seeing being reflected in the sugar sector, is the prudent management, under the Democratic Labour Party administration, to bring the sugar sector back to a state where we can feel proud about the contribution which it is making to the economy. So I would not give the Government any praise in this first quarter for any GDP growth.

I expect the economy to grow, if sugar is going to do the kinds of things it is expected to do this quarter and next quarter, there would be some inflated effect in the GDP, the real GDP, so that is not a problem, I would discount it. The rest of the year in terms of tourism, what we have to be careful of there, is that, by the second half of the year that the same things that were responsible for the increase of tourism output, in 1995, will now work against us in 1996. That is there may be no hurricanes around affecting other Caribbean Islands and so we do not expect any continuation of the growth.

As far as Senator Lynch is concerned, he is on record as saying that there is no correlation between output in tourism and the performance of tourism. He should be on this course with me in terms of assessing what the tourism sector would do in 1996. He is on record as saying that it does not make a difference.

So that the GDP growth in 1996 is going to come, predominantly, by the sugar but it is not going to come really, in the export sector, tourism and the manufacturing sector.

The other thing that has to be noticed, Sir, is that the real revenue should be affected before the end of the fiscal year, by the introduction of a Value Added Tax system. And so far although I do not expect that to be reflected in the Estimates, I am saying that when the VAT system is introduced in October of 1996 we will have, almost, six months before the end of the fiscal period, and therefore some consideration has to be given to the impact that changing the tax system during the course of the fiscal year will have on our revenue forecast. That is important. Because there is going to be a lag somewhere, there is going to be some slowing down or there could be some increase.

There is going to be some system in place, some impasse, some delayed impact between the removal of consumption taxes, stamp duties, and other such taxes, surcharges and the like, and the introduction of a Value Added Tax.

Therefore we can say that even though we are going to, in some sense, try to relate to these Estimates of Revenue for 1996/97, that there will have to be a serious revisiting of these numbers down in the last two quarters of the fiscal year once the tax system changes. So, to some extent, I would not waste much time on these Estimates here, on the revenue side, because they would be significantly affected.

You know, Sir, that the Leader of the Senate presented these Estimates to this Honourable Chamber this morning and did not say one word about the changing of the tax system that is pending during the fiscal period, and its possible impact.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. I did indicate in my presentation that with respect to the fiscal 1996/97 that the Estimates of Revenue, as presented, have to be considered within the context that this debate on the Appropriation Bill is about expenditure and that the Minister of Finance, in his Budgetary presentation, there is every possibility, as is the case in every year that the tax position will change,

and that the Estimates of Revenue, as presented this year or any other year, for that matter, are projected on the tax structure and rates as they currently are. Therefore I did make it quite clear in my presentation that the revenue position, as presented in these Estimates, is really based on the *status quo* as is but changes can and often do occur in the budgetary presentation or at any other point of the fiscal year.
2.50 p.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am not denying that the Leader of the Senate said something but it is not important to say something, it is important to be analytical and therefore to say that something is going to happen in October is not important. What is important is, did the Leader of the Senate suggest at any stage that there would be a changing of the structure of taxation over the course of the fiscal period and by extension what would be the implication of it? He never said anything about it. Perhaps he is not that way inclined anyhow.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is still misleading the House and he is doing so by being overly generous. He is suggesting that myself, not being Minister of Finance, would be in a position to lay before this Honourable Chamber details of impending tax changes which you know, Sir, that our Constitution would require only the Minister of Finance. Indeed, Sir, you will recall that the Westminster system which we follow even in respect to pending tax changes in a budgetary situation restricts the Minister of Finance from even disclosing on himself so that the Honourable Member is misleading the House to suggest or to imply that I am somehow withholding information which would have been germane to the debate of these Estimates and I believe that he is implying improper motives where none should be, Sir.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I said it last year and I will reiterate, Government has to be run like a business and if you are going to set expenditure targets you need to have some feel for the revenue side as well. In any case I would not expect any tax measures to raise taxes during any budget for 1996. It would be at variance with the position espoused by the Leader of Government. It would be at variance with all that was said over the last couple of years so there is no reason at all for me to expect any new taxes in Barbados during any budget. I expect the introduction of the Value Added Tax system but I do not expect any new taxes because I think there will be some retreat on the environmental tax just like how there has been some retreat on the tax on the duty free sector which has not yet come to pass. We were told that there would have been a tax on the duty free sector. Certain interest groups cried out. The same thing happened with the minibuses but they did not have sufficiently strong interest groups to cry out so we may yet still see the imposition of that tax on the duty free sector in addition to the environmental tax but that is not the new initiative. There has been a strong initiative based on the representation of certain interest groups in Barbados. That is a different issue altogether.

On the question of the sectoral linkages and so on in this economy, there is no doubt that the agricultural sector has for a long time been in need of some kind of positive initiative. The rural development, whatever it is, is certainly not going to attempt to do anything for any agricultural sector. The budget has not even been increased by any substantial amount and as a consequence I do not see any major initiatives coming out of any rural development project. That is what it is, an attempt to consolidate power within the rural districts of Barbados. It is not any strategy for encouraging the upliftment of the agricultural sector or small people within the rural parishes. It was never designed for that, its premise was false and therefore I do not expect much from it.

In the area of tourism it is unfortunate that we have placed such a load on three individuals. We have asked three individuals who do not have any control over the outcome, unlike what you would have in the manufacturing enterprise where you can manage effectively to get the desired output, to go out there to market a product that you are not sure what is going to happen to it. There are all kinds of variables in terms of what you can get in the tourism sector.

As a consequence therefore it is hard to expect that 3 individuals who are not truly hoteliers – as another Senator would have realised recently, he is not truly a hotelier – to turn around the sector. In fact we have seen all kinds of stress related factors inflicting those individuals. And this is a serious thing.

The other thing that we have in here and I would wish to comment on this. We have heard all kinds of comments about when Sandals will come to Barbados and really and truly Sandals provides the hope for any return to competitiveness within the tourism sector. I do not see within the Ministry of Tourism any initiative to encourage Sandals or any other foreign investor to come to the shores of Barbados by way of tax concessions, by way of whatever, to encourage new investment within tourism. Again that initiative seems to be on the back burner contrary to all the talk that we heard recently about Sandals now coming.

The other measures for improving the competitiveness within tourism. There are no real measures that I know about in the Estimates designed to encourage any

such thing. The one measure that could have done that could have been the zero rating of hotel accommodation which is now using the exempt route. You could have used zero rating to restore some competitiveness to the hotel sector. The thing about that is that that is hardly going to happen. In fact the initial legislation suggests that hotel accommodation would be exempted and not zero rated. So I do not see any particular measures within the tourism sector for any restoration of competitiveness within that sector to bring about the kind of sustainable growth which we are to expect.

We have heard recently of initiatives going into Latin America, we have heard about the Brazilian experience. Again that is not the first time we went into Brazil but there was a lot of talk about how we intend to get thousands of visitors out of Brazil and the thing about it is that there is already evidence within the sector to suggest that there is not going to be any substantial increase coming out of Latin America so we cannot see that happening.

In terms of the United States economy we are not seeing out of that destination any return of increased tourist arrivals out of the United States market. What we are seeing is increasing emphasis being placed on the United Kingdom market. And Canada has been a good market for years so I am saying that again when you check the Estimates this year there is no direct evidence in there of any initiatives by way of expenditure to address the serious problems which have attended the Barbados product within the United States market. There are no such initiatives. Those initiatives ought to be reflected in terms of the expenditure and I do not see any such evidence.

Sir, in the area of the manufacturing sector ...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order, I really must rise to indicate that the Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber. The Honourable Senator knows that, if the Barbados Tourism Authority is responsible for those initiatives in the United States, Canada and wherever, all that the Estimates will show is the level of transfer to the BDA. So for him to suggest that he is seeing no details about how we are going to address the problems in the North American market is really suggesting that it should be in there but we have kept it out when it really does not belong in there. He is a former director not a hotelier of the BTA and he should know better.

3.00 p.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The truth is, Sir, that is a non-comment because it carries no merit. If you are saying to have initiatives within tourism they should be reflected in terms of increased expenditure and there should be an increase in allocation within the Ministry of Tourism, I am saying that the budget in tourism was much too low and this was said over the last couple of years. The present Minister of Tourism has asked for a substantial increase in the budget and I am saying that if initiatives were taken to do such it would have been reflected in the Estimates as we see them. But there are no initiatives in these Estimates to suggest that we are putting any increasing emphasis on tourism for the next year or two years. The Minister of Tourism asked for a substantial increase in her budget and no attempt has been made at all to increase the budget. There is a partial attempt to cover inflation but there is no more initiative in this budget and no one can deny that. I am saying that you do not have to wait until the Budgetary Proposals and, if you are planning for a year, you are planning for a year. If you are saying let us put the emphasis in tourism, I should be able to take up these Estimates and see that kind of shift in emphasis. It is not there. I do not have to wait until any Budgetary Proposals. I am saying there should be a shift in the way this economy is being managed. So no one can deny it. There has not been and there will not be...

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is really misleading the Senate on this occasion. He has stated that the Minister of Tourism has asked for an increased vote for tourism and that is unsubstantiated in here. It is not true. No, he can never prove that. Prove that the Minister of Tourism asked for an increased budget for tourism this year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order. The Honourable Senator is expressing his opinion and it may not be a correct opinion or it may not be a correct fact. But I do not know that he purports to quoting from a document and I think that we are using these points of order to waste time. Each Member of the Senate is going to have an opportunity to speak in this debate for as long as an hour in every case. Please allow the Senator to continue his speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I will soon have to prove in this debate why I am black in this Chamber. It is well known and it has been publicly stated that the Minister of Tourism wants an increase in the budget. I am saying that it is not being reflected in the Estimates.

In terms of the manufacturing sector, Sir, it is going to be challenged with all kinds of things. The reduction in the Common External Tariff, the removal of competition by way of taxation on goods coming out of North America, the removal of non-tariff barriers, the removal of sur-taxes, the introduction of NAFTA, I reiterate these will challenge the manufacturing sector of Barbados. The Prime Minister is on record as saying and I quoted it in this Chamber already that the only way that we can provide hope within the manufacturing sector is if we have a change in the

technological advancement. That is the only way. So why then give the manufacturers the impression that to give them a mere tax concession of $5 million is going to translate into anything substantial for them? It cannot translate and I hear talk about the manufacturing sector has grown by 6 per cent. If you contract the way the manufacturing sector has contracted in Barbados since the mid-80's when the Trinidad market was the market and if you contract down to a minuscule amount, the growth by 6 per cent is neither here nor there. It would require rampant growth in the manufacturing sector for anyone to believe that there is any return of confidence within this sector. The evidence is there within the retail and distribution outlets. Go and see the kind of products that are on the shelves of the people offering goods and services within the retail and distribution outlets. It does not reflect any increase in manufacturing products from Barbados. The emphasis is on Trinidad. So to give them hope, you take a billion dollar industry as far as the evidence is concerned, give them $5 million, and tell them that you can turn around that industry.

Well, Sir, if that is so, it means that this economy will not be anything to manage. If you can take a mere $5 million and turn around the manufacturing sector, you do not need any Houdinis. All you need really is to sit down over a cup of coffee and say listen give Tourism $10 million, Agriculture $20 million and all of the problems are solved. But the manufacturers will be confronted by the very things which I outlined. Do not give them the false hope. The VAT is a good thing for them yes in terms of freeing up their tax on imports, but on the output side the removal of the consumption tax, the removal of the stamp duty, the removal of sur-taxes, the removal of non-tariff barriers are going to make goods coming from North America even more competitive. As a consequence, I am predicting and I have said it before that even CARICOM will be affected. The VAT is really designed to encourage goods from North America to come into the Caribbean territories. It is supposed to be part of the process of trade liberalization. That is what it is. So why give the manufacturers that false hope that they are going to live happily ever after with the introduction of VAT. They are going to be freed up in terms of their import costs but they will have to face the consequences of increasing competition from North America. State that clearly to them and you got Presidents of BMA talking about one easement and they do not want this. That is not the way to go. You have to tell them like it is. It is difficult for manufacturers with the kind of plant size and lack of economies of the scale which we have in the Caribbean to survive effectively against competition. That has to be stated. They have to find niche markets. They have to find things that they can do very swiftly at high cost and as a consequence highly priced. They cannot go lower into the market. They do not have economies of scale to do it. So don't continue to bamboozle the manufacturing sector, giving them all kinds of false hope that you are going to bring them to some form of competitiveness to ensure their continued survival and profitability. It cannot work that way.
3.10 p.m.

The other thing I want to say is that this Government is on record as saying that the energy cost is too high. This is almost 2 years and there has been no initiative at all to address the question of energy cost in Barbados. Some unfortunate initiative last year in the Budget that has not translated into anything positive for the manufacturers. So I am saying that the question of energy costs has to be addressed. It was deemed by the then leader of the Opposition to be a serious constraint on the manufacturing sector and it was supposed to be addressed almost immediately by the Barbados Labour Party Administration. There has been no attempt to address that issue. Don't give them false hope!

The $4 million man would love me to talk about the IBCs. There is some hope; but again do not give the impression that these enterprises setting up are going to create substantial jobs for Barbadian workers. Don't give them that sort of impression. What they are doing is that the wider offshore sector is providing a whole set of opportunities for people within real estate to prosper. The wonderful buildings we are seeing along Collymore Rock, the ones we are seeing even as low as Roebuck Street. When you look across the landscape, I am saying that you are seeing some very wonderful buildings, apparently up in Wildey and the like, but what you are getting again is that certain people are able to exploit the initiatives of Government. Other people have to wait for the crumbs. Then you get an offshore sector hiring 2 people. Trickle down? Who is benefiting? It cannot be a policy as the Prime Minister said when he was Leader of the Opposition to create any 10 000 jobs. He said that part of his employment strategy is to create 10 000 jobs within the offshore sector. The Minister promised us that by November last year he would have had an enterprise in here creating hundreds of jobs, and I have not yet seen the enterprise. So I have difficulty in understanding how we are going to realise our objective of creating 10 000 jobs in the offshore sector over the next 5 years.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Three and a half? That makes it worse. Employment strategy through the eddoes. But the numbers looking good. Most amazing! That you could in one period have a reduction in your unemployment rate from 22 to 20% which gives rise to an employment creation of 2 300 jobs and then in another time frame of the same length have a reduction from 22 to 20 and have a creation of 7 000 jobs. It is beautiful mathematics that you could have a movement of 22 to 20% in the unemployment rate, in one time period for a year, and in another time period – I can't get it figured out.

As I said earlier in the debate those 7 000 comprise in excess of 2 000 within the public sector and yet we don't see one shred of evidence within the revised estimates of any such job creation in the public service. Who are we trying to fool?

Other areas. Trade policy is straightforward in Barbados. I don't need to go to trade policy. What we have now is that we are seeing an increasing tendency and rightly so to encourage something on economic enfranchisement. We are seeing some kind of treatment to deal with the insurance sector and we are seeing certain initiatives so we can almost anticipate that in the budget for this year there will be some consideration given to the insurance sector by way of proposals. We can expect that. We can expect further encouragement. We might even expect the restoration of certain measures in order to encourage life insurance. We can expect those kinds of measures, but what we certainly cannot tolerate is a situation which I have already alluded to in these Chambers, that you have a public service which underwent all kind of strain in the post-1990 period, made all kinds of sacrifice, an 8% cut and the like, then when things turned, when the finances of Government looked a certain way, you have a situation in which those civil servants do not have first call on the resources of Government.

I am saying and I mean this and it comes from the bottom of the heart, there is no reason why Government should have jumped to restore a home allowance in Barbados which started at the beginning of January 1996 of $3 500 per year which is going to cost Government in excess of $25 million before it gives the public servants the desired increase. The home allowance is an allowance which allows Tom, Dick and Harry to claim once again for mortgage interest and other such deductions.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am saying there is nothing wrong with it, but in the context of what has happened in Barbados over the last 2-4 years the civil servants should have been given first call on the resources of Government. As a consequence, I am saying that the Government was in a position where it could have paid the civil servants more money because it is admitting to the fact that it does have the resources by being able to reintroduce this home allowance. As a consequence, I am saying that the civil servants were not given the kind of deal that they should have been given in the recent collective bargaining process. That is going to impact negatively on Government revenue. So that should have been first call.

On the question of education, Sir, we recently had in this Chamber a debate on how revolutionary the White Paper would be. I demonstrated that it could not have been revolutionary. I demonstrated that when you speak of revolutionary in education you have to go back to the 1960s and then you not only have to go back to the 1960s but we can step forward to the 80s to demonstrate that a middle class has emerged out of that revolution. That is revolution.

I am saying that flexible transfers and partial zoning cannot constitute a revolution in education. In fact, the evidence does suggest the recent upheaval of the parents would show that the issues pertaining to partial zoning were not made clear to the parents. As a consequence Sir, we are now having all kinds of misery out there where people did not know that the 2 choices had to be the first and second choice. As a result, it has restricted certain areas in such a way that there is no longer equity across zones or within zones. As a result, one has to revisit the whole question of partial zoning in Barbados.

There is no evidence in the Estimates to show that there will be any reconsideration of this partial zoning. I don't see one thread of evidence and we would have had...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, I don't think such evidence can be seen with the naked eye.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: ... Not one thread of evidence in the Estimates to demonstrate that there has been any reconsideration of the revolution.

In the area of Health, all kinds of things are happening there so much that we had the Prime Minister superseding the authority or stepping on top of the Minister of Health.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, I think you would want to withdraw that.

3.20 p.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: What I would wish to say is that in terms of the management of finances in Health, we are not seeing adequate management and what we would expect is that since the Minister cannot handle the very small budget that she has now, she should be given a much bigger budget.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: If the Minister cannot get things done with this budget, you have to expand the budget. The budget in Health has to be increased.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR MASCOLL were ordered expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The thing about it, Sir, given the five minutes I have available to me, I will go back. There is no evidence in these Estimates, like last year, to show any clear or new path of economic management in Barbados. In fact, coming on top of what was described as misery and the lack of management by the last administration one would have hoped that the Estimates reflected that kind of shift, as I called it before, a paradigm shift, in the way things are being done.

I reiterate that the major concern of employment was treated by the Prime Minister in last year's estimate debate as a strategy that can only come about or realise anything if we created new enterprises and expanded old ones. Having said that, I saw no evidence at all within the Approved or Revised Estimates for the last two fiscal years to show that the employment creation strategy is on track.

I have demonstrated clearly that according to the expressed wishes of the Prime Minister that it could not have been temporary jobs of the magnitude suggested created in the public sector. It would have been contrary to the vision of the Prime Minister and contrary to the outcome of the capital works programme. Therefore I am asking for a more realistic assessment of the job creation that has taken place over the last couple of months. Explain it. Do not give me numbers. I am in the game of analytics, not numbers. I want to analyse. I do not want a number. I am not a statistician or a mathematician. Analyse the data.

On the question of taxation one would have expected again that, given the performance of revenue which did not conform to the forecasting as predicted in the Approved Estimates for this fiscal year, given the outcome on the revenue side, that Government is prepared, as I said before, to reduce the level of taxation on Barbadians. That means systematically reducing overall taxation.

I would have expected that there would have been a reversal of the interest rate policy because since December 1994 we have seen increases in interest rates when we were told that interest rates were too high.

I would have expected some addressing of the issue of energy costs in Barbados. That has to be addressed. It must be addressed and I must see evidence of it within the Estimates.

I would have expected some addressing of the whole question of the introduction of the Value Added Tax system. I must see those kinds of concerns being raised by the Leader of the Senate in terms of his presentation, not just a recital of the projects, a boring exercise of the recital of projects saying that it cost $1.1 million to build this and build that. That is not what we want. We want proper analysis of the information. Take out all the listing and say, we are doing this because we believe in this and demonstrate it.

I wish to say, Sir, the capital works programme which I predicted would be under realised, was. In the next fiscal year I think the Government is once again being far too optimistic in terms of projecting $193 million for capital formation up from $71 million in the previous fiscal year. That is heroic.

Again, the whole question of foreign financing. There is no evidence that the Government is capable of going into the private foreign capital market and raising funds. What happened last year is that Government was bailed out because of what happened in Trinidad in that they were searching for $80.9 million in foreign financing from the capital side and found those funds within the Trinidad market. But the problem is that they could not go after preparing all kinds of prospectuses to the real international market to access financing. That is the basis upon which I predicted that the capital market would not be favourable to the Barbados Government.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate. He is suggesting that the loan which was raised from Citibank Trinidad was on the basis of some desperate attempt. He did that last time and I remember on another occasion pointing to the facts which I am forced to repeat because he is again misleading the Senate.

There were, in fact, three offers that were evaluated, one from Trinidad, one from the U.K. and one from the U.S.A. Based on the overall cost and so on of the financing, Citibank Trinidad Ltd. was chosen. We on this side do not have the negative view, perhaps, of our Caribbean counterpart to consider not truly internationally financing but the fact of the matter is there was no desperation on the part of Government. Three offers were evaluated and the deliberate choice was made to go with the best offer.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will treat that as a point of elucidation, Senator Mascoll having given way. You have about five minutes, Senator.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. What I would like to see happen in the course of the next fiscal period is for a reduction in the amount of supplementaries which are brought to the Lower House, as I have said before. They do not come to the Upper House. We are saying that bringing supplementaries would mean that there is not prudent management. We had supplementaries in excess of $100 million for the year. How do you say to

me on the one hand that you do not expect to have supplementaries coming to the House and then you bring supplementaries of over $100 million? What is most unfortunate about it, and I repeat, Sir, is that we should be given an opportunity to debate those supplementaries in the Upper House.

I am saying, Sir, how could we be permitted to have a say in the expenditure and revenue at the beginning of the fiscal year, to have an input into the determination of the Estimates debate and then be denied the opportunity to have an input into supplementaries? Sir, I do not know how the other Senators feel about it but I feel we are being deprived an opportunity to have that kind of input.
3.30 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. Mr. President, I really hate having to rise to disturb the Honourable Member when he seems to be in such good form. I hate to disturb the Senator when he is winding up.

Sir, for him to suggest that we are being denied the opportunity, is to suggest that there is some improper motive. The facts of the matter are, that according to the rules of the House and according to our legal system, Sir, we in this Chamber, do not deal with Supplementary Resolutions. We are here debating the Appropriations Bill.

If the Honourable Senator makes the point concerning recommendations for reform of the way, we do our business, fine. But to suggest that the Government is involved in something sinister, then that is an improper motive that I will not accept and I suggest, that he makes his of the recommendations to the Constitution Review Commission, considering that a reform of the way we do our business.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That was somewhat of a speech rather than a point of order. Senator, please wind up.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I am saying it does not need any reform. All that has to be done is that it can be brought in the form of a Bill, and once it is brought in the form of a Bill, we will get the opportunity to debate. But if it is brought in the form of a Resolution, then we are denied. And I am say that you cannot have a situation in which, in excess of $100 million is being spent and there is no accountability at all. It does not strike me as being right because I am saying that we have the opportunity to debate these Estimates.Yet still these Estimates are altered, substantially, during the course of the fiscal year and we are denied the right to have a say.

I am saying that something should be done about that. That is all I am saying. I think that it is a very valid point. I think that it is an extremely valid point. On that score Sir, I will wind up by saying that I am not satisfied, at all, that the Estimates are pointing us in any new direction. In fact the Estimates remain confusing for those who are not familiar with the presentation.

The Estimates ought to reflect a changing vision for Barbados and in indeed, I will reiterate, that coming on top of all that happened in the post-1991 period, a new administration had the opportunity to redefine the economic management of Barbados in such a way, as to effect some change in the economic landscape that can clearly say to the people of Barbados, we have a different administration in power, but that has not been reflected. It continues not be reflected in these Estimates and I still expect the same kind of rambling that has occurred in the financial management to occur within the next fiscal year.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, when the applause has finally died down, I will make my contribution to this year's Estimates.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, this is the most important debate in the year that this Chamber will engage itself. The Estimates debate is the most important debate. We are not going to treat it, Sir, in the cavalier manner that it was treated in the Other Place, where the Leader of the Opposition decided that addressing a Branch meeting, in New York, was more important than discussing the people's business.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot, Senator, reflect on the debate in the current session of the Other Place. It is out of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I apologise. Sir, I did want to point out the facts but I take this very seriously. As I said, Sir, that this is the most important debate that we are going to engage in for the year, because the Estimates set the tone not only for Government's operations for the coming year, but it sets the tone for the economy as a whole.

We must remember that Government control about 1/3 of the economy. Government is very important in the scheme of things and what Government does or does not do, affects, either positively or negatively, on the rest of the economy. So it is important that Government put its house keeping in good order to send clear signals to the rest of the economy about its intentions, for the coming financial year, where it is going and goals that it hopes to achieve during that year.

So it must be treated, Sir, with upmost respect. That is why, Sir, we listened to a speech of two hours from the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and in the end, Sir, it was vacuous, devoid of any philosophical underpinnings, just a rambling visitation, which, Sir, any school teacher would be hard pressed to give it a passing grade.

First of all, Sir, before we step into 1996/97, we have to go back into 1995/96 to see what lessons can be gleaned from the experiences of the past year and see, Sir, how this is going to be carried forward into the coming fiscal year, starting April 1, 1996.

Sir, and from all accounts, the fiscal year coming to a close next week was a major success, not only for the Government but for the people of Barbados. The successor of any programme must be noted in its achievements, and the major achievement for this year, was the fact that employment had been significantly reduced in 1995. That, Sir, was in a large measure, due to the initiatives taken by the present Government on attaining office on September 6, 1994.

Sir, the empty carpings of an embarrassed Opposition cannot hide the fact that the Statistical Department, which is an impartial department arm of Government, has reported that during 1995, 7 000 jobs were created. I am distressed to hear, on every occasion, the Opposition trying to berate the figures. It is not the BLP's figures, Sir. We had no hand in its preparation.

There were produced by competent, well-trained Civil Servants who were trained in the art of sampling, design and calculation of these figures, which, Sir, is a very technical and a precise job. Some people go to the university and spend years learning how to sample, and to hear, Sir, every time the Honourable Senator Mascoll speaks berating these figures, and casting aspersions, not only on the figures but on the character and on the competence of the people who produced them, should not be tolerated.

I remember saying, when we saw the figures in the Ministry of Finance, the first thing I did, was to personally call the Director and I asked "Are you sure that these figures are right?" Because we wanted to be doubly sure, and he told me that when he saw the figures he double checked and triple checked to make sure that they were absolutely correct. Sir, we stand by our figures.

When the figures did not show us in a very good light, the Honourable Senator used the same source of information and castigated us for only getting 2 800 jobs. Now that they have shown that we have made significant gains, the same source that he used to beat us with he finds it impossible to use that source in order to give praise where it is due. That is wrong, Sir, because it reflects badly on me and on the public servants.

In my life in the Opposition bed, and I was in Opposition too, Sir, I never, in all of my days in Opposition, tried to cast aspersions on either the competence or the character of the public servants. It is wrong and it is intolerable, Sir, and the Honourable Archdeacon, who was in the Senate with me, Sir, in the last term will testify to that fact. Sir, it is despicable. The point is, Sir, that the impetus that we give to the manufacturing sector resulted in the fact that in 1995 the manufacturing sector, from all accounts, expanded to such an extent that 1 700 jobs were created in the manufacturing sector. I want to suggest, Sir, that that is due in large measure to the initiative that we took in October/November 1994. Not only that, Sir, but we felt, even when we were in Opposition, that help must be given to the offshore sector because we felt that this was an avenue where permanent jobs could be created and in addition foreign exchange inflows could come into the economy in order to ease the pressure we had on the balance of payments.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, the results are showing the wisdom of that move. The creation of the Ministry which is responsible for the offshore sector was a positive move by the Government. It sent a signal, not only to Barbadians, but to the rest of the world that we are serious about promoting our country as a centre for legitimate offshore activity.

Sir, I remember, in the early eighties, when we first put forward this idea the then Opposition, I think the Opposition spokesman on Finance then is now the leader of the NDP, and he poured scorn on our efforts and talked about money laundering and so on. Whenever we make positive moves, we can rest assured that the Opposition is going to find all sorts of nitpicking to engage in but we stand by our record.

Sir, if we look at the Estimates, the same Estimates that the Honourable Senator was looking at he missed a vital point. When he went to page 5 and he spoke about Other Personal Emoluments he forgot to mention, Sir, that in 1995 the Other Personal Emoluments expanded by 9% in the fiscal year that is coming to a close next week, which is above the wage increase of between $2^1/_2$% and $3^1/_2$%. That means, Sir, that the Government selectively used this avenue to create important units such as the drainage unit which started a programme which is going to be to the benefit of our country in this coming dry season when we are blessed by the Lord with some more rain.

All around Barbados the wells were uncleaned for years. All the drains have been unblocked so that when we get the expected rains this year hopefully it would have a positive effect in terms of allowing the water to go into the underground aquifers and improving the amount of potable water available to the citizens of Barbados. Sir, when we use measures like these, not to create crash programmes but to do meaningful things which would have long-lasting benefits to the people of Barbados we must be complimented for putting in place that special drainage unit.

We also have to be complimented for the debushing programme. That is not a crash programme. That must be an ongoing programme because whenever rain falls bush is going to grow. It is a fact of nature. So, Sir, doing these small things not only improved the health of the society but it created a few more jobs here and there which in the end add up to the 7 000 that were created. They did not come out of the air, they came with Government allowing the private sector to do what it does best, that is create activity and hence create jobs and at the same time using the state in order to do things which must be done for the benefit of all Barbadians.

The fact, Sir, that over 2 000 people were employed in the Government Service is nothing to be ashamed of. They are doing meaningful jobs, jobs that should have been done on a continuing basis but the lack of vision of the last administration and the lack of foresight and the lack of interest saw our countryside in a deplorable situation. Sir, as soon as rain falls certain districts are flooded but we hope, Sir, to put an end to all of that.

Sir, we are proud of the fact that the state helped in job creation because we feel it must help and it is not to our shame, it is to our credit that the state leads the way in providing jobs for the 30 000 people who were left unemployed by an uncaring Government because when they sent home the 3 or 4 thousand people between 1991 and 1992 they exposed Barbados to leptospirosis and other things because by not keeping the countryside in a proper condition they allowed rats to multiply.

Sir, they also exposed the country to dengue fever. So, Sir, we are proud that in the last fiscal year we were able to significantly reduce unemployment. We did it by allowing the other sectors of the economy to grow. And while I am on this point, Government had to run a tight ship because there is only a certain amount of money out there and if Government did as it did in the early 1990s, and I made this point in the Senate when I was on the Other Side, if Government takes up all the credit in the system then the private sector is crowded out and hence there would be no money available for expansion of the private sector. So Government has got to make sure that it holds a tight rein and that it does not go overboard at this time and at the same time allow the rest of the economy to be strangled as it undoubtedly was in the early 1990s to the ruin of the economy.

Sir, the Honourable Senator made the point on many occasions that we should be running a higher deficit but he criticised us for running a very low deficit. He felt that we should have been running a higher deficit. But, Sir, the Honourable Member should know that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. That is common sense. When Government runs a deficit somebody has to pay for it. No free meals, Sir. Sir, the country has to pay for it and it is being paid in one of two ways, either by increasing taxation or secondly by increasing debt. Sir, I will put it this way. If Government is spending more than it is taking in then it either has to make up the difference either by increasing its revenue, that is, increasing taxation, or by borrowing. In the context of Barbados both of these are undesirable at this point in time because everybody would admit that we should be seeking methods to reduce the level of taxation in Barbados. That is an economic imperative. We must find measures to reduce the level of taxation in Barbados and we can only do it if we keep expenditure under control. If we do not hold the reins of expenditure we would never be in a position to do what must be done, that is to decrease the level of taxation.

Sir, on the other hand when Government borrows, especially when it borrows to pay for things like wages and salaries or goods and services, Sir, it is like a man who is borrowing money out of his pocket to buy rice and sugar. That, Sir, is absolute nonsense. It makes sense for a man to borrow to increase his capital stock. You borrow money to build a house or to improve your house but for a man to be constantly borrowing money to go to the supermarket is madness and he would be on the road to the bankruptcy court. Sir, it is the same thing with the Government. Government must only borrow to increase the value of its capital assets. That, Sir, must be a standard rule which governs government finances. You must only borrow to improve the capital stock in the country. In other words, you can borrow to build a school or to build roads because in that way you are increasing the assets. But when you borrow to pay civil servants or to buy goods, well you are just doing what was done in the late 1980s and early 1990s. We all know, Sir, the result of that activity. The IMF will be here in no time. So we have got to make sure that we are prudent. When the Honourable Senator said that we should be given a larger increase, all of us agree yes we would love if everybody could get a bigger salary increase. But what will happen? You give with the one hand and you find that you must take away with the other. It does not make any sense. We cannot borrow to do that sort of activity. It must come as a result of increased productivity. The economy will only be more productive when the private sector can invest more and when the

Government is able to take less of their profits and allow them to plough back more of their profits into new investments. Because productivity is not just working harder. Productivity relates to the level of capitalization within the plant and the interaction between capital and labour. You will never get impressive productivity gains unless the level of capital spending is increased. You cannot ask a man to be more productive if he is working on a machine that every 5 minutes the machine is breaking down. If he has a reliable machine to work with, that fact would itself make him more productive. Sir, we are on the right track.
3.50 p.m.

Sir, the issue of taxation is something we must address because the impression was given that in the last 18 months or so we have done nothing to increase the level of taxation in this country. That is wrong. The home allowance which was mentioned in the Budget last year and which came into effect from June of this year is going to reduce the level of taxation especially income taxation. Sir, this is Barbados and most Barbadians own their own homes. Even if the land is rented, most Barbadians own their homes. So the home allowance will allow them in a limited way, because obviously we have to look at the revenue side of things, some $3 000 for the time being. But it does not mean that it cannot be increased as the economy improves more and more. But this is our first attempt to reduce the level of taxation.

Sir, the Honourable Senator forgot to mention that we removed taxes on the inputs to the manufacturing sector and the agricultural sector. The Honourable Senator refused to mention in this Honourable Chamber that in last year's Budget the Prime Minister announced the reduction on fuel used in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. These are tax reducing measures. These are positive ways in which the Government has sought to reduce the high level of taxation. So to hear that we have done absolutely nothing to reduce taxation flies in the face of reality. It is not supported by any evidence whatsoever. Not only that, Sir, and more importantly the Government has stated in the Budget of last year that they are going to institute a special tax regime for small businesses. That means that the small businesses will pay tax at a different rate and therefore that means lower in this context than a bigger business. We have to wait for that because we are still working on the mechanism. But it is the intention of the Government to ensure that the small businesses will benefit from the result of this taxation. Sir, to hear again that the Honourable Senator is saying that we have done nothing to reduce taxation makes one wonder where he has been in the last 18 months. We know where he was prior to July 1994 but we are not sure where he was in the last 18 months.

Sir, he mentioned the fact that we have done nothing to reduce the energy cost. That is absolutely not true. He failed to tell the people of Barbados that the fact that in 1965 the then DLP Government entered into an agreement with Mobil *vis-a-vis* the refinery at Gravesend which is responsible for the high energy cost that we are having to endure in Barbados in 1996. Sir, it gave them 25 years in the initial contract and that it ensured that they had the option to renew for at least another 10 years. Sir, this means that the refinery will be upgraded until the year 2000 and there is nothing we can do about it. It is a legal document signed by the then Minister Wynter Crawford, Minister of Trade at that time. So we would love to significantly reduce the energy cost but we are tied into an agreement. We have moved on this score because we have publicly said that we do not intend to renew the contract after the year 2000. So it means that we have to suffer the high energy costs until then. Hopefully, by then we will have other arrangements in place which will see some reduction in the cost of energy. The fault is not ours because we came in and found this situation and we knew that it was not operating to the benefit of all Barbadians. Sir, he must study these facts before he pontificates on these things. But we are tied into an agreement and we cannot go outside of the law. If you sign an agreement, then you have to honour it.

Sir, this Honourable Chamber should also be made to know that in 1986 when the DLP got back into office they revisited their agreement only to ensure, Sir, that Mobil was guaranteed a 15 per cent profit after tax on their investment. All these are factors which mitigate against low energy costing in Barbados and the Senator should have apprised us of all of the facts before he comes in here and accuse us of all sorts of things. We are still looking back at the last year.
4.00 p.m.

I want to come to the taxing issue of interest rates. The impression was given, Sir, that we raised interest rates in 1994 and also in 1995. That is false. In 1995 what was raised was the discount rate so that it would discourage the banks from going to the Central Bank in order to finance private consumption. We must remember that we are an economy which is foreign exchange constrained, and one of the most important variables in this economy are the foreign reserves, so we have to make sure that all of our activities, all of our policy actions are directed to ensure that the foreign reserves do not suffer adversely. When we find something is happening, we will act expeditiously. We will not bolt the stable after the horse has gone. That is what happened in 1989 when the Honourable Senator was advising the Government. They waited until all the foreign exchange was gone before they made a move, but we are not so foolish. We are proactive, we are not reactive. We saw a situation developing and we knew that if it continued we were going to be in trouble, so we put a minor halt then rather than having to take radical surgery in the next year or two.

We took the proactive stance of increasing the discount rate, and the Honourable Senator knows that the discount rate had been raised but the interest rates have not increased as a result of that. It was purely a selective measure to tell the commercial banks they would have to get the money from elsewhere to lend for consumption, not from the Central Bank. If they go to the Central Bank they would be penalised by being charged 12½% when in effect they would be lending at 10% or 11%. It worked, because the commercial banks have stopped seeing the Central Bank as the source of financing especially consumer expenditure. It worked and the economy did not suffer as a result. It just shows that when you take this sort of action in a timely fashion, it prevents you from taking massive action after the situation has seriously deteriorated.

The Honourable Senator cannot say that we have raised interest rates twice. We raised them in 1994 for the same reason, but in 1995 we took a defensive position to safeguard our foreign reserves, and from all reports it is working. For the first time in the history of Barbados the foreign reserves have topped the half billion mark, all because we took action when it was to have been taken. If it happens again this year we will take the same action, because we do not intend to let the economy go back to the state it was in the early 1990s. We will never allow it to get back to that stage. I repeat, the result is that the foreign reserves have now for the first time in our history gone past the half billion mark. No doubt, Sir, we will be accused of massaging the figures again, because when our figures look good we will be accused of massaging them.

It is true, Sir, that as we are still focussing on the last year the Capital Works programme did not take off as we had expected, but the Honourable Senate must know that it is not a result of our inability to get the funds. All of us in here know that if you are building a house the time between conceptualisation and the realisation of that investment is six months, maybe a year. You have to go through all the different stages, the plan must go to the relevant Ministries and with an ordinary little house these things take time. When you are building a sewerage system which is going to stretch from Graeme Hall to the Hilton, you can understand the complicated nature of the whole process. We were hoping that our Capital Works would have got further, but there were delays, and it is better to do it properly than to rush and do things and end up with projects like Sherbourne or the St. Thomas School. We took our time. We are not happy with it, but we feel that we have to do things properly. We have to make sure we get the proper firms to do the work and that everything is in proper place rather than rush about willy-nilly and say we are doing things and ending up with half-finished edifices all around the countryside.

I repeat, the fact that our Capital Works did not realise the expenditure we had hoped, is not as a result of financing. I work in the Ministry of Finance. The Honourable Leader of the Senate made the point that we could get as much money as we want to. Getting money is not really a big thing, because we have people knocking on our doors telling us to say what we want and they will finance it. As I said before, Sir, we cannot rush into these projects like that, we have to make sure that the execution of them is properly planned. One of our greatest problems, and this is not only in the public service, is to find competent project managers, because managing a project is a very involved exercise. That has been part of our weakness, that we do not have the number of project managers who can look after the project from the thought process to the action process, all the different stages. That has held up a lot of things. But if you look at the financing, most of the money for the projects we identified last year was in place, but the execution of the projects took a bit longer than we thought.

When we say that this year we hope to have Capital formulation of $193 million, it is because we have done the home work and we have all the things to the stage where we believe that the sewerage project will be going full steam ahead, that the road projects will be going ahead in order to realise the goal of $193 million. It is attainable, Sir, so our efforts in the last year have not gone in vain, even though we spent less than we thought we would have spent. It has been a good learning exercise. As I said, Sir, we are not going to rush ahead with a landfill to have another Mangrove, we will do it properly. We do not want many more Arch Halls in Barbados, so we are going to take our time and do things properly. I remember the Latin expression, *festina lente*, make haste slowly. That is going to be our watchword. If the last Government had taken this to heart, then the $½ million that we spent every year to keep St. Thomas School closed – we spent about $2 million for 4 years – that is because the Government went ahead with a policy that it was not ready for and $2 million or more have been wasted at the St. Thomas School. We have other schools all over the island suffering from lack of maintenance and we are spending $2 million or more to keep St. Thomas School vegetating. We are not going to indulge in that sort of activity with the taxpayers' money. If we have to come in here and take the berating of Senator Mascoll because of our capital works programme we will take our blows. But we know that the people of Barbados understand that we are going as fast as we can but these things take longer at times than we imagine. Sir, we hope that this year we will get things moving a bit faster.

4.10 p.m.

In the last year, it is true that there were a lot of supplementaries. We are not apologising for it because a lot of them were necessary because the last Government had a lot of arrears. They were not paying National Insurance at a lot of statutory corporations. We are seeking to bring all of these statutory corporations into proper order. They felt that the way to make the corporations look good was

by not paying their bills, so you would hear they had a subsidy of only $1 million but little did we realise that the subsidy was so low because they weren't paying National Insurance and Income Tax. We found a situation where almost all of the statutory corporations had large outstanding amounts owing to the Government agencies. A lot of the supplementaries were to bring this situation to some sort of regularity. If that happens, we are not apologising for it, because it is their mismanagement that caused it in the first place. If the prison wall falls down, what will we do? We will have to get a supplementary to go and fix the prison wall. If we allow the prisoners to do it they will put up a weak wall and the next thing we know there will be a mass escape. So we have to do it properly.

We have come for supplementaries and we are not ashamed about it. If we have to come for supplementaries to do something that is good, we will do it. Our philosophy is different from the Democratic Labour Party. We bring the estimates at the end of March and we see what we are going to spend for the coming year and what we do is that in mid-year we take stock and we look at the situation and say, "We said we would do this and get in this revenue from these sources, are we on the road to realising our targets?"

Sir, last year we had a mid-year review where we looked at the projections for the rest of the year. We were able in that mid-year review to come and say we didn't think we could have done this in March last year but things are such now that within this same year we can do a bit more here or there. In other words, Sir, while we respect the estimates when we bring them in March, they are not cast in stone and if we have to make a small revision here or there we will do it. We are not going to waste the money; but if we felt that a school should be fixed, but in March we figure we would not have enough money to fix it and, in September, we think things are a bit better than we thought and we could probably fix that school, we would do it and we would not apologise for it either. That is what you call good management.

We see the whole process not as a one-shot exercise but it must be a continued exercise where you take stock of the whole situation and see whether or not the assumption on which you based your original estimates was still valid. That is the hallmark of this Administration and that is why I am proud to be a part of it.

The Honourable Member cannot appreciate these things. He is accustomed to the Dems and their shoddy management of the economy. When he sees good management he cannot recognise it. It is lost on him. We are proud of what we have done in the last year in this country. We have nothing to be ashamed of. We have unemployment down even though I will still say it is way too high. The figure of 16% in December is still too high, but we are proud of the fact that we have got it down to there. The fact that we got it down there means that we will redouble our efforts to make sure that it is in single figures very soon. That is how we do it. We wish that the 22 000 that are now unemployed was zero and we are working towards that end. They willy-nilly sent home people. Out of one household, you would have a husband and wife working and the next thing they knew both of them were sent home. It was like that. In some households 2 people went home. So we are proud of our record on unemployment. We can hold our heads high although there are still too many unemployed in Barbados, but we made a good start.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: On a point of elucidation. On this question of employment to which Senator Barker is referring. During my presentation I made reference to the level of unemployment and I was asked to make my information a document of the House which I did not have at the time. Now that he is referring to this whole question of employment I wish to make it clear that while I respect the job creation I also wish to suggest that the information which I presented was on target. In fact, I am now going to quote the document.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senator is permitted to offer an explanation under the provisions of Standing Order 31(4) that is to explain any material part of his speech which he claims has been misrepresented, but he must not introduce any new matter. He must refer only to that particular point.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, this is the GIS release of February 16, 1995. It comes in the form of a Press release. I talked about the level of unemployment being 7 000 and above and I also talked about the employment in the government sector and I quote to substantiate my position:

> "The level of employment increased by 7 000 to reach 113 300 compared with the corresponding quarter in 1994. Industrial sectors reflecting these employment changes were wholesale, retail trade which increased by nearly 2.1 000 or 15%, tourism by 1.1 000 or 9% and Government by 2 700 or 12%."

I just want to put that into the record because when I make reference to it, it was suggested that there is no way there could have been 2 100 jobs and indeed it was 2 700 jobs and it substantiates my position.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Barker, please.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Honourable Member does not know what he is saying. He said 2100 and is now saying it is 2700 so I don't know how 2100 can still be correct. You are either right or wrong.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senator has made his point. Please proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, as I said, we are very proud of our unemployment figures and the fact that the Honourable Senator just quoted that Government expenditure increased by 2 700 without crash programmes is testimony to the lead that we are taking to solve unemployment in this country. We will continue to take the lead in solving unemployment. I don't know since when 2 100 is 2 700. They are two different figures and he said specifically 2 100 and I said that he was wrong and he knows that he was wrong.
4.20 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Member talked about the Ways and Means also but he should know that the latest figure on the Ways and Means says that it is now $9 million so we are way below the legal target because we are only at $9 million in terms of the overdraft.

Sir, there is not much time left to me so I just want to make one point regarding last year and it has to do with wage settlements. The Honourable Member has accused the unions of selling out, which was an unfortunate choice of words. He knows, Sir, that some of us in the public sector ...

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, on a point of order. I never referred to the unions selling out the workers today. I never referred to it. I asked the question. I never said they sold out anybody.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I leave the Honourable Member to his conscience. He used the word "sold out." I do not know if Government sold out to the workers because you expected Government to sell you to the workers. The only persons he could refer to when he talked about sold out would have to be the unions. I do not know what he is fussing about.

The point is that the settlements in the public sector are important not only in the fact that Government has to pay the increased salaries, but the rest of the economy takes a lead from what happens in the Government sector and we must bear that in mind. What happens in the Government sector sends a clear signal to the rest of the community as to the level of wage settlements that the economy can tolerate.

Sir, we in Barbados have to be very careful about our competiveness because we are in an international community. Any large increase in the Government sector must send the incorrect signal, especially at a time when we have to watch our cost because, as we know, the bare International Trade Treaties will not allow us to put a lot of restrictions on international trade so that our local producers are being faced with increased international competition. They have to be very careful about the costs. Wages is an important component of cost that is why the unions and Government signed this Protocol to ensure that wage settlements in the economy are not out of line and as a result push up costs at which our local manufacturers and businesses would not be able to bear.

Sir, it is all right for Senator Mascoll to talk about we should be paying more but the signal to the rest of the economy is very important. That point must be borne in mind that it is not only our ability to pay but what it would mean to the rest of the economy.

Sir, I do not want to spend all my time talking on the Honourable Member's lack of presentation. I want to point to one or two positive things in these Estimates. One is the Urban Renewal Programme. Sir, the Urban Renewal Programme excites me in a very special way.

We cannot talk about a beautiful Bridgetown, a redeveloped Bridgetown and then go 50 yards inland and meet almost slum-like housing conditions. We cannot have that. Any development in Bridgetown must be accompanied by developments in the housing aspect of our city life. Hence, the Urban Renewal Programme puts money in the Estimates to first of all do a study because there is no sense rushing into it without doing anything.

We have to look at the conditions under which urban Barbados is living. As we look around the inner City, we cannot be totally satisfied with the quality of life there. So, this then is our first attempt to positively affect the lives of people who lie in and around Bridgetown. Government must be highly commended for taking this first step. I want to remind the House that it is nothing new. Our party conceptualised and built Kensington Lodge Housing Complex at the bottom of Passage Road.

Sir, we left plans in place for Pondside. When we left office in 1986 the plans for Pondside were well advanced but the Democratic Labour Party came in and substantially reduced the scope of the Pondside Project. They probably felt that the project was too good for the people in the City. There is an urgent need for us to revitalise the Inner City. That is why the Government, through the National Housing Corporation, is soon about to further extend the Pondside

Development because the people in the City must have just as good housing as anybody else. They pay taxes like anybody else. They pay their dues like anybody else. Why should they be denied what all of us take for granted?

Sir, this Urban Renewal Programme excites me because it is not about buildings. It is about people and the way how people live and interact. Sir, I want us to focus on these positive things.

Sir, the Honourable Member spoke for two hours and he could find nothing positive to say at all. He completely ignored the social aspects of these Estimates. People count. People matter. While we are focussing on rural Barbados with the Rural Development Programme which the Democratic Labour Party voted against, they are on record of voting against the Rural Development Programme.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I want to see, Sir, if they are also going to vote against the Urban Renewal Programme in the way they voted against the Rural Development Commission. I want to see where their hearts lie. Sir, I was almost alarmed at their lack of argument persuading other people to join them in that exercise. That is one thing that the Government must be commended for, this Urban Renewal Programme.

We hope, Sir, that in the years to come the country will see the wisdom of this small sum. It is $1.2 million that is in the budget for this year.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the journey of one thousand miles starts with only one step and this is a giant step because it is sending the signal to the people in urban Barbados that help is on the way, that their cries that were so loud for the past 10 years are now being answered and that redemption is on the way. Please, Sir, the lack of service in the city is almost scandalous in modern Barbados. In 1996 our people should not be using dry pits anymore. I do not want it for myself so why should I want it for somebody else. Life is about improvement, so I want this Honourable Chamber to focus on these things.
4.30 p.m.

So we have been accused, Sir, of not doing anything for the small black man, but this year, Sir, we know that vending is an important activity and the small black men are the main vendors. Go through Swan Street, go down by Cheapside. Who are all the vendors? So, when we have money in the Estimates for the redevelopment of Cheapside, when we have money in the Estimates for the Palmetto Street Mall, when we have money for the improvement to the fishing markets, who are they for? Small black Barbadians.

When the DLP are talking about what we are doing for small black people, look in the Estimates, look in the air, we are making their lives better. In 1986 they took them and just put them on Swan Street, with no facilities, but we do not want that for our people. We want the best of Barbados for our people. So out of the taxpayers' money we are building markets for them, so that they can sell their wares in comfort and in a better environment and the country will improve as a result, because all of them will feel as though they have a stake in Barbados, that this is their Barbados...

Sir, I am told that on weekends, up in Oistins it is, a thriving town, now. A little bit of commonsense, a little bit of foresight is all we need. Sir, what was done for Oistins will be done for Speightstown, Tent Bay, Skeetes Bay and Belleplaine. Unlike the other Party, we are not going to punish the people of St. Peter because, Sir, I think it was in 1986, when we left office, the plans for a Fishing Complex in Speightstown were drawn. The money was identified, the project was a grant, money you did not have to pay back, a grant, Sir, that is what it was. The Democratic Labour Party, in order to spite the people of St. Peter, they said no, this is too good for the people of St. Peter, and then, Sir, they could talk about small black people. That is a fact, shameful.

I mentioned, Sir, the Urban Renewal Programme, I mentioned the small businesses, I could mention the Scotland area. Sir, when we left office in 1986, we had a programme going in the Scotland area where gabions were put up, drains were properly maintained and, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party, did not carry out the maintenance programme and a lot of the land slippage in the Scotland area, a lot of the road damage in there is a result of their failure to carry on the major programmes. Sir, I am sure that Senator Murray and Senator Farley, Sir, would know about these things in the Scotland area.

This year we are increasing the money that is being spent in the Scotland area. We are increasing the money because people live there. That area is important to Barbados and the $2 million more that we are spending there will help to stabilise the area. Sir, that area which is known as the "bread basket" of Barbados, in years gone by, fed the whole of Barbados. It can get back, Sir, to its pristine stage. Sir, some of the Democratic Labour Party do not know about this sort of thing.

Their motto is that in order to build you must destroy, but thank God, Sir, in 1994 the people of Barbados said you are not destroying us. Redemption came and the people are seeing the results of the action in September 1994.

Sir, with those few words, I wholeheartedly support the Estimates and want, Sir, to commend Government on the positive steps they have taken to restructure and to improve the economy of Barbados.

Thank you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 5.10 p.m.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, let me begin by stating my views which I am sure everyone is familiar with and which Senator Barker alluded to, that is that after all is said and done when we have got to the bottom of all of this it must be about people and I hope that that fact will be kept before the eyes of all those in the various Ministries who seek to implement these Estimates as the year progresses. The real test, Sir, is going to be how people are affected, how these various headings are applied and what good has been done for the benefit of sectional individuals as well as the entire Barbadian population.

Sir, I am not qualified to, neither will I, spend time dealing with the philosophy of finance and the various financial theories that we have heard. I would simply wish to comment on some of the specific heads which I will refer to as we go along. I would like to start by dealing with the head related to Head 28 which is in the Ministry of Home Affairs and which has a subhead Subprogram 01 referring to CERO and that is on page 82 of the document.

CERO, as stated in this document is about disaster preparedness firstly, and secondly about emergency relief. I think, Sir, in the past it has tended to focus more on the relief aspect than on the preparedness aspect and so we tended to behave as though CERO had nothing much to do until and except there was a hurricane or some kind of other disaster. When in fact, Sir, I think that half of the task is stated in that first part, disaster preparedness. How prepared are we in this country for any disaster and more especially how prepared are we for hurricanes that are likely to blow any year? We are sure now of hurricane seasons and we are reminded year after year of the danger of hurricanes. We still have fresh in our minds, I think, the dangers from hurricane Luis, that terrible one that blew through the islands in the North West and destroyed some of them and from which they are now even now, trying to recover.

We have heard stories to the effect that if Antigua and the other islands had been more prepared there would have been less damage and we talked about that and sweated a bit about it here following that disaster. But I think now we are getting close to the hurricane season again and we have almost forgotten the need to get ourselves ready to the extent that we too would not suffer in the way that those islands have suffered. Only a focus on the preparedness aspect of the work of CERO will help us in this regard.

We need to focus on some of the problems involved. Several of the persons in various districts in the country have not bothered to prepare themselves from time to time and those who have to move among people will notice this and will testify to the fact that many of them go through the whole hurricane season with no regard to what really could happen. We even find that some of the younger generation are beginning to pray for and hope for and long for a hurricane. They want to see one and they are waiting around and then regretting it year after year when it does not happen. The fact is that we have been so fortunate here in Barbados over the years, out of all the islands we have been the most fortunate ones in recent years, and a generation has almost grown up that does not know a hurricane and will not believe us when we tell them about what the dangers are supposed to be, and they continue to long for a hurricane. I think this has something to do with the lack of proper preparedness about the society – this casual approach and the doubt that hurricanes are what we say they are going to be. So I would say this is an extra task for CERO to try somehow, I do not know how, but to try to convince everyone of the danger involved.

Then we have the danger to the aged, those shut-ins who live alone and who – some of them – have no radios or cannot hear and who are not aware of the danger of hurricanes and even if they are aware when warnings go out that hurricanes are in the region, then they can do nothing about it. So we need a body that is going to be keeping an eye on these people as well and I think this means an expanded kind of task for CERO and other related bodies.

What I envisage, Sir, would be the provision within these Estimates of a Head or the use of a Head to provide a preparedness gang. Now those who are old enough and remember Janet, and I am one of those older ones, had my experience as a young fellow, of going through the wind and feeling it blow and the shaking of the house and then going through the country afterwards and seeing so

many people harmed, hurt, houseless. The people who lived in the Christ Church/St. Philip area know that even some of the shelters collapsed and what happened after that. There developed a kind of workman known to this very day, verbally, as a Storm Carpenter. The term is now used for a carpenter who is not so hot at his job but at that time he was a man with a very real task to perform. They went about on trucks with their tools – saw, hammer, couple nails – and putting people's houses back together again.

I cannot see why we could not have room for that kind of person today even before the hurricane because you see, Sir, when you wait until the hurricane, Government still has to take on the responsibility of hiring and paying those persons. Why not get involved before hand to prevent the events and spend the money that way rather than later? I think it needs to be looked at in the context of the application of these Estimates.

We must not forget that a hurricane affecting Barbados at any time will have disastrous effect on our tourist industry and no matter how vibrant our tourist industry is and no matter how hopeful we are in all our projections, and we have a right to be, all we need is some kind of a disaster and then the people are not coming here anymore.

I think it is true to say, although our friends through the islands did not like us to say this, that we did benefit somewhat as a result of the hurricane Luis blowing through the other areas of the Caribbean. It is not something we liked to boast about we would rather that it had not happened but we can ensure that we do not lose our business by being so prepared that even if the hurricane comes the recovery period would be shorter and we would be back in business in a short time. Those are my concerns with this.

I have another concern. It has to do with the use of certain places as shelters. There are two things about that. Government needs to ensure that all those shelters carrying the label of hurricane C shelters are checked out by engineers and are sound and capable of protecting the people who go there. Let me say, Sir, that there is a view held by certain engineering experts that half of the hurricane shelters in Barbados are dangerous, risky places and except something is done, either to strengthen them or to find others we could find ourselves in a serious situation. I speak, Sir, not only as a Member of this Honourable Chamber but as one associated with an organisation, the Church, that provides many of those shelters.
5.20 p.m.

I know that we are not in a position financially, neither are members of other churches, to do the kind of work that has to be done to ensure that hurricane shelters really are safe and I think that help will be necessary from Government as the other partner in this and the other interested partner at that. The other aspect of this is that most of those who allow their buildings to be used as shelters are not able any longer to insure them and I know that is certainly the case with the Anglican Church. Whereas we have a stock of some $86 to $90 million in insurable properties many of them churches and church halls, and former schools and whereas in the past until about 2 years ago we were able to pay the premium which shot up in 2 years to $700 000 a year, we found ourselves unable to pay that and settled for fire insurance only. I believe that others have followed the Anglican Church in that regard and some have not insured at all which means that buildings so insured are not covered for hurricane, floods, or anything like this and several of them do not even have public liability insurance. I think that we ought to become very interested in this. I hope that Government will listen and hear what I am saying here and do what has to be done to ensure that the buildings are covered. Let me say, Sir, that we have been misunderstood from time to time when we warned that we were not able to insure and those who heard what we were saying thought we were saying that we did not want our buildings used and that is not the truth. The truth is that we very much want to offer all of our available buildings as in the past, but it is a risky thing to allow people to go into them and they ought to be warned before they use them that they are not properly covered.

My next word, Sir, is on Head 34 – Education and I have a few things that I wish to say in that regard. On page 109 there is reference to the Sub-programme 02 dealing with Erdiston College. I am happy to learn that the Minister of Education has got plans for the upgrading of Erdiston and I believe that if the reported information is correct that eventually Erdiston would be regarded as the teacher training institution of this country in spite of the availability of the facilities of the University, and that people will be able to do degrees rather than simply certificates at Erdiston. I hope that is correct. I think that is a very laudable thing. I see under the Explanatory Note and Sub-programme 02 – Other Local Training where there is a listing of some of the subject areas that are being undertaken at Erdiston. I am not sure that this section reflects what I have just described as the upgrading of Erdiston or whether that will come at a later date, but I hope it comes. But here in this section among the listed areas at No. 4 and 5 there is art and craft and there is music listed. We cannot under-estimate the importance of those two subject areas not only where Erdiston is concerned but in all of the educational institutions of this country. These are areas in which persons so trained can find self-employment, some of the others as well, but these are the best known ones for Barbadians. We know that our artists have been basically natural artists with very little training and yet have been able to excel and it is a pity that people with such talent have not been able to go on

beyond the natural to some of the theoretical as a result of advanced training. What I am suggesting in this regard is art and music as another area for self-employment and we know it is related to tourism as well as that we should seek to upgrade our teaching of these areas to enable students whether out of school or teachers who are already into teaching so to educate themselves that they become more qualified with degrees in these subjects. At the moment, the only way to become further qualified in that regard is to leave the island and go somewhere overseas which will cost them or the Government a great deal more. The Community College offers art up to a certain level and some artists have already undertaken the courses there. But it seems to me that even when it is part of the Associates Degree that that qualification has been regarded as inferior or inadequate or inappropriate in the education system. Whereas persons will be rewarded financially with certain increments when it comes to being appointed a Head of a Department in a school, the Ministry had been looking – except it has changed in very recent times – for persons who were fully qualified with advanced degrees. Persons who were quite capable, in my experience in association with the schools, and had held the unofficial title of Head of the Department of Art for example, for a long time did not qualify to get the job.

I think that was a very unfortunate thing because it has happened in instances where music and art and craft were concerned just because there was not that label of a degree. I think that could be put right if we were to upgrade the standard and level of Erdiston, and the Community College if necessary, but I think Erdiston first of all because of its former standing in the society and its relationship with teachers so that the qualification that is necessary is provided there. Even if this cannot come about, and I hope that it is possible, I think that there is a need to look again at these qualifications. For a person can be measured in terms of his worth, and level of education in areas like these in ways different from having a university degree. For example, if someone as a budding artist has been able to put on exhibitions and to interest people to come and not only examine but purchase his work, then I think we should see that person in a very special light. We have had artists with degrees who have never exhibited anything but they are regarded as such because they studied art and a number of others under this method of qualification would be able to qualify as being called artists and also to hold some of those positions that I have referred to where they were disqualified or excluded because they did not have a "university degree" in the subject.

Next I would like to turn to page 112, Sub-programme 04 which deals with the Assisted Private Schools. I note an increase in the Estimates here for the Assisted Private Schools of some $163 000 over last year. I do not know and cannot tell from this programme what will benefit and perhaps the Senator from the Ministry will enlighten me about it. But it is good to see an increase be it ever so inadequate of any kind in any area particularly in education. Here in the assisted private schools I think it is most welcome. Those of us who have our ears to the ground where private schools are concerned, are aware that they are in dire financial straits at this time, because they have to maintain a certain level of staff, in terms of their qualifications and their numbers and because of the subject areas they cover, and they are not necessarily having the intake of students to cover the expenditure by virtue of school fees, so they have to turn elsewhere. As a result of that, some of these schools have run up very, very serious debts, and in the illegal area of the non-payment of National Insurance contributions.
5.30 p.m.

I know that Government has offered to give some help to these schools by delaying the payment of interest for a period of time and allowing them, by special arrangement, to pay off the principal first and then turn to the interest, which they have agreed not to compound over a period of time. In the case of one such private school, with which I am associated, it would take nearly 100 years to pay off the entire debt. I think that since income accruing from interest has not been something Government anticipated or desired or craved, the Ministry of Education might take a lead in seeking to have the interest amounts not just frozen and delayed, but written off. I would suggest the opening of new discussions in this regard, because these private schools are performing a yeoman's task for the country. These are the schools that labour without any profit, they are totally non-profit organisations. In fact, some of the boards and some of the founders of such schools pull their own pockets and suffer, take no salaries of their own in order to plough whatever they can into the organisation. I believe that some of them are better in terms of their record of attention to slow learners than many of the Government schools, because they get some of the worse material, as we all know. The brightest ones go to the best of the Government schools and then these schools have to settle for what is left over. As a result of that, teachers apply themselves to individuals painstakingly, and this is something Government is now seeking to get into in terms of the new thrust of the Ministry of Education.

Now, I say that these private schools led the way and there were those who moved from out of areas where they would be called special needs students into areas where they were able to offer themselves for the CXC exams. There were those who, even before the CXC, in the old examinations year by year were tutored to do a subject a year until they got a qualification. They could only have done that because somebody led them to believe that they were somebody and took the trouble to sit down with a student at a time, and this, unfortunately, does not

happen to any large degree, I must say, in the Government owned schools. We are having situations where they will go to the Government schools and come out, and then we discover that they cannot read or write after a whole secondary career. Because all the children who go to school, including those who go to the private secondary schools, are the nation's children, there should be a greater interest shown here and perhaps Government might consider that since they have to go to school and they are allowed a choice and the schools are recognised, whether school fees should not be paid for these children as well, as the nation's children. My message, Sir, is that there is grave difficulty where several of those remaining schools are concerned.

Next, I have a comment on page 115, Subprogram 05, Other Institutions. At the bottom of the explanatory notes page we have a listing of institutions that receive subventions from Government. I asked this question last year and I want to ask it again this year, what are the criteria for getting on to this list? Who determines this? I see the Labour College, the Extra-Mural Department, Barbados Astronomical Society, of all places, I see the Girls' Industrial Union, understandably, the National Union of Public Workers, Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, Barbados Employers' Confederation and other similar institutions. My next question is, why is it that Codrington College is not on this list?

Aside.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: I will probably do that, but I have asked that before and I have received no answer. I hope there will be an answer now. Codrington College, Sir, as you well know, is the oldest tertiary educational institution in the region and it is one of the oldest in the world, certainly in the English speaking world. It has done a lot of good work for this country. Even though now it is referred to as a theological college and under the auspices of the Church, yet it continues to offer opportunities for learning in the areas of theology, history, arts and other areas to those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunities. Many teachers of this country are going to Codrington College on weekends, to evening courses and so on to do a Diploma in Theology, which includes some of the other areas I have mentioned. I have learnt that the Ministry is recognising these diplomas for promotion and for remuneration. Since this is the case, and since it is costing people somewhat to go there, I do not understand why it is that if these persons opted to go to Cave Hill they would be regarded as being the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, but if they opt to go to Codrington College then they are almost completely disregarded, and the institution itself is not taken on as though it is part of the educational organisation of the country.

I am making a plea to all those in the Ministry and to those who administer education in the country to do what should be done for its citizens who have so opted. The fact that someone has even chosen to be a Minister of religion rather than do pre-med at Cave Hill or to do social science should not mean that that person should not benefit as a citizen of this country. I think you can see it in this light. Rather than seeing it as becoming a christian person and a pastor see it as the person's chosen field and vocation. Surely, once a person has chosen in the area of education, then he should not be disadvantaged when compared with others who have gone to Cave Hill or some other institution.

5.40 p.m.

So I am making that plea for the individuals and also for the institution itself. It has trained hundreds of Barbadians in many ways and still continues to hold the Caribbean together because people still continue to come to Codrington College from all over the region and it is therefore one of the forerunners in our CARICOM movement. Its services are invaluable in many other ways. I therefore recommend it for consideration.

I will follow up that aside that I heard and suggest that within the church we should raise some questions and make some advances ourselves; but we need all the help that we can get.

My next comment comes out of page 153, Head 36, Health and the Environment and more especially sub-program 12. Reference is made in the very last paragraph under the explanatory notes, and I quote:

> "This sub-program involves the ... control and maintenance of cemeteries...."

It is that particular aspect of it that I wish to refer to now.

I notice that in the Ministry of Health programme there is a new provision of some $19 million and I hope that part of it will be to deal with this in particular. I have no doubt that some of it is to go into that page 153. My concern here is that the country is running out of burial space and we are failing to deal with the problem. We continue to behave as though it doesn't matter and the people who have to make provision at the various cemeteries and more especially at the Westbury Cemetery are finding a problem. Graves for some time now have been re-opened after 5 years and some unofficially sooner and that should worry anyone. That is a very dangerous thing. There has been no new cemetery in this country since the 1950s when the Bushy Park St. Philip Cemetery was established. Ever since then we have been making out and making do.

Several Anglican cemeteries are closed or have been declared closed or partially closed meaning that the members only are permitted burial at several of them now and that constitutes a movement away from an agreement that the Anglican Church had taken upon itself and a promise it had made to the Government of the day that it would not discriminate between members and non-members, but because of the lack of space, the church has had to take the line, and it has been done very regretfully, that it has got to say to some people, "Sorry, only members." Those that have the space continue to help but we cannot expect the churches to continue doing this. Some churches have growing membership but they have no burial space at all and it seems to me unfair and unreasonable to expect those who are struggling to provide for their members to fill up their space with others who have never bothered to own any space.

The public cemeteries are full. The churchyards are full and that is a very serious problem on our hands. The point I mentioned about the premature reopening of graves must be taken very seriously because if we go back to the 1840s or 50s when cholera broke out in this country we still have grounds that are called cholera grounds all over Barbados about which perhaps people are somewhat superstitious and they are probably not as dangerous as we have made them out to be, but we will never know. Cholera is a water borne disease and if it doesn't have to get into your water system then you don't have to worry too much. But we have evidence of what happens in India from time to time, that cholera restarts when there are heavy rains and the grounds flood, that that disease does not die easily.

I said all that to say that we are living in times where there is another dreaded disease from which people die and are buried and I am talking about AIDS. Nobody keeps track of where the AIDS victims are buried and if we are getting to the point where graves are being re-opened prematurely and we do not yet know, as it probably is too early to know, whether there is any danger from the bodies that have been exhumed, then I think we still have to be extremely careful. Even if we have no reason to fear I think Government has a responsibility in this regard where cemeteries are concerned to provide some kind of alternative.

I would wish to suggest two things. One is that we do not permit any burials at sea. People are still burying at sea and our fish are feeding eventually on what goes out into the sea and we cannot guarantee anything. I think it is somewhat primitive to continue to permit people to do it just because they do not go out into the deep. They go a couple of miles off the land and in our waters is where they dump the body. We have no guarantee that they use lead coffins or anything like that. So that is something I wish to suggest that the Ministry of Health and Government cooperate in bringing that to an end.

Secondly, I wish to suggest that the way forward would be by way of setting up a crematorium. I think the time has come for us to begin to cremate. Some people quite erroneously are of the view that because a person is religious or Christian that it is wrong to have them burnt. If I may say so, Sir, perhaps if we have to have our bodies burnt before we leave this earth the Almighty might smile on us a little later on and not put too much fire at that point if we had it earlier. Seriously, I think it is bad theology to talk about not having a body burnt because people become attached to a spot in the ground and they act as though the person that they cared for and loved is really no further than there in that spot in the ground under that particular headstone. That is a totally unchristian view of burial and life after. It is bad theology. The theology is more in keeping with dust to dust and ashes to ashes because the person is not there any longer. The person has, we believe, returned to his Maker. I think that at this time we are likely to have the support of most of the Churches. I do not think that Churches for the most part continue to object to this. In the past I think that administrations were a little afraid of the Churches' reaction but we have all learnt and in the interest of a safer and healthier country I think we have to move in that direction. It is time for a crematorium.

5.50 p.m.

Just a few other comments before I close, Sir. Over a period of time, the relationship between Church and State being good, always good in this country, the Governments inherited a situation where Church Schools were left in the hand of Government for their use for as long as Government would wish to use them. The understanding has always been that Government would use them for the time being and eventually would build schools to replace them when they saw it was possible to do this and there was no pressure on to take back schools. That policy has been adhered to over the years by whoever formed the Government.

Over the years, Sir, there has been some inconsistency and irregularities in terms of how the thing was done. There has been uncertainty about the handing over of the buildings. Sometimes they were just abandoned and left. Sometimes it took a long time before the Church could assume ownership again even though the Ministry of Education had discontinued use. Then there was an arrangement about compensation that Government would either repair the schools and hand them back in a state of good repair or would have them assessed and invite the Church's assessment and come to terms as to what it would cost to repair them and Government would expect the

Church to undertake the repairs for which Government would pay. That is still the understanding. But in many instances it has been taking years before the funds for repairs have been forthcoming. The Church today, more than any other time, is in dire need of funds and has never really taken any stand to challenge an administration on this.

I am suggesting, Sir, that the time really has come for the matter to be looked at again, to be regularised and I hope that with the new spirit, the new thrust, the new energy I am seeing in the Ministry of Education that something will soon be done in this regard. To put it bluntly, the Anglican Church, of which I can speak, and there were other Churches that had buildings as well, cannot continue to be a fairy godmother to anybody because it cannot afford to do this.

I have a suggestion, Sir, for Government in this regard that when these schools are taken back by the Anglican Church at first it was thought that the Church might go into schooling itself or that they might need the buildings for Church halls, community work and so on. It seems to me that Government is in a better position to get involved in that kind of community activity than the Church. The Church has now decided that it does not intend to get involved in education in that way again. Why? Not only because it cannot afford it but because we have a very good system of education under the direction of the Government. Therefore, our buildings might well be available if Government is interested in setting up community development centres about the country and not have to build new ones, to take these buildings, or even offer to purchase them so that the Church can, at least, get something out of its hardware, so to speak. That is an idea I hope we will be able to interest the Government in at some point in time.

My last one, Sir, and I do not recall the exact Head here but it comes under the Attorney General's portfolio. I have mentioned this in this Honourable Chamber before that there are victims of crime from time to time who have to suffer a lot, await long trials, have the embarrassment of going to court and then at the end of it all to have a conviction of someone as a criminal, or a fine of some kind. It seems to me as though there is a need in the country for the victims of crime to be properly compensated.

Many of those that I have known have not been properly compensated. Sometimes they have received some kind of help but it seems to have been unofficially done. I think the time has come really for us to look at this matter quite seriously and ensure that people do not have to suffer and spend their time being uncertain about their recovery from the trauma of some violence or crime just because they cannot afford to pull themselves together.

With this, Sir, I hope that we can receive the kind of attention that I have mentioned in this regard from the various Ministries. I hope that we will, in applying these Estimates, always bear in mind the people who are at the back of it.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, it was interesting to note the opening remarks of the Leader of Government Business when he was referring to the Estimates. He stressed we should have economic activity and sustainable growth. He also went on to stress the importance of small businesses. But let me say that even though $49 million more was collected in corporation tax in the last fiscal year $49 million more, it certainly does not reflect the profits of the medium and small-sized businesses. I think I recall my standing here and I am repeating myself right now but it is important because I want to reflect a little bit on what is happening to business in Barbados today.

The $49 million more that was collected, was collected perhaps from the very large companies like insurance companies, commercial banks and the likes of those large businesses but basically the small and medium retail businesses are under severe pressure. Money is not permeating down to the small man, hence the small business, the businesses that are located on Swan Street, High Street, Tudor Street, Baxter's Road, a lot of those small businesses, and the emphasis today is on small businesses, are not faring well with the economic activity because, as I say, money is not permeating down. You hear the private sector talk, from time to time, and you hear them saying that they expect 3% growth and things are good but when you analyse what they are saying they must be referring, mainly, to the Duty Free items. When I say the Duty Free items, I mean liquor, souvenirs, tee shirts, colognes and perfumes and that sort of thing.
6.00 p.m.

Foreigners are coming in here, with their money to spend, but again you look at the duty free sector and you say "there is only a handful of people in that particular sector." And the vast majority of people who are in business trying to make a living are having financial difficulty.

Perhaps they may be looking, sometimes, when there is a little increase activity in construction that the Hardware Stores are, perhaps, doing a little better and so on, but at the end of the day the activity in those areas that I just called is very slow and sluggish to say the least.

Then we have to ask ourselves "why are we in this predicament?" What is really causing this? Well I do not have all the answers but I can surely say a few things that, I think would make some sense, and one of them is that last year Credit Cards were introduced to Barbados and by somewhere or somehow or some fashion, many people were able to get credit or were able to use their Credit Cards in foreign countries. There is a statistic coming out from the Central Bank which shows that BDS $28 million, or US$14 million, was spent in local Credit Cards overseas. That is between January and October last year.

So when we have a situation like that, we have to ask ourselves what is the reason for that, and we go further. There is a reason for that. The reason for that, being, our goods are too highly taxed. We are not competitive because we have high consumption taxes, we have stamp duties and we also have surcharges, in some cases. As long as we are not competitive, people will continue to go overseas, Puerto Rico and New York, wherever, they even go to Trinidad. In my field of business, I know that they go to Trinidad and they buy because Trinidad only has 5% duty and nothing else.

We know that is a problem and when you have these high taxes you are only soliciting and encouraging some traders, not all, to indulge in the suit case trade. That would be abolished, we hope, when the Value Added Tax is introduced and I will talk a little bit more on the Value Added Tax later.

Then there is another aspect that we analyse and we want to know why we are not doing well and that aspect is gambling. We have the introduction of Olympio gambling, last year, and they boasted $56 million in sales, that is one lotto. That does not include any of the other gambling and I am told, that approximately $4 million of that goes overseas as part of their deal for the people who set it up and that sort of thing. That is right?

When that Olympio goes up to $400 000, $500 000 and $800 000, as in the case in December month. I recall, clearly, in December month when it was very, very high there were very long lines all over Barbados to buy Olympio, week in and week out nobody won and they kept going on and going on to buy, and that was money sucking out of our business activity, like a vacuum, and not going into the areas of spending which would create more economic activity.

Even the poor people in the rural areas, especially the poor people, in my Senators' friends, rural areas, they too are spending what they can ill afford. They are taking down to the last penny. Some of them are not even paying their bills, because they always feel that they have a chance to win the lotto and gambling is affecting our business tremendously in this country.

Then we hear the Leader of Government Business going all out to help the small man, and to help the small businessman, including the vendors. I will remind him too, Sir, that an established business like Leo Leacock, a black business, a successful black businessman has had to close his doors recently and sell to whom, to the Barbados Shipping and Trading. That is a message that we must look, read and understand. I am not saying who was responsible, but you must be aware of what is happening. Then what has happened...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. As far as I know, for the accuracy of the record based on the Press release that I saw, coming from the company, the company has not closed its doors. The company has sold to another company. So I believe the Honourable Senator may want to...

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I just want to thank the Honourable Member for interrupting me, once more.

I want to remind him the only reason why one would sell a business, and in his position, is that he was not doing well. His bottom line was not good. He sold his assets to the Barbados Shipping and Trading and it is my understanding, again I have been told, that economic activity within that company was down.

Now we have my good friend, again, talks about helping the businessman, the small businessman, and the vendors and so forth, and yet we have the Barbados Development Bank closing.

The Barbados Development Bank is closing because the Barbados Development Bank has had some bad Managers, or Chairmen, or Boards or something. It has to be a cause of something. No other Bank in Barbados is closing. Why should the Barbados Development Bank close? It is difficult to understand that. Well we have answers but we are not sure the answers are accurate or correct.

Let me say this, the bad debt portfolio of the Barbados Development Bank is going to be taken over by one organisation and the Bank is going to continue to function under a different name. At the end of the day it is still functioning and if you are setting up these beautiful facilities, you stressed the beautiful facilities for vendors, those vendors might need financing of some sort. What is the use of having all these facilities, Sir, and we do not have any economic activity, they are not selling their trades when the days come, things are rough, things are bad and they cannot get finance? These are things you have to seriously look at.

Sir, I want to remind this Chamber of what was stated on CNN, only yesterday, when the United States Government said it was important to have more small businesses in the United States and quoted statistics to prove, I think it was somewhere like 40% or 50% of small businesses, help to contribute to the economy of the United States. Very interesting fact!

I am saying that businesses in this country need help and I am going to ask, like what Senator Mascoll said, that interest rates be reduced to help stimulate more liquidity in the marketplace. That is not difficult. I think the country could afford it.

Now comes the introduction of the Value Added Tax. Up to this day I do not think any official statement has been made to the business community as to when Value Added Tax will be introduced in this country, recently. I am saying that because we were told since last year, that it was April 1.

The Honourable Prime Minister, I think last week Monday, in his introduction in these Estimates, made mention that it will be coming in this fiscal financial year. The Honourable Senator, in the Opposition, in his speech talks about October 1, 1996 when it is introduced. So, we are all in a guessing game. You have the people in business walking around asking Ministers of Government when is the VAT going to be introduced? Businesses need to know when VAT is going to be introduced because they have to liquidate a lot of their stocks. I am asking the Government that they notify the business community three months before it is introduced. I am asking the Government when Value Added Tax is introduced to give, not the businessmen, to give the consumers a break for the first 90 days that we would not have to add on value added tax to the already highly taxed goods because we would have goods on our shelves which would have the high consumption taxes and stamp duties. I will add before my Honourable Friend gets up and talks about a bond that the small businesses cannot afford a duty free bond. When we think of business, do not only think of the large businesses, think of the medium and the small businesses. The long and short of it, Sir, is that Barbados is too highly taxed. We are too uncompetitive.
6.10 p.m.

With the introduction of the Value Added Tax, as I said before, consumption taxes and stamp duty and surcharges will be abolished and then we have a chance of becoming more competitive and as far as the manufacturers whom Senator Mascoll spoke about are concerned they will become very large importers in the open trade market. And what is going to happen? They are going to sell the goods but all the jobs for those poor people from the country areas as well will be lost and manufacturers will go out of business. So it is hoped that the manufacturers would have some form of protection and not have a complete open trade. It is very important to understand that because if those poor people do not have the jobs in the manufacturing sector they cannot spend the money and if they cannot spend the money all the few hundred medium and small sized businesses will lay off people and the economic wheels in retailing will go to the pits so we will have to be very, very careful as to what we are doing.

The next point. There is a proposal afoot by a reputable chartered accountant company, I think on behalf of the private sector, to ask Government to reduce corporation taxes by 5% over a three-year period, meaning that 1% reduction in the first year and 2% in the second and third year. If Government has not been approached on this matter yet they will soon be approached and I hope that the Minister and the Government are seriously looking at that because we are too highly taxed.

I will go further. In order to help with the cash flow of all the small businesses in this country I am appealing to the Government that all small corporations in this country who earn $50 000 or less should pay 25% corporation tax. The reason for that, Sir, is that these companies can have one or two good years, pay the big corporation tax and then run into cash flow problems and have difficulty keeping their businesses viable. I am sure, Senator Gill will agree with me on that. I am asking Government for any business that earns and has a net profit of $50 000 or less should pay company tax of 25% so that small businesses can be eased in this country. All of that will help with the implementation of jobs.

I heard year before about 30 000 jobs will be created at general election time. I heard Estimates last year and I come again this year and I hear the Estimates nothing to help the unemployed but we need innovative ideas. We need the Government to seriously look at helping business so that unemployment will be reduced. Do not wait until half of the businesses run into trouble like the South Coast hotels and then you come at the last minute to try to help these hotels. Do not wait for the businesses to end up like the small hotels on the south coast. Forget that. Act now!

Finally, Sir, on finance. The imposition of the 5% on duty free sales that was in the budgetary proposals last year, that has not been implemented. I would hope that it is not implemented. Barbados needs tourists. We are in a competitive tourism market and we already have a situation when tourist boats come here they say to the passengers, do not buy this, do not buy that, Barbados is expensive. We have a very bad stigma and for us to pay 5% more it will only mean that our prices will be uncompetitive and it will mean that they will tell the tourists do not even spend any money in Barbados. We do not need that. Barbados can

afford that. The difference that they are going to make in the money can be reduced when the BTA members are not re-employed after 3 years.

Aside.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I sat yesterday and I made a few notes. As I came in this Honourable Chamber I made a few more. I have not met anyone. I am telling you what is happening because...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You need not go on the defensive.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I am telling you, Sir, what is happening because I go to work 6 days a week in town and the economic activity is down and that is why I am concerned about it.

Now, Sir, so much for the economic activity. We have, Sir, under the Ministry of Labour, Community Development and Sports, Part 1 (e) it says as part of the objectives of the Ministry are as follows: "to facilitate the formulation and implementation of national policy on matters affecting women." Sir, I am the President of the Barbados Karate Association. We took a team recognised by the National Sports Council in this country to represent Barbados in Jamaica in October last year and we had a situation where an employer, and it is unprecedented in the history of Barbados, by the name of Sach Moore of BAMCI...
6.20 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I make no apologies. I will call who I like. It has happened. I am saying that this gentleman refused despite pleas with the directors who agreed with me that she should be given time off to represent Barbados. This young lady trained for 12 months to go on a team and that particular team came fourth and Barbados colours flew well in that tournament. Would you believe, Sir, that when she came back to Barbados she did not have a job? Apart from Senator Trotman who asked for a reinstatement, not one organization in this country including the National Organization of Women or any Government organization tried to help that young lady get reinstated. It was in the Press and the people of Barbados knew about it. Hundreds of people asked me what was happening and nothing was happening. But let me say, Sir, that I am calling on the Minister of Sports...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: ...I am calling on the Minister of Sports and the Government to institute a law that all sports men and women who represent Barbados and who are recognized by the National Sports Council should be given time off to represent their country with pay. Just like we sat in this Honourable Chamber and we agreed that jurors will go to jury service with pay, people who represent Barbados should also go with pay. What I am talking about is 3 working days in this instance – a Thursday, Friday, weekend and on Monday we came back. That is what happened in this country in 1996 and that should never happen in this country.

I also make another call on the Minister of Sports for the abolition of the 20 per cent air fares for all people who are travelling to represent Barbados.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of elucidation, Sir. It is Government's policy and I deal with it personally that anybody who goes to represent Barbados overseas that travel ticket tax is waived. It is Government's policy.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: We do not want to apply for it. Let us come in here and make it law. I would also ask that the $25.00 departure tax be waived. That is not waived. We have to pay it.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, as a matter of policy, we never waive departure tax for anybody. That we do not waive but the travel tax is always waived.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please. Senator Bernstein please continue.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Sir, with respect if that is the policy, why can't the policy not change? The amount of people that go out to represent Barbados is insignificant to the economy of Barbados. But when you have an association taking out 16 people on a trip and you have to look for $400, it is a burden on that association. It is not easy. As a matter of fact, waive the airport tax and charge a little more on parking at the airport. Barbados has the cheapest parking that I have ever seen in any part of the world. I am asking for the abolition of the departure tax for all sporting organizations and I stress, not fly by night, but sporting organisations recognized by the National Sports Council.

Sir, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, last year we came in here and a certain amount was voted for the Cheapside Market and other markets. I have noticed that some construction has started. However, I am happy that $4.6 million for the renovation of the Cheapside Market as is stated in the Estimates for repairs and electrical work on the jetty and improvement

to markets. Sir, this is welcomed by all members of Swan Street, every store owner or person doing business in Swan Street. We hope that the Government will ensure that construction will be completed before Christmas this year if possible so that we will not have the congestion in December and we are hoping that the Swan Street vendors be given priority so that this area will be cleared. I want to congratulate the Government or Cabinet for making a decision to move the Swan Street vendors as of March 31, 1996 which is Sunday. Again, I do not see how that is possible because the markets are not ready and you have to relocate these people but there is no communique. Everybody is ringing me and asking me what is happening and I do not know what is happening and they say to you: "Well, you are a Senator and you should know what is happening." I am not sure if the people in authority know what is happening. But we need to have some sort of green light or some sort of date as to when that Cheapside Market will be ready and what date we can look forward to having the vendors in their new facilities. So I am hoping that this will not be any problem and we will be able to have a smooth relocation of the vendors and that I would not have to come in here next year and say the same thing, as is happening which I am about to say with health and housing.

Let me refer, Sir, to housing. I quoted last year and I am going to quote again this year page 26 of the BLP Manifesto:

> "It is not our policy however that Government should become a landlord and the units should be sold to the tenants at their request. This is in keeping with well established policies to sell both tenants units and separate houses to the tenants with rent being credited back against the purchase price."

Well, a year has passed and nothing has been done. Surely, a Government that wants to manage the economy properly would want to certainly sell these rental units to the people. I think that it is a shame after year in and year out one is paying rent and eventually one will not have anything of their own plus the fact that you would save millions on repairs and maintenance to those houses.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: I would just like to inform the Senate that the Government is pursuing its policy...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you can only elucidate your own speech.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: On a point of order, Sir. Part of the problem of selling terrace units is the fact that a lot of the people in the units, because they are not attached to them, do not want to purchase the units and now Government is now in a position where they want to transfer people to new housing and to make these units available to people who want to buy them. So we have to move these people out and bring in fresh people who are interested in purchasing them.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Sir, I would like to know why it did not say that in the manifesto too? The Minister of Housing in the other place has called for total housing by the year 2000. He is ambitious and I wish him well and, as a Barbadian, I wholeheartedly support him. But I believe that if tenants were given the opportunity to buy it, they would have something to call their own even in the rural areas and they will take pride in it and it would save a tremendous amount of maintenance.

That is all I have to say on housing. My last topic, Sir, is on health. Again, last year I came in here and I spoke about some problems. I spoke about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I said then and I say now about the Board of Management which I would like to quote:

> "The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is run by a director, assistant director and a deputy director who report to the Permanent Secretary who in turn reports 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 that a Board of Directors could be too partisan and political victimization 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 with doctors and other personnel in the hospital who are familiar with the hospital who could run the hospital so it would be more efficient."

I knew then it was inefficient and you still have problems in the hospital. We had a serious problem where equipment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital malfunctioned and when an investigation was carried out it was found that they did not have a service contract with the people and that the equipment was not serviced. We are talking about people's lives. It is hoped that this new Board will go in the right direction, because the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has some serious problems. It is my understanding too that the new Board of Management does not want to buy a CAT scan, they prefer to take the patient to a private place to get these scans done, because they are trying to reduce costs and be more efficient, but patient care is of the utmost priority. That is important. So even though your management is going to be astute, you must...

6.30 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I can assure the Honourable Senator, and I will search for the provision, there is provision in the Estimates for the purchase of the CAT scan.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: I am very happy. I can only go by what I am told. I was told that they did not want to have to buy the CAT scan.

Sir, we have the Lions' Eye Care Centre. I spoke about the Lions' Eye Care Centre and I called it a white elephant last year. Again, I do not want to waste time and repeat myself here, but I said there was a golden opportunity to have primary, secondary and tertiary level eye care done in Barbados. It can be done in conjunction with the University of the West Indies or any other university that has the money to come and train people, let Barbados have the best eye care centre in the Caribbean.

Aside.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Get involved with an American university, but do not let the white elephant stand up and do nothing with it.

While I am at it, let me say this. Hospital doctors had approached hospital authorities to use a floor of the Lions'Eye Care Centre and they were refused. You would believe that they wanted it for foreigners. They wanted it for Barbadians from the urban and the rural areas.

Aside.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: But if the Agreement does not call for it, surely call the Lions and see what can be done. I am sure the Agreement calls for the functioning of it and it is not functioning. I do not think they would spend that money to build it and then not use it.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. Again I must enlighten my colleague that the reason why it is not operating is because it was built but there was no provision made for its operation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. Senator Murray, you will have an opportunity to cover this when you make your speech.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Sir, you know what he just said is a disgrace. I would not repeat that, if I were him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have disallowed the point of order.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: The Lions'Eye Care Centre remains a white elephant, and that is a disgrace. As Barbadians we see a lovely building there, you pass by, you show tourists the hospital and they ask what that is. You tell them it is the Lions' Eye Care Centre, and there is nothing in it. It is empty. That is not good enough.

St. Joseph Hospital. I know there are plans afoot by the Government for selling it or doing other things with it. They will probably get rid of it, but in the meantime while the building is closed up it will deteriorate. They tried to get equipment from the St. Joseph Hospital into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – ventilators, or something of that nature, which is very important for life – and there is so much red tape to get it done that it still remains at the St. Joseph Hospital, and who knows what is happening? So I hope St. Joseph Hospital will not be discussed again next year in the Estimates, if God spares our lives. I hope it will be sold and got rid of.

Finally, Sir, my colleague here spoke about a crematorium. There was a letter in the Press recently by a Mr. Prakash Mahtani. I went with him and Mr Latchman Kissoon to the Prime Minister in 1986, Mr. Barrow at the time,was at a Cabinet meeting, because Mr. Mahtani's father had just passed away and it is the Hindu religion that they either cremate the body or bury it at sea, and he was trying to get permission to cremate his father somewhere in the country. I think Mr. Barrow said then that the laws were in the statute book for a crematorium but we really did not have good facilities for it and he refused it.

I agree with what the Senator is saying. You have to look a the health aspect of the thing. It is far more sanitary to cremate AIDS victims than to bury them. Common sense tells me that.

Aside.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: But if you do not have the financing, I am quite sure a crematorium should cost in the vicinity of $600 000 to $800 000. We are not talking big money in the context of the Government. If the Hindu Association were approached, they would surely go out there and try to finance at least half of it, if not all, but again that is worth negotiating, because as I say this is very important to their religious beliefs. I know a lot of them who are prepared even to take a loan from a bank and repay it over a period of time, but they are willing and they have asked me to make representation in this Honourable Chamber for a crematorium.

With that, Sir, I thank you very much and I hope that Barbados will continue to progress, because at the end of the day we are all Barbadians and we must solve the large unemployment problem.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I believe all that is left for me to do now is to ask that this Bill be read a second time.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I would like to make my input into this debate on the Appropriation Bill. I am particularly interested in Head 34 – Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture. Of course, one is always struck by the fact that education takes up such a large slice of the Estimates. We have $148 million being spent on education.

I am reminded, when I look at the White Paper on Education Reform, of the objectives of education in this country as provided by this Paper, the philosophical vision, where it says:

> "The objectives of our reform are to provide equal opportunities for all within our shores in order to enrich the quality of their lives; provide a creative mix of options that would foster a love of learning and the opening of avenues for the gifted, the less gifted and the physically and mentally challenged to develop fully in a tolerant and embracing society."

Of course, this is a White Paper which also said "Each One Matters". I found some very interesting and good things in the Estimates, for example I noticed that there is actually a $100 000 increase in terms of special education. When one looks at that, one begins to question whether as we see on page 111 of the Estimates that the sub-program 05: Special Schools says:

> "The function of this sub-program is to make grants to schools providing Special Education as follows:–
>
> (i) The Challenor School
>
> (ii) The Learning Centre."

and I wondered why only these 2. We note that there was $400 000 first and they have added $100 000 and I am wondering what happened to the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home and to other institutions of learning.
6.40 p.m.

I was looking at that and then I was looking at the fees for consultants and I thought that is a very good step and improvement that people recognise the need for consultants in education. There is also the new St. Thomas School which I take it is going to be used for the St. Leonard's Girls. But when I look at the youth of this country and when I look again at the allocation of monies I am again concerned and I am concerned for many reasons.

The youth of our country, and I am thinking about that 60 to 70% of the youth who have no certification, and I am wondering whether or not the Government really intends to see that all our children are going to be given the opportunity to develop fully because as we look under the youth programme and this is on page 122 – I am checking all those indicating for youth – I see $3 212 606 and under that the Explanatory Notes say:

> " This sub-program provides for the development and expansion of programmes related to the youth including:–
>
> – expansion of the Barbados Youth Service
>
> – national Summer camps
>
> – conducting of youth surveys
>
> – national sports and cultural training
>
> – training and technical advice for youth entrepreneurs."

Now that to me does not address the real problem of our youth.

Remember I am thinking about the youth in connection with the fact that we do recognise that about 60 – 70% are without certification. We also know that the reform talked about plans for certification for our youth. Now one would have thought that in the year that we brought out a reform on education and in the year that we talked about plans for the certification of our young people that something more substantial would have been allocated to youth programs.

I wanted to be very fair about this and I also looked under youth programmes and saw something called Continuing Education: Young Adults and that is on page 113. I was amazed to see that this is now $25 000, a decrease of $75 000. Now if we take the Continuing Education for Young Adults, $25 000, and we take the youth programme and look at what the objectives are I really don't understand what that is about. Summer camps – I think that is taken up with young people between the ages of 9 or 12. Nothing there indicates to me any real and genuine concern with those 60 or 70% of the youth who have left school so that if we look at the youth programme – $3 million and the $25 000 and this is supposed to be continuing education for young adults we have just over $3¼ million.

I want to stress that this $3¼ million is the allocation for young people who would have left school and are out there waiting to go beyond secondary education. Let us compare this $3 million and this is why I have said in this House that as far as I see money spent on education is almost like the Lotto, that it is winner take all. 25% or 20% of our young people for post-secondary education will get most of the money and we are not making any serious inroads into the problem of the 60% or 70% of our uncertificated young people out there.

If we look at secondary schools where our young people have passed though we can understand the money spent on primary schools. When we look at the post-secondary, at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, we know that students who go there have to have some form of certification.

If we start looking at Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, we look at Barbados Community College, at the University of the West Indies, at higher education, we are talking about people who have made it in the system and have had some form of certification. We see the whopping amount of almost $49 million going to this 20-25% of our students post-secondary. Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic almost $6 million, Barbados Community College – $10 million, UWI – $28 million, Higher Educational Awards – $5 million.

The Higher Education Awards, the $5 million, is more than is given to the 60 or 70% of our young people out there who if we are going to be serious we will have to start thinking about spending money on their continuing education. It defies all kinds of logical reason to me why there is something called "Continuing Education, Young Adults" that gets $25 000 and something called "Youth Programmes" for $3 million.

6.50 p.m.

I have expressed in this House my own vision of what I expect the Government to do for all its young people at the post-secondary level otherwise we will not be honest when we say that we want to open avenues, not only for the gifted, the less gifted and the physically and mentally challenged to develop fully in a tolerant and embracing society. I do not see any embrace here for those 60 per cent or 70 per cent of our young people who have had no certification.

My idea of money spent on young adults and youth programmes and continuing education is that money must be concentrated on giving more hope to these persons who have not made it in the system to be able to go back into a school or community centre to be able to improve their skills. It must be a very broad-based notion of continuing education. Not only must one be prepared to help them if they want certification to pursue this but they must be given the opportunity to study music, art, computers or whatever as young adults who have not made it in the secondary schools who are more mature, more motivated to be able to go within their community, the community school to get further education otherwise constantly whenever I see these Estimates it just strikes me that what we are saying is that our education system only works for and we are only prepared to spend money on those people who have been so fortunate as to make it. It is only about a quarter or less percentage of our population.

I feel so strongly about this. I feel that if Government is going to lead, and they are going to have a vision, it is something I would not like to be here again next year talking in the Estimates and do not see any real concentrated effort to help those people out there who seem to be almost helpless in the situation.

must confess I did not intend to speak very long becau: ? I have spoken so much about this issue and I do not think it seems as though the Government is taking this seriously. My plea today is to say that if there is not that vision that we give hope to, especially in the context of saying we are going to start to pursue some national certification so that every student who passes through our education system has a certificate, if we are going to be serious about that we must begin to put things in place so that any of our students who have been through our secondary school system without any form of certification must know I can now go back to the school in my community and begin to work not only toward certification but to work toward other skills otherwise all the message you are sending to me is we have a marvelous education system but it is for 25 percent of our people, and we are only prepared to spend this money on that 25 per cent and the others remain out there because what else do we see that says to those people out there, we too can be part of the system, we too can go back and get some kind of qualification, we too have an opportunity to make it in this system.

As I said, I am not prepared to talk long about this. I am saying it. I will repeat it day after day unless the Government begins to feel the disparity otherwise as we said already in this House, the money we are going to be spending for these young people would be money for extending the prison. There are notions now about how do we take care of young people who have gone astray. I feel that we must be proactive. We must be more humane. We must send out the message to every student in Barbados that whether or not they make the grade when they leave secondary school the money will be spent on them as it is spent on the other 25 per cent of our students who can go on to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, who can go to the Community College, and who can go on to the University of the West Indies.

I have already said in this House that the money which is spent on these university students and I have already made it quite clear – I know there are a lot of people who do not like to hear, but I will say it again. You will spend $28 million on the university students and then you say to those of us out there $25 000 for something called Continuing Education – Young Adults. This is a terrible insult. What bothers me about that is again we have a system where the powerless, a lot of the voiceless do not believe in the *status quo* enough to even comment on this. After all it is their taxpayers' money too that goes into spending almost $50 million on people who manage to pass some examination.

I am going to be as brief as possible. I am finished. I am not saying anymore. I am just going to keep reminding the Government that unless we take this issue seriously and we show we are serious by the amount of money we allocate for people who are out there without certification, we are going to have to deal with spending more money and building jails, more correction centres, and hanging them. That is the sort of alternative we are going to have. As I said, I am brief and to the point about this situation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The question that the Senate do now suspend until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 1996 was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.
7.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, in these Estimates there is evidence of wise and constructive management and planning. We have already seen that there is restored confidence in manufacturing and, indeed, widespread restoration of confidence. There is an increase in allocation to almost all the Ministries and the objective is to better the lot of all our people and to generate employment.

I wish to speak briefly on housing, although I am sure that other colleagues will elaborate. In the 1970s, in some parts of the world, there was a new interest in the dignity of man, a new recognition that all need reasonable homes and a concept that all people are entitled to basic opportunities which make life worth living. These views have always been a part of the Barbados Labour Party's philosophy from its inception. Hence, after the past 8 years of inactivity and aridity, generally the Ministry of Public Works is trying to answer the crucial need for housing by ensuring that units are being built continuously. Land has been acquired at Waterhall, Apes Hill, Mt. Brevitor, Bennetts, Farmers and Flat Rock for terrace units, and I understand that there is going to be development of Alleyne's Land in Bush Hall, very close to me, where I grew up. There is going to be the selling of a number of Government buildings, the funds of which will go to the National Housing Corporation and the Government is also ensuring that tenants are not being disadvantaged. It is improving the condition of houses and giving attention to drainage problems, and for the first time there is funding for a drainage unit.

Mr. President, improving housing conditions should help to improve the quality of life and help people towards a better and brighter future. Poor housing conditions are usually caused by poverty. Human beings do not normally choose to live in wretched conditions. Therefore, when there is a Government thrust it helps to improve the quality of life. One finds that communities which have been resited such as Emmerton have bettered their standard of living and their self-esteem has also risen.

I want now to mention agriculture in which I have always been interested. Because of that, I introduced agricultural science in the school which I had the privilege of heading at one time. Therefore, I was happy to see that in agriculture there has been an increase in most areas, root crops, onions, vegetables, fish and cotton and it is cotton especially which I wish to touch on briefly.

There has been a substantial increase in cotton and there is a future in cotton. Once there are proper Government policies, which I am confident that there will be, farming technology, marketing strategies and business approaches attached to this industry, the cotton industry can flourish. Mr. President, sea island cotton has a long fibre. It is smooth, soft and very durable. Admittedly, it will require continued vigilance against the possible infestation of the pink mealy bug. The name of it always intrigues me and I hear warnings about that and the pink boll worm on television and we know that that is particularly partial to malvaceous species like the hibiscus and okras.

I am very proud of my first hibiscus tree and I hope that we can keep the bug from infesting plants here, not mainly for personal reasons but for the sake of the crop. The continued investment in the research is essential. It is a considerable investment and the introduction of local weaving and spinning, the credibility of the trademark and more up-market investors should ensure its success.

Mr. President, I want to touch on an aspect of the Ministry of the Attorney General and he, too, is to be complimented on his dynamism and splendid performance; but I have noted with concern the growth of the Summervale population from 15 to 29. Some of these girls are sent there for sexual reasons, promiscuity, sleeping away from home, and some have been abused. Sending them there, Mr. President, gives them punitive treatment, but there is need for more preventative work, more community care and counselling projects and I feel that it must start with the school's social work system. Presently, there is no primary school social work system; but I am sure that the Minister with her customary energy and vision will look at this.

Then I wish to turn to education. Mr. President, there are emotional and imaginative experiences which no child should miss and one of these is the world of great literature. A child who has never read fairy tales and Anancy story or Aesop's fables is being deprived of enjoyment and moral lessons. In preparing children for a world very different from the one in which adults grew up, educators and parents have to be very certain that the spiritual and emotional needs of children are being looked after today. In fact, the more stress we place on technological advancement, the more importance we attach to earning a living, and it is necessary that children be educated for living and earning a living, the greater the counterbalance must be, especially in areas of religious education, literature, history, art, drama, music and dance.

It is through this, that I turn to libraries. Traditionally, school libraries have never been given much funding. In fact, it is more token funding and today, though there has been an increase in later times, it is still not adequate and I am referring specifically to the primary school because the secondary schools on the whole have reasonably well stocked libraries. In fact, a large number of primary schools have only reading corners very often through lack of space. Their teachers go to the library and they obtain discarded books and sometimes they make up little booklets and stories and this is all to the credit of the teachers and to their commitment, but there are still not many with libraries and this is a weakness which needs remedying. If children are to be encouraged to read, if a love of reading is to be fostered and the right attitude developed, books must be available, a variety and in large numbers.

Interestingly, some teachers have made use of a library period, turn one of their English lessons into a library period utilising any library books that the children themselves have and there is a secondary school which, following an experiment in the United States of America, has experimented with a period of uninterrupted, sustained reading when the whole school reads at the same time. The ancillary staff as well, and of course the reason for this is that the majority of people are not reading as they should. They have stopped reading and are watching television. The objective is to revive an interest in reading. At that time children are also allowed to read whatever they want in order to develop the right attitude. May I suggest that this could be tried in the primary schools, a period of uninterrupted sustained reading. A few schools have good libraries through the ingenuity of principals, staff and parents. I am not suggesting by any means that other Principals lack ingenuity but I am saying these particular schools have managed to build up libraries.

10.15 a.m.

There has also been a recommendation for resource centres, in both print and non print and through computers. There is a primary school where an attempt is being made to set up a resource centre. This proposal calls for a number of schools that would serve as regional centre and they in turn would service schools in the vicinity. It would decentralise the library service and the mobile library service. It would be ideal if each school had a library or a system which allowed access to books. This would involve cooperation, sourcing books and non print material such as videos, cassettes and the computer.

I am confident that the Ministry will deal with this but meanwhile I am sending out a plea to PTAs, Old Scholars' Associations and past students of primary schools to assist in equipping every primary school with a library. I know the value of reading. I know the importance of libraries and school libraries. I helped with the library when I was a school girl. I assisted as a teacher. I, with the assistance of another colleague started a form library at the school where I taught for many years and it has helped many a child who had difficulties with language. Mr. President, other things cannot take the place of reading. It is a very personal exercise by which one obtains information, provides enjoyment and improves linguistic skills. It also stimulates the imagination which is very important.

Lastly, Mr. President, I want to come to sport and congratulate the National Sports Council on its progress with capital programmes last year and commend them for their vision and plans for this coming year. The capital works' programme includes construction of pavilions. The one in Speightstown will start in April. There are improvements to existing pavilions. Preliminary work will be done in Bridgefield, St. Thomas. There will be major repairs to the National Stadium. There will be construction of new hard courts and resurfacing of existing ones in Church Village in St. Philip in April. The development of playing fields starting with one at Flat Rock and the resurfacing of hard courts at Dover and Bayville.

I wish particularly to laud the Sports Council for their intention to name stands and gates after outstanding sports personalities.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Senator at this time. I think it is an appropriate time to raise a motion of privilege against this Chamber. This morning I read in the papers that Senators will all sign a book on behalf of Suki King in his fight with somebody else this morning. While that may be a good token or an omen, I think one has to respect the sanctity of these buildings, the Senate and House, and we should not violate what is a long established standing without reasonable cause.

I do not know if permission was sought from you to set up a book or to assault, in my view, Senators approaching the Chamber asking them to come and sign a book. I think it is very disrespectful. I think it is against the Rules of Parliament or any Rules I have ever known. I think it is something which needs to be investigated. I am calling on you, Mr. President, to deal with the matter and find out how this could have arisen. I do not know if you have been approached. I do not know if permission was given by you but it is leading us down a very difficult and dangerous road.

Every little group will now seek to set up a book in Parliament for Parliamentarians to sign or Senators to sign, to say what? If you are in a competition and you are losing, you are losing. When you are winning, you are winning. Caribbean people have a habit of when you are winning you rejoice. I do not think that Senators should be brought into this. We come here to do a particular task and unless, in my view, it was a consensus agreement between all the Senators to do that I do not think it should be done. Nobody asked me. Nobody told me but I read it in the newspaper and I am approached coming to Parliament this morning to come and sign a book and pushing something in my hand.

If you look at the historical Rules of Parliament you cannot interfere with a parliamentarian entering or leaving Parliament for no reason whatsoever, not even the courts can do it and I do not see where this is happening and who is giving these permission.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senator has risen on a matter of privilege. It is well established that a question of privilege is a question partly of fact and partly of law, the law of Contempt of Parliament and really is a matter for the Senate to determine. Under the Standing Orders with which Senators are familiar, no debate can take place. My responsibility as President is merely to determine whether a *prima facie* case has been made out. In my judgement Senator Bolden has made a *prima facie* case and I shall therefore refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges. 10.25 a.m.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, as I was saying, next month tribute will be paid to outstanding sports personalities and various stands, velodrome and gates named after such people as, Jim Wedderburn, the only Barbadian to have won a medal at the Olympics in a combined West Indian team. Stand 'B' after Don Norville, Journalist, cricket commentator, member of the National Sports Council, Chairman of the Boxing Board of Control, the first Barbadian to be made a Member of FIFA, which is the Federation of International Football Associations.

The other Stands. There is Patsy Callender, I am sorry to say the only woman among them. She was an outstanding Barbadian athlete. At least we have one woman among us and we hope that next time honour is being paid, that there will be more women. She was a past student of the Modern High School.

There is Clarence Jemmott, another outstanding athlete, member of the Sports Council, well known in administration, cricket and football. There is Mr. Randolph Field, after whom the Velodrome will be named, and everybody knows of his contribution to cycling. Then the Entrance Gate will be named after Mr. Christie Smith who was Secretary of the Football Association. Mr. Reggie Haynes, an outstanding football player, and the recently completed pavilion at Diamond Corner in St. Peter will be named after Mr. Keith Boyce.This is indicative of a very welcome trend when we recognise our own and their contribution in sport to their country.

With those words, again, I wish to repeat that these Estimates will improve the quality of life for Barbadians and help to generate employment. I wish to congratulate the Minister of Finance and all the Ministers in their respective Ministries.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, first of all I must confess that the presentation by Senator Symmonds was a very refreshing presentation and, for me, I hope will set the tone of what we will hear today.

Late yesterday some of that was generated by the Independent Senators, whom I always feel, bring a freshness and a difference to the approach of debates in this Chamber. If you think that Senator Symmonds' contribution was welcomed, you could imagine what it was like yesterday to hear Senator Bernstein, Senator Springer *et cetera*. They were more than a breath of fresh air. They were a hurricane of fresh air.

We had been, prior to that, inundated by a crescendo of huffing and puffing from the goodly Senator Mascoll who tried valiantly, but futilely, to represent his side in any good measure. I believe we were saying it here yesterday, somewhat in jest, we were saying that he was wasting his time. When one reads the recent papers and see that his Leader said abroad that this whole exercise and I believe that he, and of course he would have to include his own Senator, was "wasting his time", then to see the context in which we ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I am sorry to interrupt you but we tend to discourage reference to newspaper reports.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: ...well it has been said it is a waste of time.

Sir, when one listens to Senator Mascoll one has to conclude that he hates good news, hates to hear that anything good happens in Barbados. He revels and rolls in bad news and I believe, as Senator Laurie would say, "like a pig loves mud." He loves bad news, he hates good news. He reminds me very much, Sir, for instance of people who walk around the world saying that the world is coming to an end on April 1, then when it does not come to an end they say if I did not tell you so, if I did not intervene on the Lord's behalf by saying so, it would have come to an end." That is Senator Mascoll. He ranged far and very wide and made very little connection with what the objective of the Estimates are.

One would have thought that he would have used the two hours accorded him in to dissect the Government's programme, to go into the nuts and bolts of Government to see whether we are doing what we are supposed to do, namely deliver services, in most instances to taxpayers or whether we are failing in our duty. But instead, he went into a dissertation of when he tried to establish a lot of obscure and half-truths, complex things which are only meant for the academics, and do not really have any relation to the price of bread, sugar, or milk or whatever.

Sir, it was nothing more than what I would consider a practice wicket, because he obviously was not dealing with the Estimates. I think that he was trying to warm up for the forthcoming Budget and therefore was trying out his lines on some of us.

To me, Sir, it all came to a head and I can judge him by last year's Estimates. There is one issue alone about which he made great store yesterday about people employed in Government service *et cetera*, and he had more dire predictions about the economy in this instance. When one remembers that last year, he actually predicted on page 262 of Hansard on the debate of March 27, 1995. "There will have to be serious look at maybe retrenching or sending home some temporary staff within the Public Service." That is what he predicted last year, Sir. We all know that it did not obtain and we can therefore treat all of his other pronouncements in that context.

I would rather, Sir, use this occasion to get, like I said, to the nuts and bolts of Government, to show what Government has done with the taxpayers' money, last time, and more importantly what we intend to do this time. I would also use the occasion to delve into some areas which were not examined in the Other Chamber in order to account for our stewardship in a very positive and straightforward manner.

Sir, as you know, this year Barbados is going to be celebrating 30 years of Independence and I am pleased to say that our allocation for Independence this year at the national level has risen. Last year the Revised Estimates showed that we had spent some $79 200 on Independence, and this year we are spending $100 000 on Independence. But even more importantly than the accustomed Independence, we are seeing a threefold increase in the sum of money being allocated to the Community Independence Celebrations.

Last year, was the initial effort, and from all reports was a highly successful undertaking. The major criticism, grudgingly given by the Other Side was, there were not enough resources. We have taken heed of their interest in that round – about manner and we have increased the sums allocated for Community Independence, raising it from $100 000 last year to $300 000. This is our 30th Anniversary of Independence and we intend to give it as great significance as possible.

People felt last year, Sir, that as a result of the inauguration of the Community of Independence Celebrations, that people were beginning, for the first time, to relate at community level, on a village level, at a district level in meaningful ways, to Independence, and that Independence was beginning to mean more to them than just watching a parade at the Garrison and probably going to a reception at Ilaro Court. I am glad to say that we have laid the ground work for that new attitude. We have already had a post mortem of last year's community Independence celebration and Parish Independence Committees have come up with some very useful and very positive and constructive suggestions and criticisms which are being taken to heart in this year's planning, for which preparation has already been undertaken. We expect that given the initial effort last year, given the response of the community at large, given the response of Barbadians overseas who have heard about it, we think that from here on Barbados' Independence will mean a great deal

more in everybody's life and we look forward to a bigger and better celebration as we mark that significant milestone of 30 years of independence.
10.35 a.m.

We have also, under Head 13, Prime Minister's Office, made allocations for the Commission on the Constitution. Much has been said about this Commission already. We already know who the Chairman is and certain decisions have been taken as to its operation and very soon an announcement will be made as to how it will be structured and how it will operate. So our Manifesto pledge to review the Constitution has not fallen to the ground.

I am sure that Senator Bernstein will be pleased to hear that there is one more thing we will do this year that we were not able to do in the first 18 months but this is another step we are taking. We know we have been doing a good job but we are not good enough that we can do everything one time.

As we continue to consider the Prime Minister's Office, you will again see in this year's Estimates another grant of $15 000 to the Barbados Association of Journalists. You will recall, Sir, that last year we took this historic step and unprecedented move in order to fulfil another Manifesto pledge of helping create a framework and an environment and a means whereby we can produce better trained journalists. I am pleased to say that last year, from all reports, the initial grant of $15 000 was readily welcomed and from reports, has been put to very constructive use by the Barbados Association of Journalists in training its members. We look forward to them doing even better things this year, safe and secure in the knowledge that Government is playing its part in their long-term future.

I would also remind, Sir, that this was done last year and it is being done again this year, with no strings attached. We have just recorded it with the signing of a document which happens whenever anybody is going to receive a cheque from Government, that it has gone to a *bona fide* organisation and they have used it the best way they can.

I am proud to say, Sir, that contrary to the predictions of the prophets of gloom and doom on the Other Side, there has been no mal use of it. It pained them, Sir, because they had never seen journalists and journalism at such a level that they could have treated them with such dignity, treating them as any other *bona fide* professionals and profession. The mere fact that it was done and they had not even thought about it far less done it, they of course had to try to begrudge us the opportunity of playing our part in development of another important aspect of Barbadian life. We know that no matter how legally free a Press is, if the members are not informed and trained in order to deal with the issues as they relate to Barbados, a society in operation at that time, they would be failing in their job.

Sir, again under the Prime Minister's Office, I would like to turn to the Government Information Service. The Government Information Service, Sir, as you know, has to provide a number of services to Government. They have been doing this in its traditional manner up to 1994. We have also pledged in our manifesto to restructure the Government Information Service and the restructuring process has begun in a number of ways. We have increased the number of staff, we have improved training, we have also tried to provide better conditions of service and better conditions for working. For example, there has been a case where the Government Information Service, for two consecutive years, had sums of money allocated for rewiring and refurbishing and air-conditioning the building and which had been allowed to lapse. We were determined that this station would not go into the third year. I am happy to report that we have been able to put that measure into action and that work has begun and is going full apace and is expected to be completed in another month or so. Meanwhile, the officers of the Government Information Service are temporarily housed at Sherbourne and operating from there while they perform their duties in servicing the Government offices and by extension the public.

Sir, in addition to that we have taken steps to provide badly needed equipment, because apart from the restructuring that is going on with regard to conditions and service and equipment and so on, we have brought a new reorientation to the Government Information Service. They have been told that they have to make some money, generate some revenue and indulge in some cost recovery, because it has been the case whereby the taxpayers' resources were spent on providing material etc. for them to do their jobs and then members of the public, whether it be individuals, or organisations or commercial houses, used to come and get pictures, videos, footage or whatever, free. We have told them this can no longer be the case, and they will have to start charging some money for this material.

In addition, they have gone out into the marketplace and have been competing with other professional public relation agencies for assignments for projects to earn money and I am pleased to say that by the time all the bills are counted they would have earned nearly $40 000 by the end of the Financial year, having done work for places like the Barbados Water Authority, The Bureau of Women's Affairs and the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation, and they are now negotiating with other agencies to provide services. They have reoriented their staff and there are persons now who actually go out and try to market the services of the Government Information Service and I am pleased to say that that pioneering effort is beginning to pay off and we look forward to increased revenue in 1996/97.

The staff of GIS have themselves set a target of $100 000 for this year. We hope that they will achieve it. In the meantime we are not only hoping, but we are giving them the means whereby they can, by providing them with up-to-date equipment, thereby allowing them to provide services which are competitive with the rest of society, so that they will hold their own against any video produced for television by CBC or any of the commercial houses. We are therefore providing in the Estimates, the sum of $150 000 for the acquisition of new equipment, cameras, microphones, more computers and therefore giving them the tools with which we expect them to do their job. I would therefore like to congratulate the Government Information Service on its indication as to the job which it can do if given the scope, the guidance and above all the means whereby it can do so.

In addition, we have also begun work to air-condition and refurbish the building the GIS currently occupies, namely the old Bay Street Boys' School. We have also started to refurbish a radio studio there because we came back into office and have found that a fire had occurred in 1986 and since then the radio studio was out of action and it had been paying CANA something between $600.00 to $1 200 a month for rental of a radio studio. We figured that this was counter productive and that in the long term it would be best if they had their own studio. The refurbishment and rebuilding of that studio is now also well on the way. I think it just needs to be sound proofed and a couple other minor aspects taken into consideration and then they will be housed in a better situation whereby they can provide an enhanced service to the public.
10.45 a.m.

If I may turn to the area of broadcasting, again under the Prime Minister's Office, the Broadcasting Authority has been given the same allocation as last year of $25 000 for its operation. I am pleased to say that this Broadcasting Authority which was established to provide for the proper management and control of broadcasting in Barbados, has begun to exert a great deal of influence on broadcasting in Barbados. It is probably regarded as the most active, vibrant and dynamic Broadcasting Authority that there has been and I am very pleased with its performance. They have played a major role in assisting the National Infocom Committee which is devising a new conceptual framework in the whole area of broadcasting and telecommunication in Barbados. They played a major role in the work of that Committee whose report is now being compiled and I suspect that very shortly will be presented to Government to provide the framework within which we can chart a new broadcasting and telecommunications policy. Because, Sir, from those who monitor this field of endeavour would know, that there is now because of the rapid change and exposure of technology in this area, very little difference, what the technical people call "convergence" between broadcasting and telecommunications. We felt that because of this new environment in which we operate we could not make certain long term decisions about radio and TV licences by using the old standards, because we could be doing the long term good of Barbados a disservice. We felt that we had to have a new policy, taking into consideration what is currently available and happening and trying to anticipate some of the future, although that is sometimes very difficult given the rapidity with which the technology changes and advances.

While talking about broadcasting, I have to take this opportunity to say a word or two about the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation which has been in existence from 1963 for radio and 1964 for television, is really on the horns of a dilemma in a sort of way. It is expected to operate as a business and at the same time provide an extremely high and costly public service to Barbados. The new Board and Management have buckled down to their task with pace and I am pleased to say that already certain positive developments and certain positive changes have emerged and are establishing themselves. But they are not resting on their laurels and are not being complacent. For example, as an indication of the responsiveness of the Board and Management, they have already begun to put matters in place for means of coping with what is seen to be the competition that will come from direct TV which is supposed to go into service later on this year. Because of that approach to be competitive and aggressive, the new Board of Management has opted for what is known as a multi-point distribution service. It is basically a cableless TV service and it is expected that when everything is completed it will be in operation in a matter of 9 months as against say 10 to 24 months which would be the case with cable. I think that this has been said already, but I would like to repeat it.

There will be some 30 additional channels and the preliminary indications are that it will cost approximately 8 million Bds. dollars to put in place. We expect that it will become available by September this year if everything goes according to plan. With the coming of the multi-point distribution service (MMDS), this will also bring greater focus on Channel 8. We realize that, even though we may be getting this multiplicity of channels from abroad and seeing virtually all of the world at your finger tips, you still need to be able to see and hear yourself. We are convinced that there will still be a very positive stronghold for Channel 8. As a matter of fact, the advertising fraternity which has a vested interest in it, has already indicated that it is strongly in support of retaining a Channel 8. It is not going to roll over and play dead and succumb to the blandishments of direct TV *et cetera*. CBC has taken up the mandate of increasing its provision of local programming to Barbados and we expect that by the end of 1996 local programming would have moved from 17 per cent to approximately 30 per cent. The goal is to have 60 per cent either from Barbadian sources

or from local and regional sources. We will make sure that Barbadians can see themselves and can know what is happening both in their community and in the region and this will also provide ourselves with means whereby we can project ourselves into the wider world, whereby it will be a two-way flow of information. We will not just be consumers but we will also be producers and providers.

Sir, we have not only been looking at programming but we have taken decisions to improve management by hiring, wherever possible, highly qualified professional people who want to be committed to the betterment of Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. This is beginning to pay off and I think that it is a tribute to the new era and atmosphere at CBC that people are willing to give up jobs in Government, say the Government Information Service, to come and work at CBC. At one time it was virtually impossible to hire people of a certain calibre with certain professional background qualifications to work at CBC, because they felt that the atmosphere there was not conducive to their functioning in their best light. Now we are finding people, like I said, leaving GIS. There is one person who has given up his job at a major Barbadian business house, Simpson Motors, to become the marketing manager of CBC. I think these are tangible manifestations of the new confidence that they have in CBC. This is being manifested too in the bottom line. While I may be praising the Board and staff for its great work, I do not intend to ignore the fact that as a business CBC has to make money. As a commercial operation, it is supposed to make money. I am pleased to say that from all indications CBC would have made a profit of some $1.4 million for 1995. It is the first time in a long time. I cannot remember how many years since it is that CBC has made a profit. I think that given the need for people to make money and given the need for the public to see that the money is being well spent and well managed, that this is a tribute and compliment to the management and staff of CBC and its new Board. I take my hat off to them. They have done it without too much fanfare and with at all times seeking to avoid controversy if possible by being fair and even handed and by trying to give the public value for its money. I am sure the Corporation in due time will give full details of that financial performance, but I think that it is something of which they can be justly proud and we look forward to going on to bigger and better things as the months and years go by.

Sir, I would also like to get a little more into the traditional Government departments some of which come under the purview of the Prime Minister's Office. One area with which I am also exceedingly pleased, is the Data Processing Department which has over the years given yeoman service.
10.55 a.m.

It is one of those unsung heroes of Government departments in Barbados. While these might not have the highest of profiles, they nevertheless give a very sterling performance day by day in achieving the overall goal of helping the civil service to function more effectively and efficiently through the use of appropriate computerised application in the processing and managing of information.

This Department is also on a revenue generating path. It has been given a remit to make some money, also to indulge in cost recovery, and in addition to their traditional way of providing training, computerised services and consultancies to Government Departments, they are also out to make money and I understand they just won a contract with the National Insurance Department to computerise that Department to the tune of $200 000.

That is the kind of quiet revolution, that is the kind of reform that is taking place within the public service. While we do the grand – as the economists would say, the macro-economic picture, we are also paying attention to the micro picture and the day by day operations of Government Departments. In addition to making money, the Data Processing Department is also going to have an expanded role over the years in providing computer training for officers of the Government.

As you will recall, Sir, Government has given a pledge to have the entire public service computerised and computer literate within five years. We started last year with a sum of $100 000, which was basically handled by the Training Division, to provide computer training for public officers. It was essentially a learning experience and we have learnt some lessons from it. We feel that while some 350 workers would have been trained, using that method, not by the Training Division itself but with the Training Division being the agent who contracted services to BIMAP, we need to accelerate the service. Having learned some lessons from that experience, we are going to be providing $200 000 for the Data Processing Department to set up a computer lab which will assist considerably in providing training for public officers.

We believe there are certain advantages to be had from this approach, both for the long-term and short-term benefits of the public service. We think it would be most cost effective, because at 350 people for $100 000 it would take a very long time to achieve our objective and we are lighting some fire under the process in order to get more done as quickly as possible.

This computer lab, which will be managed by the Data Processing Department, is going to provide greater flexibility in the schedule of training programme both as regard the course offered and the times available for training. Under the previous approach we were fitting into the schedule of the commercial world. We felt that by doing it this way, using the professionalism

and the established expertise of a *bona fide* department, we could make it more flexible to accommodate officers, not all of whom can attend at particular times, who might need to go and get training on weekends or late in the day. We anticipate that there are people who would be willing to go until about 10 o'clock at night in order to make sure that they get trained in computers. It means then that the facilities being provided in the computer lab will be more readily available and we anticipate too that it will become a training centre for the development of IT skills for public workers and the wider public sector. We think then that this is going to go a long way in boosting both the performance and the revenues of that Department, while at the same time assisting Government in achieving its objective of computerising the public service and making the public service computer literate within a specified period of time.

Another department, Sir, which I think, just like the Data Processing Department, is another unsung hero, is the Government Printing Department. The Government Printing Department is one of those places which is taken for granted in the printing of legislation, in the printing of Hansard for both Houses of Parliament, as well as printing and publishing the *Official Gazette* and providing other related services to Government Departments. This Department, which will be 40 years next year – it would have been in operation since 1958 – and I must say for my younger friends I have to indulge in a lesson in political history, that the Printer is another Barbados Labour Party initiative in one of our earlier regimes, which has stood the test of time and has lived to show its usefulness, as has happened to the building next door, Government Headquarters, which was officially opened on March 28, 1956, 40 years ago, and which has stood the test of time architecturally, functionally, *et cetera.*

I have had close association with the Government Printing Department, especially on emergency issues. Matters like the sudden death of our late Governor-General. They responded readily in providing all kinds of printing services to give the occasion the dignity and to treat it with the stately calibre it deserved. They continue to do a good job, although they have some equipment which is not the most modern, and we are in the process of moving towards providing them with more up-to-date equipment in order to make them too come of age and be able to rub shoulders competitively. They envision themselves as being able to compete with the rest of the printing world in the local printing market for business, and in this regard they are seeking to boost their revenue generation next year from $648 000 to at least $732 000 and they are in the process of formulating plans to market themselves more.

When they produce books there is a lot of material which they cut on the guillotine which they nowadays throw out. They are going to be using that same material to print wedding invitations, business cards, booklets, *et cetera*, and they are beginning to market themselves. They have already begun to earn some revenue from that approach and are well on the way to boosting Government's revenue while reinforcing their usefulness in the skills they use and provide.

I mentioned that they are going to be 40 years old next year and they are going to be planning a programme of activities to highlight this. But as a kind of precursor to that this year, in May, they are going to be having their first Open Day where a programme of activities has been drawn up. It is going to include the first Government Printer in 1958, no less than one of our most distinguished public servants, Sir Carlisle Burton, who is going to be playing a part in the celebrations, designed to provide greater awareness of their existence and operations and to let the public know that they are here, that they are serious and they are here to make money.

As one small indication of how they intend to market themselves to the public, they are obtaining a sign to be put on the front road, as they say, right on Bay Street to let people know that they exist. A lot of people hear about them but do not know where they are. They are having a sign to say: "We are here, this is where we operate from, come and see us, we have goods to sell you, we have an excellent service to provide." That again is part of the momentum that is being generated in Government. I am sure that Town Planning will take everything into consideration in that regard.
11.05 a.m.

Sir, that is a rundown of some of the government departments. While dealing with the nuts and bolts, I have also to talk about the Training Division which I said has done a yeoman job in providing training for the public service in general. The Personnel Administration Department has confronted and tackled a task and an old sore point for public servants among its regular and routine duties. The question of protracted acting appointments in positions and, as I have said before and as is well known, that department has set up a specialised unit to deal exclusively with the appointments of people who have been acting for 10 – 20 years and that is also proceeding apace.

I am also pleased to announce that they have been brought into the 20th century with the acquisition of a number of computers which will go a long way towards eliminating some of the delays they currently experience in providing letters of appointment, basic correspondence to the public or to government departments. Because up to recently, if they had to appoint 60 security guards, each letter had to be typed manually, saying basically the same thing, except for a different name and address and then it had to be done in triplicate and that would take a long time in order to get those basic things done. Now they

are going to do it by computer. They have been computerised as part of the reform effort to speed up that process to deal with an area of contention and dissatisfaction and that has been met with a great deal of appreciation both from the public workers affected themselves and also from their representatives.

Sir, in addition, I also would like to give a report on the performance of the Ministry of the Civil Service which, as you know, engages in a number of activities, conditions of service for public servants, negotiation of wages and salaries. I must say that from the way they have operated and I know, for they have told me that they have had very tough sessions with the trade unions in negotiating the current agreement in giving the public workers their first increase since 1991 after they so rudely suffered the humiliation and the financial loss of wages, the 8% pay cut etc.

I double checked with the people who were engaged in negotiations to see whether there was any indication at all of any selling out and I am pleased to report that contrary to all the misinformation being bandied about and the accusations being leveled about the trade unions, that the trade unions from their performance in those negotiation sessions remain a very honourable institution which, while looking for the best deal possible for their members, are at the same time cognisant and appreciative of the fact that they too are Barbadians and they have to look at the big picture, the overall good of Barbados.

It therefore really pains me to see people being pilloried unnecessarily and unjustifiably for narrow political reasons, but I am sure that it will all come out in the wash and that when people are present to represent themselves they will give more than a good account of themselves in that respect.

I would also like to make reference, while it is not my substantive area of involvement on a day-to-day basis, to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, one of the most contentious areas in recent times in Barbados, and in so doing I am paving a way for Senator Rickinson who will deal with her life's calling, nurses, etc.

Up until some weeks ago the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was to a large extent like what is said about the English weather – "everybody talks about it but nobody does anything about it." They complain bitterly about how it is damp, it is always raining and drizzling but nobody has done anything about the English weather. That was largely the context in which the Queen Elizabeth Hospital operated until a few weeks ago when decisive steps were taken to change the approach, because we did not want to see the Queen Elizabeth Hospital turn into a St. Joseph Hospital.

Therefore, we have taken steps as well known and largely welcomed by the majority of society, except for people who for their own interest are trying to undermine the desirability of the whole effort or would rather see things keep happening as they were if only to have things to talk about and pot shots to take.

Sir, some of the thinking of this Party has been described from time to time as ambitious or over ambitious but to paraphrase an author – I forget who it was – who said "Some people see things as they are and they ask why. We see things as they ought to be and we ask why not." That is how we approach the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We were not prepared to take it as a humbug, as a handicap. We have tackled it with resolution. We have tackled it with imagination and we have put an interim management team in place and from all reports they have settled down admirably to their task.

As you know, Sir, the interim management team is mandated to review all of the operations of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and will have to present Cabinet with an interim report after the first month of its assignment. That first month is almost completed and I am sure that Cabinet will soon be getting that report, quite unlike the difficulty we had in getting management reports from the prior management. I think we got one report and the quality was so poor it was basically an historical treatise on the Hospital, how it started, how many departments it has, nothing to do with the problems, with identifying the problems and telling us how we are going to tackle them.

There was one report which was substandard and then one more trickled in. They were basically not up to scratch. It has been mandated by Cabinet to carry out a third assessment of the function of the institution with a view to its restructuring and upgrading it for greater efficiency and effectiveness. The interim management team is also expected to assist, where necessary, in implementing recommendations when agreed to by Government.

This team, as I said, has gone in the hospital and has begun to work. It has met with staff. It has sought quite intelligently, I think, as one of its first measure to allay the fears of workers at all levels, whether it is the professional staff, whether the maids, about the intentions of the operations of the new management team. They have held a number of meetings with such groups as the matron and senior staff, the medical staff committee, heads of all departments, the chief pharmacist, the chief supplies officer, the president of the junior doctors' association.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has a staff of some 2 000 members and while it is understood that not everybody could attend every meeting, there was a large turnout at each meeting. There were two general

staff meetings for example at which the attendance exceeded more than 400 people on each occasion. In addition, the team has also met with the staff of the engineering department which we found to be an entirely scandalous situation and the laundry staff, two key areas of the hospital which have been the source of many complaints over the years. So they are going right to the problem areas. They talk to people and try to explain themselves, discuss and get ideas and suggestions from people. They are not imposing solutions from on high. They are going in there and dirtying their hands doing the job in order to make sure that they do as effective a job as possible.

The team has also toured many areas of the Hospital, including the grounds. Everybody knows the grounds are an eyesore, to say the least. For example, at one time – and this is one of my favourite stories about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which to me epitomises the kind of management that had existed before, I had been Acting Minister of Health and I drove by and saw that the lawns needed cutting, the fences needed trimming, a lot of vines were all over the fences. I called the management of the Hospital and said, "Excuse me but I drove by, and are you aware of the unkempt state of the Hospital?"

I was told, "Really! I will have to make a tour."

I said, "But you don't have to tour the Hospital to see something. All you have to do is to open your eyes as you drive in and you will see it." I enquired, "What is the problem? Don't you have a maintenance team?"

He said, "Yes. But it is a question of manpower and equipment."

I said, "But you have money."

I was told, "Yes."

I said, "Why don't you hire the National Conservation Commission or somebody like that to provide the manpower and the equipment to do the job of cleaning up around the Hospital and then you will have no problem."

"You know, I never thought of that."

So that is the kind of turgid – you don't know what that means – dark and deep and complex and thick thinking that you had to wade through in order to deal with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I presume you are not referring to the Chair.

11.15 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, the team has also visited the Emergency Ambulance Service, another sore point. I must talk about the Emergency Ambulance Service. I was also again acting Minister of Health and there was a case where there was a story in the paper that four ambulances could not go on the road. I called and asked what was the problem. The problem was that the four ambulances needed oil and some Supervisor refused to sign the requisition to get the oil and the Management of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital found it virtually impossible to tackle that Supervisor to get him to sign a requisition form so that four ambulances could get oil and therefore they could function. That is the kind of situation we inherited which this team now had to tackle, it is really that simple. It has happened. I heard it myself. I was part of it. We intend to put an end to that kind of thing.

The team has already identified certain critical areas for which action is needed almost immediately. The team has identified problems in relation to, for example: –

- an absence of proper systems of planning and accountability;
- the lack of proper maintenance programmes for plant and equipment;
- lack of an integrated information system in an institution as large as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital;
- the ordering of procurement and equipment and materials without prior official authorisation on the part of various groups of workers;
- the absence of a proper billing system for persons who have used the services of the institution which now results in great loss of revenue.

They had no approach to recovering money. If somebody was billing you and getting the money from you it was supposed to happen. I have heard of people who ran them down saying "I have money to pay you. Where do I pay? How do I pay this?" The reply was, "we will get to you. Do not worry about it." It is unbelievable, but that is the kind of thing that obtained there as the norm.

I continue with the discovered problem areas:

- the existence of practices on the part of various groups of workers at the institution which are inimicable to the interest of the patient, the institution and the public at large;
- the allocation of space and *ad hoc* development of departments and in some departments hours

of work which do not take into account the fact that the institution works on a 24-hour basis. For example, there is a system where the laundry works Monday to Friday, so you have a situation where an institution would need linen, *et cetera* around the clock, 24 hours a day and Monday to Friday was how they worked.

One result of that was that there was a great loss of materials because items which were stained or which could easily have been rectified and remedied by being laundered readily and quickly, by having to stay cover the weekend meant that they were badly stained and damaged and had to be thrown out meaning more wastage, more of the taxpayers' money going down the drain. Unbelievable, but it is true.

What is most important, Sir, they also discovered the presence of a great deal of disharmony within and between the various groups of workers in the institution, thereby creating problems for human resource management and human relations.

In a health care institution, without trying to trespass on the expertise of the Honourable Senator Rickinson, I believe a hospital is an institution where everybody needs everybody. It is such a tightly knit group where each group is so heavily dependent on the other that it is almost like administering the wrong medicine if that coordination and cohesion are to be denied, destroyed, or fractured through bad human relations, jealousies and bad interpersonal relationships. It defeats the whole purpose of the institution. That is something which the team members are also tackling quite readily.

Sir, if we thought that we had heard all there was to hear about wastage, let me give an example of the ordering and procurement of equipment and materials that we were just talking about. The team discovered an elevator which was purchased more than five years ago in 1990 laid out in the various parts across the lawn at the entrance to the western side of the Hospital. For those who do not believe it, I have some pictures which show the elevator purchased in 1990 in a disassembled state spread and strewn all over the grounds.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I presume you are making that a document of this House.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: With great delight, Sir. The elevator costs some $187 750 and there was actually a contract drawn up for its installation. But listen to this, Sir. The shaft into which the elevator should have gone was found to be boarded up when the team visited there. Let us go back now. Let us look at the chronology. It was bought five years ago in 1990 and the shaft has been five years in non use and boarded up. I am left to wonder therefore whether anybody intended using that elevator.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, that is only bettered by the infamous case of airconditioning units at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where a whole container – I am sure you know, Sir, what is a container. Can you imagine a container of airconditioning units at the Port? When the needs of the Hospital were examined there was only room for 15 of that type of airconditioning units. Meanwhile, those units would have come into the country duty free because it is a public institution and somebody obviously had plans to sell them across the country. If we thought that the St. Joseph Hospital was bad, it was not the only bad thing. There is a lot more to come.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: As to the St. Joseph Hospital, those who think they are resting easy, those who are pomposetting and feeling that this Government is a blowhard on these matters, have another thought coming. Tell your colleagues that those whose hands have been caught in the cookie jar they will have to be examined because the process is well underway for the establishment of that committee which will have judicial powers of enquiry. It is not going to be a committee where you just come and make *pro forma* statements, routine statements and all the like. It is going to be calling people to account in the most strenuous manner. I would like to assure this Honourable Chamber, Mr. President, and also the general public that the issue of the St. Joseph Hospital is not a dead issue. Far from it, but that is coming. We have a multiplicity of things to do and that, to me, will have to be put in its proper context.

Sir, I have heard, particularly from the Independent Members on the other side some useful suggestions, some very pertinent queries, some interesting observations and also some interesting criticisms, even if not all well-informed but, at least, they were interesting and they showed they were thinking and monitoring the situation. They were concerned and were not taking a hands-off attitude toward the operation of Government.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am sure that when good things are said about education I praise them. If things are said about health, agriculture *et cetera* I praise them. So those people who do not want to be praised because they are uncomfortable and not accustomed to being praised, too bad, but I can only be as magnanimous as I can by nature.

I can only say, Sir, as I think I am running out of time now, that I must come home on Senator Mascoll and his party. What we have been indulging in here over the last day could be seen as an exercise in futility or wasting time, when one considers the grandstanding that has gone on by the DLP with the macro-picture without trying to tackle the bread and butter issues for people how they live, what kinds of goods and services we are providing them as a Government. The only way I can try to compare these two parties, the official Opposition and this great party, the governing party, is to describe them as – people who are familiar with the Barbadian parlance and the Barbadian culture would know what is a "paling cock". That is a paling cock party. A paling cock in Barbadian culture gets up on the paling and keeps nuff noise. It puts its chest up in the air, beats its chest and throws up its feathers, but it is not going down in the yard with the hens at all. It does not do its job. So they are a paling cock party. They keep nuff noise. They grandstand but we are the faithful roosters who are doing the duty as mandated to us by the public.

We are pleased to report that we have begun our task. We are beginning to tackle our tasks with resolution. It is amazing, Sir, that as noted an economist as Senator Mascoll has talked about all the most obscure, complex, abstruse and all kinds of issues and factors in economics, but one word he never mentioned was confidence. All yesterday, for two hours, the major ingredient, as a non economist, as a "stand pipe" economist, I am going to have to give him a lesson. What Senator Mascoll failed to do because I have been schooled in economics in the good university of life, apart from a basic course at university, that he never once dealt with most crucial ...
11.25 a.m.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: You do not get in this. This is high stuff. The point is that anybody knows, Senator Bernstein knows, particularly, as a day by day businessman, knows the importance of confidence in the economy. And one thing you cannot deny, Sir, or deny with any sense of rectitude, is the confidence that has been restored to the economy and other levels of administration. As a result, things are coming back on stream. Barbados is on the rebound, and as I said, you do not like the good news but those are the facts.

With those remarks, Sir, I give my fullest support to this Appropriation Bill and express the confidence that my reasonable and rational colleagues will do the same.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would like to start off where Senator Murray ended by talking a little bit about the actions to be taken about past problems. Last year in the Estimates debates, I ended the Estimates debate by calling for something to be done about these infelicities that we heard occurred in the past, and we have now come a whole year and we still have not seen anything happen. We saw a Commission appointed and there were some objections and then the whole thing just seemed to fritter out. I really hope that we are going to get down to solving the problem.

I am sorry to see that Senator Barker is leaving because I would have liked to have mentioned his, apparent, Government policy of *"festina lente"* or hurry slowly? I would just beg the Government take the "slowly" out and "hurry," hurry. Let us do some things. There are so many things that are left to be done that still have not been done. We will continue to hear that excuse of only six months, only one year, only eighteen months and I think it has worn thin now. I will like to see some action.

Before I start talking primarily on agriculture, it came out of my concern about the Ministry of Agriculture and some over employment, I would say. I had a look at the Estimates and I did a mathematical analysis and I came up against a very strange thing. In about six of the major Ministries, the percentage of statutory staff to non-statutory staff is about 25.3% for six of the major Ministries.

Then we have three Ministries who have, in the case of Public Works, 71%, in the case of Agriculture 57% and in the case of Health 40%. Seventy-one percent and 57% of the staff are non-statutory, that is, there are listed as substitutes, there are listed as casual staff, as unestablished staff, as temporary staff and as public employees. I am not too sure what Public Employees means. There are a lot of obscurities in this area. There is no need to say the actual numbers of employees, so we do not have any idea how many people are employed in these very loosely defined no statutory staff positions.

I looked at the Ministry of Agriculture to see if I could zero in on the Ministry to see where this confusion occurs such as in the crop section, in the field side, it is something like 92% of the employees dealing with crops, are non-established or temporary or one of the other names for employees.

In the workshop there is about 89%. In the Scotland area, 87% of the workers are unestablished, and so on. In the Markets there are 70.5%, including something called "17 keepers." Now I do not know if they keep noise, they keep quiet, whatever it is they do I still am to find out what exactly is a "keeper," but we spent $284 064 on these 17 keepers and it concerns me.

In the Scotland District, I would like to touch on that while I am passing. We spend about $5 million a year, and over the last 30 years or so, we have spent probably several hundred million dollars in that district and

it really has had little impact. We spend $5 million a year. And nearly $4 million of that $5 million is spent on wages and at the end of the day what have we accomplished? Are we creating employment for people? This is what this appears to me to be.

It appears to me that we have come to this situation where, in these particular Ministries, there are lots of employees that are there for no reason. I know what happened in the case of the Ministry of Agriculture – the Ministry of Agriculture rationalised the situation by closing down the out stations, Groves, Bullens, Home and all these other places. They closed them all down.

Did they lay off people? No, Sir. These people report for work at Graeme Hall on mornings, sit and do nothing. They are paid and not only are they paid, but this affects the other people who have to work there, it reduces the staff morale. It is a very serious problem. The Variety Cane Testing Station was closed down over two years ago. Those people are still sitting waiting for somebody to tell them to do something.

All these people sitting around in Graeme Hall doing what? The staff people there who wish to work are put off by this group of idlers sitting around. I know it is a problem. What are we going to do with them? They were originally employed to do something particular but the stations are closed and they should be laid off. We cannot continue along these lines.

I was hypothesising the other day talking to some grower from on top of a hill, about this question of unemployment, what is the position with it? What he said was that when a Government in power realises it is going to change and the other Government was coming in, or perhaps will come in, saying "Jobs is number one." What did this Government which was going out do?

The obvious thing to do is to employ as many people as possible, fill all the vacancies, over fill, over employ so that when the new Government comes in it is very embarrassed because they said their No. 1 job, we are going to create jobs, and now they find themselves having to downsize, which is what the previous government should have done.

As soon as they came in and realised the situation was that the ranks had been swelled, temporarily, some of these things happening like two weeks before Elections, what should they have done? They should have rightsized. They found themselves in a very embarrassing situation. They cannot downsize because their own policy is to create 30 000 jobs. It really means that they were caught between a rock and hard place. This is a very serious thing and it has become such a political issue. Is it possible that we could have some bipartisan arrangement whereby the political parties would sit down and really address this problem? I believe that this surplus labour can be usefully employed particularly in small scale agriculture.

I have been looking at the Scotland District and I examined the Scotland Beef Project, that was funded by the Peter Moore's Trust. They have taken a large number of small farmers, in a very small area, and put their cattle onto improved pasture and this project is working. It is a bit small and the economies of size say that you need at least 600 acres, and this project is just over 200 acres at present and be expanded, when we ran the figures on the economies it looked like from the small farmer's point of view he would get about a 20% return on his money, which is considerably better than putting it in the savings bank.

11.35 a.m.

We have areas at Turners Hall, Sedge Pond, Bawden and River, and Greenland. There are huge areas there. There is some cane on it but most of the area is in bush. It has been abandoned. It is being grazed right now by any and everybody an unimproved pastures, very poor productivity, poor management, because one thing the Scotland Beef Project has done is to show people the advantages of good management, good rotation of pastures, removal of ticks and removal of worms and so on. This is why we have seen these farmers benefitting. We have an opportunity to take this land that is lying idle down there and do a real rural development scheme on this area and let us get something.

Now, I would like to touch on the incentives department in the Ministry of Agriculture. This department has been given money for incentives to farmers. 78% of this goes to sugar cane farmers and again I wish to stress that there is, in my opinion, a terrific imbalance between sugar and the rest of Agriculture. The Government policy has been to restart the sugar industry and I would like to publicly congratulate the Government, both the previous Government and this Government, on their success in this area. This Government is making a very good success of it. We are having one of the best crops in years, thanks to the rain primarily but also to good policy and good management but non-sugar agriculture is only getting 22% of all the incentives given. But this department that is giving the incentives in the Ministry of Agriculture is terribly understaffed. We have got other departments in there that are grossly overstaffed. Farmers go there and it takes literally months and sometimes as much as a year to access an incentive that has been given by the Prime Minister in his budget to encourage farmers to produce.

The large farmers have so many advantages already over the small farmers for example let us take the case of diesel for farm vehicles. The large farmers in

most cases have a diesel tank. They get all their vehicles full of duty free diesel. The small farmers do not have that facility and we have been asking, through Customs, for months and months, how can we access this diesel. They are talking about putting dye in it and doing various other things but they raised the question when we talked to Customs saying this is for farm vehicles working in the field only. So we came up with this idea that we would have to get a tractor and put two tanks on it and have one for the field and one for the road and we have a little platform at the back and the Customs Officer stands there and when we come out of the field we switch it over to the road. That is ridiculous, nonsense. So we have to address these things and we have to get Customs to start thinking.

Customs and those guys in the Ministry of Finance who deal with any of these incentives they seem to think that their whole job is not to do what the political directorate says, that is to give it as an incentive, they seem to think that they are policemen.

One guy told me he knows of a case where a farmer was abusing the system. I said, give me the name, I personally will go and see the Director of Public Prosecutions and see this man gets locked up because I do not see why 99% of the farmers must suffer because 1% are crooks. If they find something wrong do something about it. I challenged him to do that and of course he backed off and said he did not want to get involved and so on. It is bad that farmers are made to suffer because of a few bad guys.

We are talking about the allocation of incentives. The Barbados Agricultural Society, under the Democratic Labour Party Government, had a subvention of $240 000. This was reduced during the time of economic problems down to $40 000 and I understand that in the wisdom of this Government it is going to be reduced from $40 000 to $30 000 which is like less than one-tenth of 1% of the vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and I was told by somebody in the Ministry, if you criticise the Ministry you will lose it all. So I guess we will lose it all.

We have a policy of rapprochement with the Ministry and we are doing our best to see what we can do to help them because many of them, as civil servants, have not got a voice and there are some very good people in that Ministry, no doubt about it but there are also some, and I unfortunately think, the majority, who are not very competent.

I would like to move on then to one of my favourite subjects, the loss of land from agriculture and to reiterate what I have said before that between 1961 and 1995 we have lost some 38 400 acres of good agricultural land and we only have about 40 000 acres left. If this goes on, 40 years from now our children will not have any land on which to grow their fresh vegetables and raise their meat. We will be in a position of feeding ourselves by imports only.

There is really no need for this. There is still a large amount of rab land that is available out there that has never been in agriculture. It has been in sour grass, pasture or bush. There is some 9 000 acres in gullies and with some innovative approaches this can be used for housing and recreational purposes. I think you could make an extremely interesting golf course, using the gully system. You do not want to use good land for that.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I said if you were innovative you can find ways of doing all of these things.

I would like to move on then to trade liberalisation. I was very, very pleased to see that we got some support from certain very important people both in the House and outside who spoke out in support of the farming community and expressed real concern about the effect of this free trade from CARICOM initially and down the road from extra-regional imports in the not too distant future.

The slide from CARICOM has already started. We had importations of milk from Trinidad. This milk was subsidized by the Government of Trinidad directly to the farmer and we made representations to Government and Government did react very positively by promising to level the playing field as far as the direct subsidies to the farmers was concerned, but that is not the only problem. There were also products coming in here made from subsidized powdered milk and I do not think we have got that problem solved as yet. We need to do something about that. Most importantly we have to re-renegotiate a protocol to deal with this imbalance caused by the devaluation of the currencies of our major trading partners within CARICOM.

In Europe there is something called the green Ecu and the Ecu being a European currency or more correctly it is a basket of currencies covering all the members of the European Union. But in terms of agricultural trade they use a special currency called the green Ecu which is based on the relative value of the currency so that those people who have done great evaluation cannot take advantage of that against the other people. This is what is happening in the Caribbean. Barbados and the OECS countries have not devalued and they are at a great disadvantage to countries like Guyana and Jamaica and Trinidad.

I think it is agreed by both political parties and for once they do agree on something that we should not devalue the Barbados currency that we should keep the parity with the US dollar static. While this may be

in the national good it certainly is not to the advantage of agriculture. The most of the inputs into agriculture are local. They are not imported. A devaluation in effect would make us more competitive in the outside markets and make us more competitive against imports. If we are not to devalue then I think Government must understand that we have to get some special support and other Governments in other parts of the world do this. They understand that in the national good they do not want to devalue and therefore they give subsidies to agriculture. No worry about this world trade thing and do not worry about GATT and all of that. None of these countries are going to ever remove those subsidies from agriculture. It is not happening now and in NAFTA, we see every day from the Canadian newspapers clippings which I have passed on to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, showing the problems that Canadians are having and I am sure that if we went to Mexico we would see even greater problems. Therefore, what I am saying is that we have to address this problem very seriously.
11.45 a.m.

I would like to talk here about sugar. I have been hearing this call for using locally produced sugar on the local market. This in my opinion does not make economic sense at all. If we can continue to buy sugar on the world market and sell it here locally for $1000 per tonne more than what it costs or about $800 per tonne more than what we can get for equivalent exports, it makes sense to import because we would be making $16 million in profit from this importation approximately. Now if that $16 million were taken and used as a direct subsidy to the sugar industry rather than a cess being put on imports. Look, the previous Government started it, so you do not have to feel embarrassed about it but it is basically wrong. You are putting a cess on imports which is taking all the cream off the top and goes to the Consolidated Fund. It is not going to the sugar industry. Then we have to guarantee I think $40 million which we passed a Bill a year or more ago guaranteeing a $40 million loan to the sugar industry. If the cess would have been given to the sugar industry, there would have been no need for any support whatsoever. Furthermore, they would have money not only to repay loans but to have money to expand the sugar industry. They would have money to rehabilitate the sugar factories which are in dire need. We have seen more breakdowns in the sugar factories in the first few weeks of crop than normal and this is because we have not been able to spend the necessary money. There was no money to spend in the sugar factories. The maintenance has gone down and therefore we need to spend considerable sums of money to bring them up-to-date.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Well, I understood that the Government had acquired the sugar industry without actually having to pay for it.

I would like now to touch on this question of imported sugar and to clear up something that is quite wrong. I saw a remark in the newspaper the other day about the quality of the Guatemalan sugar. I myself have acted as a consultant in the Guatemalan sugar industry so I am personally aware of the situation in the sugar factories in Guatemala. The sugar factories in Guatemala are of a much higher standard than anything in Barbados. They produce refined sugar in Guatemala and we do not do that here. So it is quite wrong for people to just say that that sugar that came in here was very high fibre and had all sorts of things in it. We are not even sure whether that sugar originated in Guatemala. It was supposedly so. Where did this sugar come from? Was it Guatemalan sugar and, if it was Guatemalan sugar, was it sugar destined for direct human consumption? We ship sugar using a bulldozer and people walk all over it. But that does not mean that it is not going to be used for direct consumption. It is going to be further refined. So if you ship sugar for refining, the standards are entirely different than if you are shipping sugar for direct consumption. What the Guatemalans are saying: (a) Does this sugar really come from Guatemala and (b) Was it really sugar for direct consumption? I think that I would like to support the Guatemalans on this because I suspect it was something funny, peculiar here.

What was this story about the importation of the Guatemalan sugar in the first place? Nobody seems to be very clear. I heard all kinds of accusations about PSI International and all kinds of people who went from here up there and picked up $250 000 and then got fired. There was a whole mess. There were local companies involved and overseas companies involved in Texas and all sorts of things. Yet, nobody has appointed a Commission of Inquiry as to who made the profits from that sugar in the first place.

One of the problems facing the small farmer in the sugar industry is transport. They are having great difficulties. I have been out there talking with small farmers on the weekends and they are having great problems with transport. I think that we must call on the BAMC to assist these small farmers in this transport problem. Right now they are using small owners of trucks with one truck. When this man goes with his truck to the sugar factory, he has to get in a queue and quite often he will spend half the day in the queue before he can discharge the load and go back. The result is that his cost is very high. What we need is some kind of tractor-trailer system where the tractor will take the trailer from the small farmer to the factory and off-load it and leave it there and then the factory's tractor would actually put it

through the waiting system and the empty trailer will go back out and stay in the field. That would mean that we could have empty trailers on six farms in an area while they are being loaded and then they pick it up and bring it back. It is not difficult to organize. It has been done in other parts of the world and I think that it is something that we must do here.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would like to refer to the Sugar Industry Act, Cap. 270 particularly with the Schedule dealing with the appointment of the Research and Development Committee. Under this Schedule, some 1.2 per cent of the proceeds of the sugar industry every year must be deposited with the Accountant General. Now we had an Auditor General's Report laid in Parliament last week I think it was where the Auditor General pointed out that the ex-factory proceeds for the years 1991, 1992 and 1993 were not paid to the Accountant General as laid down in Section 4(2) of the Act. In other words, the Auditor General was saying and it was brought to our attention in the Senate that this was a gross breach of the law that for 3 years nothing was done. This was the time when we had the Receiver in charge and I do not know what is the position with that. It seems like it is another of these things that is hung up in the Law Courts who really should have *"festina lente"* engraved at the top of all of these Law Courts. Because if anything moves slowly it is them. However, under this Act a Research and Development Committee has to be appointed by the Minister of Finance. The present Minister of Finance was for a couple of years a member of this Committee.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am having some difficulty in hearing the Honourable Senator. Order, please.
11.55 a.m.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: This Committee has not been appointed for the last three years. It was appointed for three years and lapsed after that. The Research and Development Fund has funds in it deposited last year by BAMC. They have been following the law, which specifically says that these funds cannot be disbursed other than by the Committee. Only the Committee has the power to disburse them, so we have funds locked up in there, I am not sure how much, but it is probably $700 000. It used to be about $1 million in the old days. In addition, there is a scholarship fund which came out of a deposit way back in the days of the Price Stabilisation Fund and that has accrued interest to the tune of $100 000 which is to be used, again at the discretion of this Committee, for training.

There is a dire need in the sugar industry for training. We have a lot of people who retired last year and will be in this year and next year. We still have a lot of people over 65 years of age who are working in the industry because we have nobody to replace them. Thank goodness, we have for the first time four graduates working in the sugar industry, two of whom are Barbados Scholars. I think this is the most wonderful news, that at long last young people have some feeling of security in the future of the sugar industry. We have two Barbados Scholars, both ladies, working there and I have had the privilege over the last few weeks of working with these kids, and they are very bright students. These are not people who could not have got a job somewhere else, these are people who in my opinion could get a job anywhere. For them to have zeroed in and decided they want to work in the sugar industry, is to me, one of the best things I have seen in the sugar industry for a very long time. They are very keen and are enjoying their work. The Government must be congratulated on the confidence they have instilled in the future of the industry.

I would like to talk about the BADMC. Last year I was very critical of the BADMC and I pointed out that it owed about $10.3 million at the time. I was then criticised for criticising the situation in the BADMC.

When the BADMC was created, one would believe that when they took the ADC and the BMC and put them together, they were supposed to stop any overlap and duplication, they were supposed to downsize and get lean and mean and so on; but do you know what the fact is? The fact is that 60 more people were employed. This is unbelievable! Somebody got away with employing 60 more people by putting these two entities together.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: No. Let me put it very clearly that I am not on the Board of the BADMC. We notice this year that Government is saying that the BADMC is an embarrassment that it is now over $13 million in the red and they are going to downsize. Last year they were $10.3 million in debt and nobody seemed concerned, and suddenly we now wake up and find that it is approximately $13 million, and we are going to do something about it. What have we done? We cut the subvention to the BADMC from $1 million to $400 000. We give the Barbados Tourism Authority $34 million, the BIDC gets $10.8 million, the NCC gets $8 million or $18 million, huge sums of money, and the poor relation – agriculture – gets $400 000. If they are $13 million in debt, what are we going to do? Are we going to let it just go on? This policy of giving statutory corporations a vote of $x million and they can go in there and get themselves in debt, what are we going to do? If Parliament says you have a vote of $1 million, how can you get to $13 million in debt? Surely this should not ever happen.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The BADMC loses money on the sale of sugar. That is what I was assured. That is my information from somebody who should know. By the time Government has taken off the cess it has left them with nothing. They are allowed to import certain commodities. Again, I think the idea was that they should make money on it and in fact we all know that they lose money on it. The importation of onions, chicken wings, pork.... They have a monopolistic privilege to import, they are the sole importers of these things, and yet they turn around and lose money. These imports must be taken away from the BADMC, they must go to the private sector, preferably to farmers' organisations dealing with those commodities, so that any profits from that can be used for research and development so that there would be no need to import those particular commodities. I do not see why we could not become self-sufficient in all of these commodities, with a little help. It would reduce the foreign exchange leakage and enhance our food security situation.

I should like now to move on to Rural Development. Some $3 million was allocated in last year's Estimates to this rural development effort in the Ministry of Agriculture. Up to the end of November, according to the accounts of the Accountant General laid in Parliament, they had spent less than $300 000. We are now going to give them another $4 million. I am not sure whether that entitles them to the $7 million or the rest lapsed. I am not too sure what the situation is there, but the Minister of Agriculture stated at the meeting on rural development that the major programmes are in lights and roads. The question is, do we need a Rural Development Commission to do infrastructural work? What is wrong with Public Works? They have a vote. Their *raison d'être* for existence should be to build roads. Are they going to employ a whole set of people to do this? Are they going to go out to the private sector? What is going to be the problem? Do we need them to build houses? We have a Ministry of Housing. Is housing going to come under Rural Development? How are you going to prevent duplication between these Ministries and Rural Development? We have a Ministry dealing with Community Development already.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate. He indicated that out of Approved Estimates for 1995-96, $300 000 have been spent on rural development. I am reading at page 64 of the Estimates that the revised estimates for 1995-96 show expenditure of $2.962 million. I think perhaps he might have wanted to say that we were short of our total spending of $300 000 but out of the Approved Estimates of $3 million $2.9 million are projected to be spent at the end of 1995-96.
12.05 p.m.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: What I would like to say is to repeat what I said that on the Accountant General's statement laid by you in Parliament it said $296 000 were spent. That is the end of November so I assumed that they hustled around between the end of November and the end of March and spent $2 million. Fantastic! I would love to know how they managed to do that. That is very interesting indeed.

Surely the rural areas in Barbados depend upon agriculture and it is quite wrong of us to decide that all they need is improvements. That goes without saying and I think that the Ministries responsible for the infrastructural development of the whole island are working their way around and are continuing to do so. They have done it in the past and I imagine that they would continue to do it in the future. All we need to do is to look at the needs of these people.

Government spent some considerable sum of money on 2 consultancies on this rural development. I understand that 2 people, party supporters, were given the job for $40 000 and produced something that was useless and then they had to bring in another consultant and give him some more money to try and regularise the situation. Do we not have people totally competent in the Ministry of Agriculture to have done this? There was no need to go outside and pick 2 people with no qualifications to do this kind of thing.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order. People with no qualifications? I wonder why the Honourable Senator is disparaging people like that. He identified that they were 2 consultants and he talked about people with no qualifications and I think that he is out of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It wasn't clear to me to whom the Senator was referring.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I can clear this up very early. I said they were 2 consultants who were not qualified. Then Mr. James Nurse, who is highly qualified and highly competent was called in and he cleaned up the mess after. That is quite clear but the first 2 people who were there could not and did not produce results and that is why they had to call in Mr. Nurse afterwards. I can call names if you want...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would discourage the Senator from calling names. Please proceed. Order, please! Senator Barker, you have made your point of order.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: In my opinion, the drive necessary in the rural areas is to develop markets. We have to develop local markets in the villages around so that they can get their produce sold. This is a major problem

that the rural people have, getting the food that they produce sold, and quite often they don't produce because the market is not there.

I think that we have to put small centres for agro-processing of a very limited nature such as solar drying and things of that nature which can be done without any great funding but will form a nucleus around which community development will occur. I would like to see small scale manufacturing, the production of crafts, the integration of the rural area with tourism. Eco-tourism and hiking and those kinds of things that will help the people.

In fact, I was accused of criticising the rural development programme because I was not appointed to the Commission. I would say that I was very disappointed that our organisation was not asked to serve. Our General Manager, Mr. Haynesley Benn, with 26 years experience in the 4H movement working with rural communities and as the General Manager of the BAS, I think is probably one of the Barbadians most highly qualified to serve on that Commission and it was somewhat disappointing to me and my Board that he nor the BAS was not asked to nominate somebody.

I think it is a sad reflection on political life in Barbados when a person who is totally competent and has particular skills in an area cannot be appointed because he opts not to belong to any particular political party.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please!

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. Sir, I feel constrained to intervene at this stage because the people who make up the Rural Development Commission are not political. They are not organisations. They are people who we feel have a certain expertise. You can have your feelings and we have ours but the point is that that is the way it is.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would like to talk a little bit about livestock. We have seen a very interesting development even within the last 6 months in the movement of consumer tastes in Barbados and particularly the consumer in the hotel sector into utilisation of local meats. At BAS we are now delivering to the premium hotel on the West Coast 40 legs of lamb a week while for years we have been trying to deliver 1 leg into the hotel industry. We have now got them purchasing local beef on a weekly basis. We have several major restaurants purchasing beef and chicken on a local basis.

This is a movement that we have been working for for years and we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We think it is happening and we are grateful for it. The last 2 weeks we have been seeing a rise in the price of animal feeds. This has been caused by a great increase in the world market prices for grain which has increased by over 50% since the same time last year. Therefore, since 60% of the cost of producing chicken and pork is in the imported feeds we expect we will see increases in prices of the chicken and pork. This is inevitable.

One has to appreciate the role the farmer has played in the last 5 years. The Central Bank's figure on the Retail Price Index has shown that the actual price of food has remained absolutely static for the last 5 years. Why do you think the unions are not pushing for cost of living increases? Because there has been no cost of living increase. The other day, however, when I mentioned this to some certain very high person in Government they told me the perception is that there has been increases. That points to the Press as being very negligent that such a perception could occur when the Central Bank is publishing these figures on a regular basis and these are available to the Press.

Is it that nobody really wants to get up and say the farming sector or the private sector is doing a good job. This is not really good news, they don't want that sort of thing. They need something controversial to say. The results of the last 5 years have shown that prices have remained state and very commendable and I am sure that Government will appreciate that.

The livestock industry has benefited through Government, both the previous and this Government. It started with the Democratic Labour Party Government when the European Development Fund funded the Integrated Livestock Development Programme. We at BAS have a credit scheme for which we got a grant of $450 000. That grant has been virtually totally disbursed in loans to small farmers. The maximum that we can loan under that fund is $15 000 and we loaned down to as low as $500.

This has been an excellent thing. It has made a big boost. It has got a lot of pig and sheep farmers, off the ground and into production. We had a slight shortage of pork last year and we are back now to a situation where we are in good supply and prices are very attractive. There is some $2 million, however, or over $2 million that is sitting in the Central Bank from the same fund that was put there for on lending through commercial banks to large farmers and there the loan can go up to $250 000. There has been no disbursement, absolutely none. Perhaps due to the liquidity in the system the commercial banks are not taking the money off the Central Bank. Also, with their spread I believe that they are still talking about 12 per cent. At BAS we insisted in keeping the interest low. We were pushed by the representative of the EDF to try and take it

up to commercial rates. We lend at 8 per cent and we are able to place all the money. What I am asking is. Could we not move at least $1 million of that money sitting and doing nothing in the Central Bank and bring it in to the BAS Loan Scheme so we can get it out there, maybe into a slightly larger scheme where we can go up to $30 000 but it would still be primarily for small farmers?
12.15 p.m.

I would like to touch on cotton. Senator Symmonds spoke from the heart on the subject of cotton. Cotton production, unfortunately, this year has been the worst we have seen for a long time. Yields have been very poor for a multitude of reasons. I heard mention by the Minister that they were looking at processing. I know for sure that at least three years ago there was a gentleman from the United States who wanted to invest in a processing plant here. Again, we have this *"festina lente."* We have not been able to get to grips with it. We have not been able to make the decisions. He was going to take all of it. This was not CARSICOT. This was not asking for any investment on the part of Government. All he just wanted was permission to do it. Let us do something about making decisions on time.

I would also like to bring up the question of the abattoir. The Minister said in his reply to Parliament when asked about the abattoir, "Yes, the private sector has done a study. Yes, we are in favour of the private sector putting up an abattoir and we are looking at the study." The study was on his desk since March 1995. I understand the Cabinet Paper was prepared in April. Up to now it has not got from Graeme Hall down to Cabinet. We have approached Town Planing on putting up this abattoir. The Town Planner has again not replied in over a year that it has been there. This was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment carried out by a professional environmentalist in accordance with the so-called Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto which says that E.I.A's must be done on such developments.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, are you on a point of order?

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of seeking information. I would like to know who is this environmentalist.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Under which Standing Order, Senator Bolden?

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: It is the general privilege granted to the President of the Senate, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point of order is disallowed.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please allow the Senator to conclude his speech. He has about five minutes left.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I think it is just another case of *festina lente.*

Aside.

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

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would like to speak now about the Common External Tariff. When a senior CARICOM official was visiting here to talk about the upcoming meeting of the Heads of Governments of CARICOM who are going to look specifically at agriculture, he was horrified to learn that in Barbados we had not taken advantage of the Common External Tariff that could have been put on all meats coming from extra-regional sources.

We have a 30 per cent CET on beef and particularly due to that I would say we have seen the development of a beef industry in Barbados in the last 10 or 15 years that was never there before. We are seeing it growing by leaps and bounds and we are seeing good quality beef being produced that is going into the hotel sector. However, there is no CET on lamb, pork or chicken. Why is that so? I tried to trace this back to find out why and I was told by a senior official in Trade who negotiated the CET way back that he wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture and asked them if there should not be the same on lamb and pork as there was on beef. He never got a reply. Therefore when he went to the meeting he did not say anvthing and therefore we ended up at zero per cent CET, no protection at all from extra-regional sources. Why? This is pathetic. We have the right under CARICOM to have this CET in place until 1998 and then after that on agricultural products there is a gradual reduction. But agricultural products had a special protocol under CARICOM that allowed us that protection up to 1998 and we have wasted all these years. We could have collected $8 million to $10 million in CET which could have been used for the development of these local industries to get more production and make us more self-sufficient.

I would like to finish by saying that looking at the Estimates as a whole, I am impressed with what the Government has come up with. I think, in spite of my criticisms, I do feel that it is trying but I would like to see the abandonment of Senator Barker's policy of *festina lente.*

Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today was put to the SENATE and was agreed to. Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
12.25 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I should like to touch on a number of areas, and I would want first to start in the area of Rural Development where Senator Laurie closed off.

It is interesting, Sir, to note that there was a very interesting Seminar, coordinated sometime in October last year at the Sherbourne Centre, where every Barbadian was invited that they could hear the views in connection with the Rural Development Department. There, they could share their knowledge, express their concerns, give their criticisms and the information would have been highlighted. I was unable to attend that function but a report came to me the same evening, how extremely informative and educational that Rural Development Seminar was.

I am saying this, Sir, in the light that the Rural Development Department was allocated $3 million to be spent last year. I remember only yesterday making a comment to some Honourable Senators to say that there are times when you court someone, for 10, 20, 15 years have children sometimes, and then the day you decide to get married, the next evening or sometimes the same evening, utter confusion after the wedding.

I am saying the Rural Development Plan has undergone some problems and therefore that full $3 million has not been spent. I am happy to report today, Sir, that the Board has been appointed and most of the staff at the Rural Development, would be involved in the implementation in that Unit. They would start work from April 1, 1996.

Mr. President, MPW is committed to working along with the Rural Development regarding the fixing of roads, and I can speak boldly of Forty Acre, in St. Thomas, and Highland as well, where the road would be developed under that programme and other amenities would be put in place. I am very passionate about Rural Development because it seems to me, as though many Barbadians feel that all the focus should be on urban development, and there is no way that I would be part of any organisation in any country and I would want to see that country being divided between first class and second class citizens.

I remember clearly, Sir, between 1989 and 1990 where there was so much development in the urban area, in particular when it came to road construction, that almost every little road in the Ivy and in those other places in that particular constituency, were paved and some people's palings were taken down, their back yard paved and the people in Hopewell, St. Thomas were stepping on stones, wearing two pairs of shoes to get from their little districts to the main road in order for them to go into town.

I am of the opinion, Sir, yes, rural development has to take place and it must coincide with what is happening in the urban area because we are all Barbadians. I feel that every Barbadian should be given an opportunity to be able to develop, and to move forward with the development of this country. I wish to support the Rural Development Department in this respect.

I know that housing will take place. There have been plans in Sites and Services for housing development, not only in St. Thomas, some is happening in St. Philip, some planned for St. Peter, some planned for Christ Church, some planned for St. John. Roads would be included.

I recall, Sir, when individuals in this Honourable Senate made mention of urban development. I agree because they raised a situation with the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act where those in the plantation did not seem to create so many problems, but when it came to the urban areas and suburban areas there were landlords who had four and five houses on their property, and as a result individuals who went forward to purchase at 10 cent per sq. ft, or whatever, were denied that opportunity.

I agree that if an individual had three or four children and he had an acre and a half of land, and he wanted to use his land for his children and his children's children, and he had given the opportunity to individuals, out of the kindness of his heart and so on, to put a little house on the property, I would not want to sell my mine if I were in that position, Sir. Therefore, a number of problems have arisen as a result of allowing people to get on the house spots. The Act has to have some amendments made in an effort for these people to be accommodated.

In other instances, I was informed that, where the individuals were willing to give permission to purchase that land, some of them said that they were not moving because their houses and other properties were in, what we would call, the route that they would want to take in order

to dig the roads and put in the various amenities. Therefore, I want to say that the Rural Development Plan, coinciding with the plans that are going on in the urban areas, will help all Barbadians to look forward to a bright future to the year 2000 and beyond.

I know that as a result of the Rural Development Plan there will be a lot of generation of small business activity. There will be entrepreneurial activity, for rural women in particular, because we will find that men will still get a little job in the construction area, and so on and so forth, but for rural women there are numerous problems and I can envision the Rural Development Programme preparing women with other skills.

I can envision the Rural Development Programme involving the leasing of land to those people who are landless, who want to get involved in agriculture, who want to rear their animals and their sheep, and the various other things to help them to be able to put bread on their tables. In some instances, that is all it will do, but there are others who will want to progress further and I am firmly of the belief that, the opportunity for people to get involved would develop as a result.

I have looked at the Rural Development Plan and I saw an aspect of the consultation where they looked at the rehabilitation of factories and other buildings that would have been condemned or abandoned for one reason or the other. I saw the vision of tailor shops, and the women in the communities who are getting involved in the craft and so, setting up little souvenir shops and then shops with their jams and their jellies, and things of that nature. I would want to lend some support to that.

I would agree that some of the things that Senator Laurie highlighted need to be re-examined, but I think that we need to give support where support is due and we need to be cognizant of the fact that Rome was not built in a day. If for one year, or perhaps, for nine months the situation was not corrected, the money was not spent, that is the $3 million, the full amount, I do not think that comment is fair. What I know, Sir, is that in November last year, 1995, there was a Supplementary that came to the House of Assembly for just over $32 million. That $32 million, Sir, was connected with the $169 million for Capital Programme and when the mid-term review was given we recognised that the funds that were in that programme could not be fully utilised by the end of March 1996, near the end of the financial year. So that Supplementary was brought to the Other Place in an effort that the money would be diverted to other projects, I am happy to say some of the projects that came out of that $32 million went towards the repairs to District "C" and District "B" police stations and the post office *et cetera.*

Mr. President, I want to also touch on Senator Mascoll's comments in connection with Supplementaries. I want to say that I give my support to Government in the respect of prudent spending of Barbados dollars. The Barbados dollars are being spent on Barbadians, rural and urban. Therefore, the Weston flood that was a natural disaster, $4.8 million went towards that. Yes, there was $101 million, or so, that came to the House as Supplementaries.

The Glendairy wall, no action of ours, another $250 000 went towards that. Six million dollars came to the House in connection with the Ministry of Health. There were repairs, Sir, to various schools in Barbados that Supplementaries came for the money to be released to repair those schools.

Over the last eight years the schools in Barbados were so neglected by the last administration, toilets were falling down, doors were falling off where young girls, in particular, in Class 3 and 4 had absolutely no privacy. The boys had no urinals in which to ease their system. When we found them they were so run down. Ceilings were falling in on children daily, chalk boards were falling down and hitting teachers and nothing was done for maintenance programme in our primary and secondary schools. Therefore, Mr. President, money had to be voted for Supplementaries to upgrade our schools.

Mr. President, I want now, Sir, to move over to my area because I want to come a little later to make some comments regarding the Attorney General's office.

In the Ministry of Education, Sir, our objectives are to continue to strengthen education and continue to develop our human resource base, to ensure that training and retraining are done to equip citizens with skills.

Mr. President, Pre-Primary. We have our nursery schools, four of them run by Government, and I am a great supporter of private enterprise. We do have some nursery schools run by private individuals and some of them are doing excellent jobs as well.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch you will have an opportunity.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, we see a great need in primary education for our young children, our future, to get the necessary, basic foundation, in order for them to be able to develop to become assets to our society.

We are aware, Sir, of the numerous problems we have with our young people, many of our youth in particular, who are very deficient when it comes

to the acquisition of the basics. We are of the view that this Government will pay close attention to pre-primary education, in the light that if you want to look at the developmental approach where these young children are given the equipment, the materials, the training for the teachers will be the correct kind of training so that they can help to shape and mould the young minds.

We came up with a plan. The amount that is being put is not an extremely large amount, but we will give that a review after we get reports on the pilot programme, we are looking at, where we are trying to involve parent aids in the education of children in Barbados.

It is, to me, one of the societies that seem to think that when parents come to the school to get involved they have come to create confusion. Quite the contrary, Sir. That is not the case, Sir. Our parents must be well educated as to what happens in the school and to be invited to volunteer their services. We want them to be actively aware of the necessary things that they must do in order to help their young children to develop. They must be aware that there are certain toys they must not buy and give children. You do not buy the guns that we were hearing about at Christmas time. Expensive as they were, many parents bought them and then the children would just bang, bang, bang and the violent ideas would be coming into their minds. We feel that parents should be educated as to what kinds of toys to buy. Buy some Lego. I am not advertising for any company. I am just speaking generally, Sir. Buy some Lego, buy some games and building blocks. Games that would have shapes that the children could learn how to classify, how to separate, how to combine. Those are the kinds of skills we expect and not little nursery children being forced to write their names at 3 years old. Their fine muscles will not be ready and they need all that activity with the plastercine and the clay and so on in order that those fine muscles would be able to get the exercise and develop that they can hold the pencil well, and hand/eye coordination will develop so that those children will be able to focus on whatever objects or whatever games they are playing. Therefore a $50 000 amount has been put in a pilot scheme and we have not done it out of the sky, we have involved the early childhood education officer, we have involved the National Council of Parent Teachers' Association in order that they can give us their opinion. We have asked them to oversee the project because we do not want to go down the road where we would reach the stage where individuals become employed and then the union has to step in. We know there are many people out there who are trained and who are qualified to want to become teachers. We would not want to do that at all and therefore the parents aid programme pilot scheme should be coming on stream this year.

1.40 p.m.

Mr. President, in the primary section we recognise that many of our children have numerous problems that impact on them, their development and their learning in particular. We know of many young children who are emotionally upset as a result of happenings in the home, happenings in the community. Some of them are sexually, physically and emotionally abused and so on and so forth and we have projected our funds to accommodate the recruiting of two psychologists in addition to the present psychologists at the Ministry. Sir, there is no point in having to refer students to the psychologist for assessment and then the facility cannot be granted because the psychologist does not have adequate time to be able to examine that child in a meaningful way and that the follow up programmes cannot be done. I am sure that the addition of these two psychologists should help to enhance our work in the primary section.

Sir, there are two schools that should be open on April 15, the Beulah Holy Trinity Schools will be amalgamated. That will close two schools in St. Philip area. The St. Clement's Infants and Junior to be amalgamated. That will close off four of our primary schools. We went ahead, Sir, with the plan last year to close off some of our units in the composite and senior schools namely, St. Andrew's Composite at that time, Holy Innocent's Composite, Good Shepherd Composite, St. James Composite and we have set up the Alma Parris Memorial Secondary School. From the reports that have been submitted and from reports of parents who call individually to extend their thanks and to say how happy they are for their children to be involved in such programmes, indicate that things are going well.

Sir, we have started to do our research and an area has been identified in the South because our plan is, one such school in the South, one in the North, one in the centre of the island. From our investigations a site has been identified for us to start looking at students who can be accommodated from the St. Lawrence Composite School and the St. Giles Senior School. Those are the only two now, Sir, that are still in existence.

Another plan this year, Sir, is to amalgamate the All Saints Girls' and Boys' Schools in St. Peter. Sir, a visit to that school indicated to us the run-down situation and I must extend sincere thanks to parents and teachers. I think they are very patient, very accommodating, when you see the conditions under which they work. Windows have fallen out, washrooms are run-down, Sir. In St. Peter, the All Saints School, the boys and girls will be amalgamated.

We have also made a plan for the St. Christopher Boys' School which I attended, recently I would want to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to those students because they were the overall winners in the AVA fishing project. When I saw the kind of activity that took place I am extremely heartened because it says

that the teachers, the parents and the business community worked together to help those children to be able to achieve in that particular respect, especially when there were so many entries. The St. Christopher Boys' will now be given a new school in that parish come next year.

Mr. President, we have had a problem over the past few years. It really came to the fore some time late last year in the St. Martins Four Roads School where the land was not acquired by government and the students could not play adequately. We know that physical activity is an integral part of any child's life. Because of the neglect of the Government at that time to purchase that land, it was only a verbal agreement made between the land owner and the school or the Ministry to allow those students to be able to play, I am happy to say, Sir, that the necessary procedure has taken place for the acquisition of that land. During the April to July term, if life is spared, that problem should be alleviated.

Mr. President, we have also started to pursue the testing of students in our primary schools for hearing problems and I have already given this Honourable Chamber reports as to what transpired at 6 of the schools that had embarked on the project. A $100 000.00 grant is being given to fund the project and the Ministry of Education will foot the bill for the remainder because we think it is important that every child be given an opportunity to function in the classroom. A child who cannot hear cannot speak well because he is not hearing the language. He cannot do a number of things well. He cannot write well if he is not hearing the correct pronunciations and therefore the testing will continue in the new year and we will want to pursue it by doing 6 schools at a time to make sure that at the end of it all, all our children are tested.

It is revealing to note that quite a few of our children are half deaf or totally deaf or the wax in their ears was impacting on them. We have encouraged parents and teachers to continue the follow-up programmes where the children can be properly assessed in an environment that is quiet because, Sir, you would appreciate that when those children are tested in the classroom the problem of noise will arise and that tester has to have all the quiet in the world. The follow-up programme will be going on at the polyclinic and at the hospital. It is a joint effort between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education which are working to bring some measure of comfort to those parents whose children are either deaf or half deaf as the case may be.

As a result, Sir, of the testing of almost one thousand of those students who scored under 30% in the 1995 Common Entrance Examination we had the services of the remedial education unit and the diagnosticians there to test those students to find out their strengths and their weaknesses.

1.50 p.m.

I am happy to say, Sir, that the parents of those students indicated a particular interest in wanting to know about children and their development. The Ministry of Education, starting in April, will embark on a programme with the cooperation and the assistance of PAREDOS in presenting a programme which will run to the end of the year. Those parents who have experienced difficulty will get an opportunity to be involved in the activities that will help to prepare them for better parenting.

At the moment, Sir, the Remedial Education Unit comprises 6 teachers who have been drafted in and who have the necessary training in Remedial Education. The officer in charge, Mr. Donald Padmore, and the Language/Arts Teachers are working in close association with that Unit and the Peripatetic Teachers. Sir, I am pleased to say today that from the reports that have come to us there are 59 primary schools that are involved in the Remedial Education Project where children are given extra attention in enrichment programmes to be given an opportunity to upgrade their basic skills in reading and mathematics. The expansion of the Unit involves 3 teachers from the secondary section and those teachers have been identified because in our efforts to ensure that those students who were drafted in September into the secondary school that there would be programmes put in place to accommodate their needs. We saw the need for those children to be given an opportunity to participate in at least 10 periods of mathematics weekly and 10 periods of Language/Arts weekly whether it be spelling, reading or composition to ensure that their basic skills are upgraded to help them to be able to function better in the society. From all the reports we have received from those 10 schools, the teachers are enthusiastic, the children have shown greater interest in the work they are doing and the curriculum has been tailored to suit their needs. They are doing social studies, physical education, art and craft, and music. They will get the opportunity too to do some home economics and art. Principals have called in to request that the pilot programme be extended to the Second Form because they have seen how the children have started to upgrade their skills and they feel if we stop now it might only disadvantage them. We would want to continue and we have given them the permission to go ahead and continue because our aim is to satisfy the needs of every Barbadian child or adult. Therefore, the programmes will continue next term. So of those 3 teachers who have been drafted, 2 of them will work in mathematics because we cannot go along working with the English and highlighting it all the time and leaving the mathematics behind. The two must go together. We are encouraging teachers to look at integrated approaches where when you teach the particular

skill in reading. Then, some of the information that is there can be transferred to the social studies, mathematics, music, art and drama. Therefore, those 3 teachers will start to work with the Unit from next term. One teacher from the primary section will assist with the reading. So we should have 10 persons in the Unit working specifically with the schools visiting them on a daily or weekly basis as the case may be and giving those teachers who are involved the encouragement and guidance that is so necessary if the programme is to be as successful as we envisage.

The Training Programme, Sir, started at the beginning of this term in January and the training has drafted in 26 teachers from the primary schools and the remainder from the secondary schools. The secondary teachers and principals called to say that they want their teachers who are involved in the remedial project to get involved in that training. I am happy to say, Sir, that things are going well and the programme continues for this entire week and it will re-continue again next term so that at the end of it all there will be at least 50 hours of on the spot training for those various teachers in the school.

Mr. President, added to that, we are aware that the flexible transfer will be introduced this year and we are aware that there are some students who would want to defer. We are also aware that there are some students who will go in advance of their age in order for them to be able to upgrade their skills if they defer or they will be drafted into the secondary system. I want to say, Sir, that those students scoring 20 per cent or under will be drafted into a Summer School Programme to run for about 4 to 6 weeks where they will be given an opportunity to get involved in computer skills, music, drama, English and maths but in a creative way that it will help to spark their imagination and interest.

Mr. President, Special Education. The Government of Barbados is committed to Special Education for the mentally challenged and the physically handicapped. Special Education is offered at the Vocational Centre and 4 Units are attached to our primary schools, the School for the Deaf and Blind. The most recent attachment, Sir, is that at the Eagle Hall Primary School where there are some students who have been drafted in. This is our approach and it is not the full thing because we would like to see more of those mentally and physically challenged children in the regular classroom. They are on the compound and from the reports coming to us they are meddling and mixing with the children in the rest of the school. We are committed to involving and in main-streaming those children in the school. Last year the Learning Centre, which is privately owned, was undergoing repairs. It received a larger grant than the other institution the Challenor School. This time around we have put $500 000 into this Bill to accommodate the needs of the Learning Centre and the Challenor School. I want to say, Sir, that the Challenor School, we are aware, needs massive repairs. We will be giving the necessary assistance because those children at the Challenor School, Learning Centre and the other various Special Units are Barbadian children who should be given every opportunity to function as citizens of Barbados.

Mr. President, I also want to say that bursaries are offered to students who are at the Learning Centre and Challenor School and there are salary grants being paid for the teachers. The Education Officers in the primary section have been very actively involved in visiting the schools and giving the necessary guidance and support to the various programmes that have been undertaken.

School Meals, Sir. There is an amount in the Estimates of some $4 548 000 going towards Supplies and Materials. I am happy to say, Sir, and this will be information more than anything else, that the students at the Alma Parris do enjoy the facility of lunch from the School Meals Department. The same happens for the St. Giles Senior and the St. Lawrence Composite School and this is as a result of requests from parents. Some of them are very impoverished and they cannot even meet that dollar per week and then the bus fare and the various other things they have to do. Those students receive school meals as well as those from the Challenor School, the St. Patrick Roman Catholic School and the Children's Development Centre as well as the Learning Centre.

Mr. President, I want to make further comments to do with the School Meals Department to say that there have been changes in the menu because teachers called in to say that they were unhappy with some of the lunches that were being served, in particular, the flying fish. This is very well prepared but it seems as though with the heat in the flying fish and the packaging together, it just seems to go soft. When that reaches the school, the students will make their complaints. I am happy to say that the manager has changed the menu to ensure that she involves in the planning foods that give the necessary nutrients for the body. From the reports that have come to me and all will not be positive, but most have indicated that the change has been welcomed. I would like to encourage parents to talk to their children about nutrition. Children throw away their carrots, cabbage and watermelon. That is an integral part of the diet and therefore we need to talk to them and give them exposure from home so that they will know how to appreciate and how to use that as part of their diet.

Unfortunately, Sir, there are reports coming to us of pilferage still. While I agree that at least 99 per cent of the workers there are as honest and as productive as in any other organization, there is still an element of pilferage that is affecting the whole flow of things. There is nothing more discouraging, Sir, than to learn that a particular

lunch may have been delivered to a school and then there are 15 or 20 children who do not have when the reports coming from the Centre indicate – yes, we have packaged "x" amount of food but when it reaches the school it is "x" minus whatever. Let me say when it is served. I should not say when it reaches the school, because I would not want to cast any aspersions on anybody's character, but when the food is served then there are children who are left out and there are other ways and means that principals and teachers have to give them something else to eat that I am sure may not be as nutritious, because there would have been no plan for that kind of servicing.
2.00 p.m.

Mr. President, it is our view that we must put systems in place to cut out some of the pilferage. Therefore, we want to recommend that certain spot checks and security checks be made to ensure that the food and whatever is there for the school meals be served to our children and our teachers that are in the school system, because they are the taxpayers as teachers and the parents of the children are taxpayers, and I feel that every child should be given a nutritional diet to help to open its mind and help it to build its body well, so that it can continue to develop.

I want to express thanks to those employees at the School Meals Department who are extremely sincere and those who work very hard to ensure that the food which is presented to our children and our teachers in our schools is at least appetising in its approach and tasty whenever they are using it.

Sir, we have also been made aware that there are a number of students who refuse to drink the milk from the milk feeding programme. The percentage of those who are using the milk is only 63.3% of the entire school population, and this is the result of the examination that was taken between September 1994 and August 1995. Only 63.3.% of the schools' population is using the milk in that programme and I would like to admonish parents that it is important that the children use the milk in their diet. They now have to build their teeth, they now have to develop as citizens and it would be useful if they encourage the children to drink the milk. I used that milk and a number of individuals in here used that milk, because some of us did not have the facility because our parents did not have cows, nor did they have the monetary assistance that they could do the purchasing, and it worked well for us. Therefore, it would be useful for us to chat with our parents and let them know milk is also nutritious. There are some children who will have allergies, but they will pick up allergies drinking the Kool-aid and using the foods that have the different dyes. I am fearful that too much of that is happening. Even parents who walk through Bridgetown make purchases of a lot of that food in the packages that have the yellow food dye that sometimes help to spark asthma. You can look at a lot of children in our schools and see that if they are not diabetic they look as though they will go down that road from their size and bloated faces which some of them have. I am not here to diagnose anybody's health, because I am not trained as a nurse or a doctor, but those are my observations. I saw it daily in the classroom where children prefer to use the packaged foods than to use the school meals that were offered to them which I know would have been well prepared and would have been nutritious if they had been encouraged from home to eat them. All we need to do is to encourage our children to eat a little more. Let them try the vegetables, sing the little songs that we know that will help to create a love for the vegetables and the fruits, and I am sure that will help to go a long way.

Secondary education. Sir, there were 22 secondary schools up until September 1995, now we have 23 with the inclusion of the Alma Parris Memorial. I have already mentioned the role of the Alma Parris and those students who have been drafted in. I want to say very clearly that in the same way our system in this Barbados caters to the need of the gifted, in the same way that the average child's interests and needs are looked after, in the same way we want to start looking at the needs – I think it is a good start and we need to continue and to be more consistent with our planning – of our special children, we also need to look after our slow learners. I have said here more than once, Sir, and I hate to have to repeat it, but I must, that there are children among us who for one reason or another do not pick up the necessary skills, or are unable to master the skills, because of numerous problems in the home and in the community. I feel we must cater to the needs of those other children who may after three or four years develop to become skilful in the arts, sometimes in the language – because dyslexia is something that also heavily impacts on our children and their development – and therefore I think they should be given every opportunity. They should be properly tested or diagnosed when they have problems and let us work towards helping them to upgrade the various skills that are lacking, so that they too can make their positive contribution to the development of this lovely country.

Mr. President, the reconstitution of the Curriculum Development Council has indicated from their meeting that they have developed a draft philosophy in accordance with its mandate. They will renew the following subjects for implementation next year in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, a foreign language, Spanish and a subject we are looking at called citizenry. It is a new course to be introduced in the second and third forms on a compulsory basis. We used to do something called civics in primary school and we knew a lot about our heritage, about our country Barbados. We could tell you the size, whether in square miles or whatever,

but we knew about our history, we knew about our upbringing, and therefore I think it is important that we get to that.

I am extremely disturbed sometimes, Sir, when I attend functions. It is not only our young people, but I see some of our very leading citizens who do not even seem to know to stand at attention. Those are some of the things I am making mention of. They must be able to show that respect for the national pledge, the national anthem, and it can only come about if we start in our schools to inculcate such interests and such habits.

Mr. President, the 114 000 odd textbooks we negotiated for have been delivered to the primary schools across Barbados according to their needs. The books are being distributed and I am happy to say there are enough books in the schools for teachers to use as resource books, as well as for each individual child to get a book that he or she would be able to read and write and discuss. To be added to that, Sir, some of our expenditure last year would have gone towards the preparation of cupboards, because there is no point putting the books in the schools if there are no facilities to accommodate the books and to store them that they can last for a longer period. The cupboards have been delivered to the schools and from the reports coming to us teachers, principals and parents are satisfied that some step has been made towards putting books back in schools. This is something that was very lacking and it really heavily relied on parents, when it came to August and September, running all over Barbados spending $150 and $200 in books. We are of the view that that effort from the textbooks that have been put into the schools will cut back on the expenditure that parents undergo, not only in workbooks but in textbooks as well.

We in the Ministry have been working in close conjunction with the Ministry of Health, the National Advisory Committee on AIDS has implemented a standardised AIDS-STD programme in schools to help to continue to educate our youth. We need to talk to our children. We do not have to make the discussions elaborate, to be above their heads or put in language that is not understood by them, but we need in our primary schools to start to talk to our children about AIDS, STDs and the other diseases that impact on their bodies and their progress. Therefore, the AIDS Advisory Committee has prepared that programme and it will be implemented in our schools to help to educate our children and our parents as well.

2.10 p.m.

Information technology. Teacher training continues to be the key focus with respect to information technology within the educational system in order to ensure maximum benefits from the computer equipment in the primary and secondary schools. Sir, the teachers in our schools must be abreast of the students. That is my belief. If I am to be a teacher then I must be ahead of my students. I must be aware of the various trends and the techniques and the methods in education. Therefore, we need to look seriously at the training and the retraining of our teachers to prepare them for the year 2000 and beyond. There are a number of children coming into the classroom who already have computer skills and I would feel very deficient if I were still in the school to have students coming into me with their little compositions and print-outs from the computer and I cannot cope or if they were telling me about megabytes and different things and I am not in tune with what is happening.

It is our effort to use Erdiston Teachers' Training College. There are many programmes going at the Community College and the Polytechnic and we are getting our teachers involved in computer technology. The Audio Visual Aids Department is carrying out training as well to teachers, in particular, in the first batch. We have started with those teachers of these 59 schools who were involved in the remedial education programme. The 39 schools which were in the pilot programme were given computers and the teachers of those schools that are directing the programmes are being given training in computer technology to bring them on stream with what is happening in our society.

At Erdiston College as well, Sir, there was a query yesterday to deal with degrees and certificates at Erdiston. I am happy to say in the early 1980s when I was a student of the college it was the Teachers' Training College of the Caribbean and thousands of teachers both locally and from the region had been trained at Erdiston. I can attest that there was quality training taking place at Erdiston. Unfortunately, changes came about in the early 1990s and the situation slackened off where many teachers were not trained.

We, in the Ministry of Education have sat, pondered, discussed and consulted. Teachers in Barbados will again be given that 2-year training programme at Erdiston College. At present, many of them are attending various courses. We have started to look at them. We have accepted the fact that the modular programmes that they are involved in need to be used to go towards the final training at Erdiston. I am sure that those who are involved in the training might not necessarily have to spend 2 years because there will be information there to show that they have been able to progress in the other areas. I am sure that it would have a great impact on our schools because many of our schools have trained graduate teachers but there is still a percentage of teachers who are untrained. They are just asking when they can get their training. I appreciate how enthusiastic they are and I think we need to put the system in place that they can go and get that necessary training at Erdiston.

The College is expected as a result of that to deliver pre-service, in-service and continuing education programmes for the development of teachers and persons interested in education and the training. The certificate in educational management is being delivered at Erdiston College and the diploma in education for secondary school graduates in the areas of arts, history, geography, social studies, mathematics, science, modern languages and so on. Teachers advanced professional certificate programme. The College will offer continuing training in the following specialities, such as early childhood education. As I said, it is extremely necessary. We are proactive in the light that we do not think that those 3-years old in 1986-87 should have been put in the schools without the teachers who have to deal with them on a day-to-day basis, getting the necessary training. We want to continue that training to ensure that our teachers are well equipped to look after the needs of these children because if we are going to have a successful developmental approach then it will lessen the remediation that will now work with our students, when they reach the top of the primary or even the secondary stage.

In connection with Senator Springer's query, the Associate degree in Art is being offered at the Barbados Community College and the teachers do get an extra credit as long as they are successful in that examination. I wish to mention the diploma in education, certificate in educational management, teachers' advanced professional certificate programme.

There are other programmes being offered for untrained teachers in the primary school. As I mentioned before, those are the modular programmes that will go towards final training. Additional projects to be started are:

(1) an outreach service to schools through the teachers' resource centre,

(2) library development and computerisation,

(3) planning of the Bachelor of Education programme for untrained teachers, and

(4) staff develop with emphasis on developing thinking and problem solving skills in children and the fostering attitude change.

Mr. President, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. There has been an expansion over last year from 1 400 students to 2 076 to date. It is our plan that at September, 1996 that we would further expand to 2 500. Contrary to comments made yesterday, students are enlisted in the Polytechnic as was started in September 1995, without that formal entrance examination that was offered before, because we took recognition of students who would have been pulled in from the composite and secondary schools who might not have been able to master the basics but would have had potential for skills.

I met a little boy last week who was not so very good in mastering English but he was an excellent person when it came to telling you about the sea and how to throw out nets and how to fish and how to sell the fish. He was extremely articulate but when it came to the basics he was not on the ball. I think that that kind of student would need that kind of encouragement as well as some English and Mathematics to help upgrade his skills. So those students who have been drafted in from the composite schools and some of them who would have been liming on the block have been drafted into the programme. They are working in modular programmes where their credits will go towards their final examination. Sir, there is an allocation of $600 000 in the Estimates this year for the expansion of the computer lab at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

We are aware too, Sir, that the equipment at the Polytechnic in some instances is outmoded. Not in all. Over the years I understand it has been upgraded but we are of the opinion that there is need for us to look more seriously at the tools and the equipment that most of the students use in the area of mechanical engineering and auto-mechanics in particular.

It was only recently that I learnt that there are still cars from the 1970s there. Not that there is anything wrong with it, because there will still be cars from the 70s and 80s on the road, so that students will need that exposure and experience in repairing. But we need to start looking at the computerization. I understand that there is a leading car company that has started to train its employees in dealing with cars that have computer components to make them capable of working with those kinds of cars that they will be able to fit into the auto-mechanics' market.
2.20 p.m.

I feel we need as well, if we are going to put those young people out there two years later to be able to function, to add that component of the training into the Polytechnic. We are examining closely the possibility of getting that kind of current equipment on the compound to assist those young people. We know those young people have vision. They have all kinds of bright creative ideas. We need to be having the courses tailored to suit their needs and give them an opportunity to show that expertise and creativity they have within them.

Mr. President, at the Barbados Community College there is no tuition fee to Barbadian nationals for most of the programmes. Students do pay a caution fee, textbook fees and so on in an effort that if furniture gets

damaged or if they have to be working in a class where materials are used and cannot be used again, but they are not expected to pay tuition fees for their courses.

At present the Advanced Diploma in Technology is being pursued. There is a plan for an expansion in the Graphics Programme. The Articulation Agreement between the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies has come about. All campuses of the University will be involved. As a result of that agreement where those students who are doing the Associate Degree, the credits will go forward to their final training. I am sure it will lessen the period of time they will have to spend in the University.

There is also a joint degree programme between the Barbados Community College and the University in Tourism and Hospitality Studies. That, Sir, has been approved. In the Division of Hospitality Studies there will be Associate Degree programmes in Hotel Catering, Institutional Preparations and Tourism and Travel as well as in the Culinary Arts. There will be this nine months' programme in Professional Basic Cooks' Course, Professional Housekeeping, Professional Waiting and Bartending Courses. There will be 15 six-month evening courses to upgrade the industry personnel. This programme will cater to some 450 persons compared to 200 as was in the past.

The individuals who will be involved in the Cookery and Waiting and Bartending areas are not required as was in the past, to have that minimum of two certificates. They can enter for that course with none because we feel that those individuals are playing a significant role in the development of the tourist sector and therefore they should be given every opportunity for training.

Mr. President, there are some new programmes which I would like to highlight. The projections for 1996/97 are as follows: The reorganization and expansion of the administrative structure, the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Fine Arts and Graphic Design, the transfer of Psychiatric Nursing to the Barbados Community College and its integration into the Nursing curriculum, Advanced Diploma in Information Technology programmes offering in the Division of Technology at the level of the Higher Technicians Diploma and involving CAM, a reorganization of programmes to meet the objectives of the Hospitality Institute which will come on stream with the opening of the new facility in the winter session.

There will be also the expansion and computerization of the College's Library under the Third Education and Training Project, regularization of staffing needs to ensure that the above projections and also to ensure continuation of programmes in the Division of Computer Studies which have no established posts, the expansion of a Language Centre in accordance with the results of the feasibility study, and, finally, to start up implementation of articulation agreement between the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies where feasible.

Mr. President, the Barbados Government cleared its arrears with the University of the West Indies up to the point in time when I started to work on this information. I must confess that the Government would have been therefore current up until last week in this respect. The students at the University as we are all well aware are not required to pay fees. This is following our decision as a Government that cares for the people of Barbados, to look after the interest of its population.

A decision has been made to make candidates for the Associate Degree eligible for the Barbados Scholarship. There were 18 that were awarded to students to commence studies at tertiary level institutions for the year 1995/96. Fourteen scholarships are projected for the year 1996-1997, this coming financial year. For the Barbados Exhibition, 16 Barbados Exhibitions were awarded for 1995/96. Sixteen Exhibitions are projected for the 1996/97 academic year.

Provision has been made for five additional awards at the University of the West Indies for 1996/97. There were no Bursaries awarded last year for the academic year. Twelve Bursaries have been provided in the Estimates for the 1996/97 academic year. The National Development Scholarships are given to provide training in scarce specialist areas and in areas identified as priorities in the socio-economic development of the country. Provision has been made for the award of further National Development Scholarships. Provision is provided for 1996/97 for National Development Scholarships $434 720, and Exhibitions $133 075, giving a total of $567 795 for the National Development Scholarships.

Mr. President, teachers have been given leave. Twenty-six went overseas last year, 7 were given leave locally, 11 with full pay, 21 with half pay and there was only one teacher who received no pay. We are willing to continue to give teachers opportunities to go abroad or even to study locally to help with the upgrading of teaching in Barbados. We know that quality education is important for us in our mandate and therefore we would want to give teachers opportunities to expand their knowledge so that when they return they will be able to inject into our society the skills and methods they have learnt to help with the development of our children.

Eight meetings of the Qualifications Equivalency Committee were held during 1995. The following issues have not been resolved. Teacher teaching status for three instructors at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic has been settled. There has been the status of the

Caribbean Union College and the recognition of its programmes, also the Associate Degree in Computer Studies for the Institute of Computer Studies and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic for the 2-year Electrical Installation, among others.

Mr. President, yesterday Senator Davis had touched on Continuing Education.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have about one minute left.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE. Thank you, Sir.

I want to say yes, the programme was going in three of our secondary schools. The Ministry of Education has examined the programme and we have recognised that we need to examine it more closely and review it. Therefore, the $24 000. Later in the year when we review it, we would want to inject the necessary funds to help with Continuing Education. We are aware that there are a number of private institutions that offer private education that individuals would want to get and I am sure that every opportunity that this Ministry can give to assist Barbadians who want to upgrade their skills in the various subject areas we would want to accommodate them.

Mr. President, I would want to say in my closing remarks that I want to support the Appropriation Bill. I want to commend the Government for having taken some steps I know are necessary to help mop up some of the difficulties we experienced between 1990 and 1994. I will give my wholehearted support to this exercise. I am impressed with a number of the programmes in the various Ministries. I trust that the individuals that would be involved, the Ministers, technocrats, civil servants, the NGOs, all the organizations in Barbados will come out and work together hand in hand. It is not a partisan thing all the time.
2.30 p.m.

We need to come together as groups of Barbadians interested in the development of this country in order for us to see the benefits as the time goes on.

Sir, I wish to say sincere thanks and I trust that other Members would be able to speak and express themselves, give us their concerns and we will want to give them a hearing, we would want to consult with them, we would want to see how best we can put the necessary programmes in place, having been given the consultation and the guidance that will come from all Barbadians as the time goes on.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, before I get on to the Estimates I want to say how pleased I am, as I sat here throughout these past two days, I listened to fellow Senators from the Other Side, I feel extremely pleased that I can associate myself with a Government which, at the time that it did, took the type of remedial measures which have positioned a Government today to boast about the strength of this economy, its sustainable development and growth.

We all know that you do not build a Government, you do not build an economy overnight. We listened to the criticisms, we listened to the talk about the 8% cut, we listened to the talk about the severance, we listened to the talk about the suffering of Barbadians, we took our licks and our pain, today and yesterday we have taken the pleasure and enjoy the fruits of the labours of the Democratic Labour Party Government.

I think that there is no Government that can say that in 18 months it could have brought Barbados to where it is today. This Government is today reaping the benefits of the sacrifices of Barbadians and of course of the defeat of the Democratic Labour Party Government. Now, it no longer hurts. I feel pleased. I can say sometimes in order to enjoy the sweets you have to experience the bitter. That is what life is about. So I am today enjoying the sweets, with fellow Barbadians, all as a result of the good work of the Democratic Labour Party Government.

Mr. President, I take the debate on the Estimates quite seriously, Sir. I believe that the Estimates debate is about the needs of Barbadians and whether the Government of the day recognises those needs and embarks on programmes which would answer those needs. The Estimates therefore is about Government looking at the resources, those limited resources which we have in Barbados and allocating them, in such a way, that Barbadians with needs can benefit. So at the end of this whole debate the question still must be, did the Government of Barbados, by way of these Estimates, really touch in any great measure, those many needs and concerns of the many Barbadians out there?

Sir, in my attempt to address that question, which to me is what the Estimates are all about, I will touch on a few Heads. I will not attempt to go into all areas since I do not have enough time. I would like to start to talk, Sir, by dealing with the Head, Economic Affairs, Head 19.

It is unfortunate that I have to start at the area which, directly, falls under my portfolio. I wanted to deal with others first but 26 comes become 27 and 29, and 26 is the Department of the Supervisor of Insurance, Sir. I am going to touch on the Supervisor of Insurance Department because I want to tie that in with my whole discussion today as I develop along an area which is of great

concern to me, which is of great concern to many international economies and which we in Barbados need to address seriously and that is the area of aging, retirement planning and the State.

As we deal with the Department of Supervisor of Insurance, Sir, I would like to think that this Government will look carefully at this particular department and see how best it can utilise the resources within the industry which fall immediately under this Department in its attempt to tackle that serious challenge of this aging population.

There is information released by the United Nations which has shown that although a developing country, Barbados is displaying a profile, an aging profile, which very much resembles that of the developed countries. It is said that in another 15-20 years a very large percentage of our population will be old people, and that has very serious implications for our financial planning as a nation, serious implications for our Estimates and our allocation of our resources. I will therefore like to focus quite a bit on that.

The insurance industry, particularly, the Life Insurance Industry in Barbados, has for years been trying to encourage Barbadians to plan way into the future. For years we have tried to tell Barbadians that life is not only about what you can gain today but what is going to happen to you tomorrow.

For years some Barbadians have taken stock. Many Barbadians have scoffed at us and had seen it as just an attempt for some people to earn a living and get rich overnight. But, alas, today, what we see is that a number of Barbadians who have enjoyed a very good life, in the past will find themselves, in the very near future, at the mercies of the State. That has serious implications for our resources, Sir, and how we allocate these resources.

I think that we are not too late and that the Government of Barbados must ready itself to deal with this serious challenge, and I will like to encourage the Department under the Ministry of Finance, which is directly responsible for pensions and pension planning, to liaise and work very closely with the Life Insurance industry, to embark on instruments which can be introduced in this country to help fund retirement and remove the burden of aging on the State.

The Head which follows immediately is the one dealing with pension and other benefits. I note that today in 1996 we are allocating $68 908 925 to pensions which fall immediately under the State, that is 1996. Within another 15 or so years a very much larger percentage of our population will be very old, then . Then you consider what kind of figure any Senate will be looking at as we debate pensions, which immediately fall under the responsibility of Government. It is an area which we really need to look at seriously, Sir. It concerns me and I intend to spend a bit of time on that today as I touch on these Heads.

The other Head which falls immediately under this is the one which deals with the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme. This Scheme, I am very concerned about. There are a number of Barbadians who are relying solely on an NIS pension, and what many of us are not aware of is that it really is not guaranteed.

What comes out of this pension really depends so much on what is going into it, as most other pension plans set out to do. One of the problems we have with the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme is that there is a number of other benefits which come out of this fund. This fund does not cater to pension benefits only. We have disablement, maternity, unemployment, funeral grants, funeral benefits, a host of other benefits come under the umbrella of the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme. As a result, what it means, therefore, is that the sums of money which will be set aside for a pension benefit could be reduced substantially, depending on the number of claims which are made out of that fund in the early years.

The most, for me, significant implication, though, which I can attach to the state of this fund relates to this aging population, again, Sir. The fund is structured on certain assumptions, a certain longevity. What is happening today is that Barbadians are living beyond that assumed age. The longevity has extended beyond the expectations of the people who set the fund up. At the same time we have fewer young people making contributions to that fund because of unemployment and because of the slow down in the growth of our population. So in our attempt to manage or to introduce our birth controls and we have succeeded in that area but what we have done in another is we have placed our National Insurance and Social Security Scheme under a bit of a threat. We have benefits coming in and we do not have the contributions going in and in these pay as you go systems, systems which are not funded up front, if you have greater benefits coming out than contributions going in, we have a problem.

2.40 p.m.

The problem which we now face under our National Insurance Security Scheme is one which most developed countries are struggling with. The United States Government has decided that it will extend its age of retirement from age 65 to 67 in order to deal with the threat to its old age security system. In England they have also decided that they would extend the age of retirement. The question is, can we afford to do that in Barbados? If we decide to extend the age of retirement from

65 to whatever, what are the economic implications for our society? We need to discuss that. I will touch on it briefly.

Sir, there are some things which we have to look at and I know that in an attempt to address it we have to look at other areas. Should we increase contributions to the NIS Scheme? Should we reduce the benefits? Should we increase taxation in order to make sure that enough money is set aside in the fund to guarantee pensions, or should we put a tax incentive in place in order to encourage Barbadians to embark on their own retirement planning? I suggest, Sir, that we need to take the first option and I would like, on this occasion, to appeal to the Government of Barbados to increase the tax deductible amount for contributions to individual pension plans and not only to increase it but to put in place a public education programme by way of the Government Information Service that Barbadians could understand that this incentive is not an attempt to give something back in terms of taxation only but an attempt to prepare Barbadians to enjoy some comfort when they reach old age and many of us will live up to 25 to 30 years after the official age of retirement. That is what it is looking like so we should try to make sure that we can enjoy at least some degree of comfort.

Mr. President, Sir, there is a very startling bit of information which I came across recently. Out of 71 800 persons employed by the private sector only 18% were registered in a corporate pension plan and only 14.8% of self-employed persons are contributing to their own pension plan so we have this host of other Barbadians out there enjoying a good life and not thinking about the old men and women they will become. The onus therefore is on the state to sensitise Barbadians to the importance of planning for old age.

Senators are laughing and I know why. They feel I am looking for business. The point is this, Sir. Unless the state, at this time, makes an effort to sensitise Barbadians to the importance of planning for retirement now, the state will have to bite the bullet and make some serious decisions which have implications in the ballot box. The state must therefore make Barbadians understand that they will become a burden that the state just cannot carry. What will we do with people who are like that? We cannot dump them and say you are too old, there is no place for you in Barbados. We have to provide for them so I want us to focus on that.

I will get back to it, Sir, under another area but I would like to look at the investment sector reform which is also under the Head of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. There are still some questions, which for me are unanswered. I know we have recently been able to have access to the investment sectors loan. I do not know if we have drawn it down yet but I understand we now have it in the bag. What I want to know is, how are we going to use this money within the Barbadian society to better the lives of many Barbadians particularly? And I would like to pay some emphasis on the small business people of Barbados. I think that investment sector money should be used to economically empower some Barbadians. I think we need to look into those areas which are non-traditional areas but in which there is the potential for growth and the areas are there. It is not necessarily my duty to tell the Government where to find them but I think we really need to get out there and look and see how we can get small Barbadian business people involved in their economies. I am not talking about vendors only. There are other areas that our people can get into.

There is something that bugs me quite a bit. We boast a lot about tourism but as I go into the stores and I look at souvenirs, can you imagine a souvenir of a Bajan chattel house that was imported? There souvenirs of Bajan chattel houses on shelves in Barbados that were imported into Barbados. That is a disgrace and we have St. Andrew and we have clay. A number of our people are interested in ceramics and I would like to think that we would engage our young people around Barbados, so many of them unemployed, into making souvenirs for the tourist market. We have Gun Hill in St. George. We have the Lion and the Signal Station, St. George Church, all of these beautiful places of interest and historic sites should really be kept for posterity and should form a part of our souvenir industry.

I think I heard Senator Forde talk about rural development. Yes, I think we can get our rural development into this programme, move it away from the City, get it at the cottage industry level but I would not like to continue to go into stores in Bridgetown and see souvenirs of Barbados made outside of Barbados. It does not speak a whole lot for us and for our education system and our intelligence which we boast so much about and we need to deal with that.

I will move on, Sir, and look at the Head of the Attorney General. I am going to deal specifically with police services and purchase of vehicles. Now, I live in the District A zone and I had the most startling news recently at a neighbourhood watch meeting when I discovered that I am living in the largest district, district A. In that district there are 73 000 people, that there are 34 policemen and two police vehicles. We are allowing Barbadians to go to sleep every night and walk every day and we are giving the impression that there is police security but if you are in one area and you call for the police to assist you and those two vehicles are out you do not hear the police. We blame the police and we say they are not working and I would like to appeal to the Government. I notice there is a vote for vehicles for the police but I would like the Government to look specifically at that the District A area, it is a very big one. Because the Fort George Development has

now been drawn into that area and Fort George is still expanding. Not all of the houses have been constructed and I would really like the Government to look at that District A area. In addition, I would not allow this occasion to pass without complimenting the police for their community policing. I think that is extremely important and I know that it was started under the former Commissioner of Police. But in recent times a number of Barbadians have been seeing the police as friends and not necessarily foes. In the past, everybody viewed the police in fear and did not want to cooperate and now I noticed there is that friendship and welcomeness that is coming from the citizens to the police. I would like to encourage fellow Barbadians to continue to assist the police. I believe that once this is done that we will manage to stem the increase in crime in our neighbourhoods.
2.50 p.m.

I would like also to encourage the Members of Parliament to make sure that in all constituencies there are neighbourhood watches and in those constituencies which have many districts and large districts that there is a Neighbourhood Watch Programme. I believe that programme will assist in rebuilding that community spirit to which we are all accustomed as Barbadians and for which we have strayed and could be in some way responsible for a number of problems of violence and the anti-social behaviour which we are seeing among our youth. So I would like to encourage fellow Barbadians to get involved in that programme.

Another area which touches my attention quite a bit is this. Under the Estimates last year I spent quite a bit of time on Education. I do not intend to spend a lot on it today, but I feel happy to see that a number of areas in which I touched and for which I made recommendations were addressed in the White Paper. I feel very pleased because some of them were addressed in the way in which I would expect them to be, Sir, and I must say that I have made my two cents worth in that regard. But under Education, Youth Affairs and Culture, I want to deal with the Alma Parris School. A few of my clients who are parents within that zone have expressed to me a concern that that school has been placed on the list of secondary schools. I think they are concerned because initially people got the impression that it was a special school catering to the needs of special children, who could not necessarily fit into the regular secondary school system and who were going to this institution for remediation. The question is if the Alma Parris School is a special school, why has it been placed on the list of choice for secondary schools. I think we should not fool ourselves about one thing. A number of Barbadian parents are still in the denial stage. We do not want to accept that our children have learning difficulties. I say that to say that I cannot think of a parent, even if that parent is aware that the child cannot score beyond 10 per cent, who would choose the Alma Parris School from that paper of choice of schools. To choose that school would be to accept something that so many of us fail to want to accept that our children have problems. I would prefer if this school is retained as a special school and as the Government is going about its diagnostic procedures in the schools, that it can call the parent in and say that we have assessed your child. This is the problem. We believe that this child can still make it in the system if placed on a programme at which it can grow at its pace and the Alma Parris School is where we will send this child. So I want to suggest that the school should not be placed on the list of secondary schools not at this time. As good as the school is, I think that it has already been stigmatized because in Barbados that is how we see special schools and special education and we need to accept that. I am appealing to the Government of Barbados to re-think its decision to place the Alma Parris School in a zone for transfer to secondary school.

The other area under Education which concerns me a bit also is the Film Censorship Board. Now I have sat on that board for 8 years and, while a member of that board, we managed to work on legislation to upgrade the categorization of films brought into Barbados and also to deal with the films which people can acquire privately in video shops. I do not believe that we are policing that legislation. I do not believe that we are enforcing the law in that regard. I listened last weekend to the Commissioner of Police and I heard him say that the evidence is there that a number of crimes are committed in Barbados by young people and they are influenced by the types of movies that they have been exposed to. A number of these young people are out of work and they have a lot of time and energy and, if they can spend hours a day sitting before a screen and perfecting certain acts, what do we expect? I would like to suggest, Sir, that we look at the legislation for which the Film Censorship Board is responsible and we try to see how best we can have that legislation enforced. There are a number of things we have to do to tackle crime in Barbados. We cannot tackle it from any one angle and, if the exposure of our people to form cultures which are negative affect them, we have to deal with it. The CBC Television falls under the Broadcasting Authority. It is not under the Film Censorship Board and for all the years that I have been on the Film Censorship Board we have tried to tell CBC that we were given a number of complaints from parents, teachers and members of the clergy that CBC Television is bringing to the homes of Barbadians films which they should not be showing. The question is: What are we going to do? I think that any responsible Government that is concerned about the future of its citizens and where the country is heading would employ measures which will set out to keep out as much as is humanly possible those elements which can be negative and destructive. I do not intend to tell the Government how to do it but the Government has to work at that.

The other area which I would like to look at is the area of Adult Education. I noticed that there is Human Resource Project there identified under a World Bank Project. Mr. President, when we discuss Adult Education, I would like to tie it a bit in with my concern about aging. I think that we have to make sure that our people who are in the work force under this Adult Education Programme can be trained and retrained to cope with the modern office. We are going to have a problem in Barbados and we should have it right now that a number of our people will be obsolete just like the machinery they deal with. In the same way that machinery is changed twice a year and unless we retrain our people, they will not be able to cope with the modern office. If the challenge is facing us of keeping people in the work place at older ages, to me that is saying that we have to make sure that we continue to train our people even as they become older in order for them to be able to fit in to that work environment to earn themselves a living.
3.00 p.m.

I hope that this adult education programme is about that. Not only about the computers. There are a number of other things which are happening in the workplace and they are changing overnight. This programme must also deal with the psychological aspect of change. That is one of the problems that we have in the workplace. A number of measures are introduced and we have people who have grown accustomed to work with a certain system and almost overnight they are expected to change and fit in with these changes, and there are psychological problems associated with change, especially as we reach the older ages of 35, 40 and beyond. I am hoping that this adult education programme will help to deal with these psychological changes in the workplace.

Under Health and the Environment, Head 36: Care of the elderly. This is another bugbear for the Government of Barbados. One of the negatives associated with living to a very old age is the fact that you develop a number of chronic diseases. There are a lot of people who are very old but who suffer from a number of chronic diseases and because we have a good health care system in Barbados we are managing to prolong peoples' lives and keep the diseases under control but there is the wear and tear to the body which is associated with these chronic diseases and this poses a serious problem for Government in the allocation of its resources.

Hip replacement. I understand that in Barbados in recent times there have been a number of hip replacements. As Barbadians become older there will be a larger number of hip replacements. We have a number of arthritics in our society. That is going to be a significant cost to the Government and to the people of Barbados, because not all of our people will be able to afford to pay for hip replacement operations. Then, of course, there is the after-care. If your hips have been replaced you are going to be immobile. So who is going to bring to you that care which is necessary during that period of recovery? There are implications for the State.

There is also the homehelp programme and I want to look at the home help programme because again I want to associate it with this aging process. In developed countries the emphasis has been placed on care of the aged within the home. Institutional care is extremely costly and I believe the Government of Barbados should pay greater attention to this area of home help. I think that we can also use the home help programme to bring some of our more mature people into the workforce. They love old people much more than some younger people do and they are better capable of catering to the needs of the aged. I would like for the Government to pay some attention to a home help programme as a substitute for institutional care.

There are psychological effects which old people encounter when they are removed from within their homes to an institution. Some of them pine and they die soon after. They don't eat anymore and they miss their families and their friends and I think we should try as much as possible to see how we can offer them health care within their homes. I believe that we would not have to allocate as much of our resources to the care of the elderly if we embarked on a system of care within the home. I am really very concerned, Mr. President, about this phenomenon of aging and the State and how we are going to cope with it as we develop.

The Bureau of Women's Affairs. That concerns me also, Sir. I noticed that we have here in the vote provision for a committee on women's affairs. I think it is a good idea, but I want at this time to sound a warning to the Government. For too long whenever we introduced programmes for women in Barbados we have not been involving women across the social strata of this society. We have always placed our programmes for women in the hands of women who are better off and I want to suggest that a Committee on Women's Affairs should comprise beach vendors, fisherwomen, domestics. These are women too. The women who have to deal with the humps and grumps of everyday life, and if we are going to be addressing women's affairs we need to have a broad representation of the interests of women. I want to see more grassroots women involved in the decision making of this country.

I am hoping that this Committee of Women's Affairs will embark on such. I am going to monitor this carefully. I am going to look to see who are the women sitting on this Committee. We have a problem in Barbados. I was the grassroots woman on the Advisory Council of Women. We have a problem in Barbados that a number of our

people have come from very poor and humble surroundings and a number of them are ashamed of that fact. That is the point I want to make. Now that they have become middle and upper middle class people they have forgotten what the plight of the depressed is like. Therefore, I would like to see some of the women pulled directly from those groups and placed on this Committee of Women's Affairs.

Mr. President, Head 42: Public Works, Transport and Housing. Mr. President, as I scrutinised these Estimates I noticed there is no provision for a low income housing project. I see a Head and I have not found the figures to indicate what sum has been allocated for lower income housing in Barbados. The reason I want to touch on this is because in the same way that the former Administration put economic empowerment of the masses on its agenda this Government has said that it intends to do so also. I believe that a lower income housing project would assist and I will explain why.
3.10 p.m.

The house I own today, Sir, when I got married at age 21 I moved into it. It is a lower income house bought for a price of $20 000. Two years ago I was able to mortgage that property and get $100 000 out of the property. The point I want to make is this. We can economically empower our people when we embark on such programmes.

Firstly, the mortgage repayment will not be a large one which would afford them the means to save and maintain their property. A problem we have in Barbados today is a lot of people have built houses and they cannot afford to maintain them. They therefore cannot afford the market value of the property. The market value of a property is not there for the resale only. The market value of a property allows one to leverage that property and to use the equity within that property to take another opportunity, be it business or to own another type of property.

I think that a lower income housing project can be used by this Government to give a number of Barbadians a push start to get into something else that we might want to do and I would want to encourage the Government to address it. I have been searching for figures to indicate a sum allocated to lower income housing and I have not found any so maybe some Government Senator might want to correct me on this.

Mr. Deputy President, as I look around Barbados I notice that there are a number of houses that are being demolished. These houses were owned at some time by Barbadians who during their younger years were in a position to own such a house. As they became older, they could no longer maintain these properties. Some of them are in the Geriatric Hospital. Some of them have probably gone to live with relatives but it is really a sad thing to see that from time to time the State has to push down what used to be a very good house. To me that is removing part of our capital base of our country.

I think we need through the GIS Programme also to educate our people on the importance of not only acquiring properties but the importance of maintaining them and not only maintaining them but putting things in place for a proper transfer of these properties to other generations because I feel part of the problem we have in Barbados is there is a lot of fighting over a house when the original owner has passed away. We have not put proper measures in place to transfer wealth. Economic empowerment will never be a reality in Barbados unless we are able to not only acquire wealth, but to conserve it, and then to make proper arrangements for an orderly and decent transfer of this wealth to other generations. I think the Ministry of Housing is one of those Ministries which must do some public education. It must inform Barbadians of the importance of trying to maintain their housing stock.

I am concerned with complaints which the residents of St. George have expressed to me and which I would want to bring before this Senate today. In the area of housing, we are trying in Barbados to rebuild our communities. We have said that a lot of our deviants and violence can be attributed to the fact that there is a breakdown in community life. At the James Bryan Complex in St. Helens, St. George, there is an area of land which the Government had made a part of that development for a tennis court. The residents of that area have indicated their concern that in recent weeks the Government of Barbados has set that area up for sale. It has marked it off into 13 lots and has now decided that it will no longer be a tennis court and it will be used for housing.

Their concern is that the young people around that area who frequent the James Bryan Complex and try to maintain community life, the Market Hill, St. Helens, Jericho, Paradise Village, that general area, that we are now pushing these youngsters out of the neighbourhood to go into other areas for recreation. This is something I would like the Ministry to look at, to reconsider the decision to chop that land up which has been reserved for a tennis court for the James Bryan Complex and to convert it into an area for housing.

I know we must balance our resources. I know we have to use our land for agriculture. I know we have to use it for recreation. I know we have to use it for housing but I think there are times when we must weigh certain things and that is an extremely big residential area and we think we should try to retain that area for recreation.

As I look at the Estimates, Sir, I believe the Government has attempted to address some of the needs of the people of Barbados, short-term, maybe medium-term, but I would like to suggest that there is still quite a bit that has to be done in this day of planing to meet the needs of our Barbadians. The Estimates have fallen short in certain areas. The areas which I have chosen to highlight have not really been addressed in these Estimates and I hope that the Government would pay some attention to them. I will be willing to cooperate in whatever way I can to make sure they can be addressed and that the people of Barbados, and Barbados, our country, will be better off at the end of the day.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I almost said Mr. Speaker, looking at my eminent entry into the Other Place.

Mr. Deputy President, this afternoon I believe it is only important that we focus the debate regarding these Estimates in the perspective by first looking at the Prime Minister's proposals in the last Estimates and in the last Budget debate and try to draw the parallel between how we performed as a Government, how the economy performed and then bring in these Estimates of this year to try to draw some nexus between the two and to truly place us where we are supposed to be as a nation for developing.

I want to say, Sir, however, that the first thing that is important is that these Estimates are certainly about people. I do not believe it is about all the grandstanding and posturing that go on in here from some Opposition Members. I believe what is important for us is how these Estimates and how every debate would touch the lives of each individual Barbadian and whether these policies we are putting in place could move us from being the developing country we are to showing the kinds of indicators that would move us towards being a developed country.
3.20 p.m.

Sir, it must first be stated and I am going to quote from the Prime Minister's Budget speech of 1995, this is on page 1160, the last debate when he said that:

> "Everywhere, the march of technology is expanding the boundaries of production and creating new and exciting economic opportunities, but equally reordering social relations, the way people live, work and even relate to each other. In its wake, the globalisation of production is rapidly drawing countries, great and small, into increased reliance on the workings of the international free market, and into intense competition to secure their place in that market.
>
> For us as a nation, these developments will herald major, far-reaching and irreversible changes in the way in which we conduct business domestically and in the way in which we relate to the wider international economic community.
>
> Indeed, Sir, for generations, a very large proportion of our economic progress was founded on our being able to have access to guaranteed and protected international markets for our goods at guaranteed prices. We benefitted, too, from the access we enjoyed to financial resources from donor countries and lending institutions at concessional rates."

He made the point, Sir, that the age of concessions for us was coming to and end. The Prime Minister, Sir, was very clear and he stated that even though there were improvements in the macro economic indexes that were put forward, there were still some serious weaknesses in certain areas in certain productive sectors.

He particularly talked about the areas of tourism, the areas of manufacturing and the areas of agriculture. He stated very clearly that these had low or very negative rates of returns and they had accumulated, over the years, serious arrears towards specific lending institutions in Barbados.

Then he stated, Sir, that the outlook for 1995 was going to be much better. He predicted that there would be real GDP growth of an estimated 1%. The reality is, Sir, that growth was 2.5%. He came back, Sir, and said that sugar production would have declined by some 30.6%. The reality is that it only declined by 10%. He said that there would have been marginal growth in tourism. Sir, the tourism industry grew by almost 4%. He talked about the international business sector and continued expanded growth. In manufacturing he talked about growth, again, and in both of these sectors it grew. Then he talked about the fiscal deficit which was going to be only 1.5% of GDP and it was maintained.

At the time, Sir, there were net international reserves of Barbados, only $450 million. As we stand here, Sir, today we are happy to report that the international reserves are at the highest ever in the history of this nation. He said, Sir, at the time, that bank liquidity was going to remain very tight, and he also said, Sir, that he was going to get the IDB loan from major projects, a loan, Sir, which we note support funds which came down in September – October, 1995.

He stated there, clearly, Sir, that we were not yet out of the woods and in terms of the Prices and Income Protocol, we still had to put a restraint on wages and we still had to put a restraint on how wage increases were going to affect the economy. So we were able to say that we signed that Income and Prices Protocol and brought it, Sir, to the Honourable Houses and it was approved.

He said, Sir, that the objective would be, in terms of monetary policy, to maintain adequate levels of foreign exchange reserves, to guarantee the value of the Barbados dollar and the parity of the Barbados dollar with the U.S. dollar. He said, Sir, that he was ensuring continued health of the financial system, support initiatives for financing investment, in export and tradable services, and he, Sir, said that the interest rate, as the main instrument, was going to remain very low and it was not going to change. Interest rates must therefore be consistent with the foreign exchange reserves and the objective was to maintain these reserves equivalent to three months of imports.

Sir, he also went on to say that external debt management was very important and reduced levels of external debt, improved foreign exchange earnings and falling debt service requirements were the model on which the Barbados economy was going to proceed.

I am saying, Sir, that at the time when the Prime Minister and the Barbados Labour Party took on this Government, there were certain realities about the economy. We were only playing the hand that we were dealt. I want to repeat, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party took on a Government where they were only playing the hand they were dealt.

High levels of unemployment were marked features in this economy, mismanagement and lack of accountability, in the public sector. There were weak foreign exchange reserves positions. There were financially distressed Government institutions. We are talking here about statutory institutions. There were many unprofitable non-competitive enterprises in the private sector as well. There were export earnings, high labour level costs, high levels of taxation and low levels of foreign investment.

Sir, in the first Budget the Prime Minister proceeded to attack each one of these issues by putting emphasis, first, Sir, on the macro economic picture by reducing all the inefficiencies that we have within these sectors and improving cash flow management.

He also attacked, Sir, the unemployment problem by looking towards the productive sectors, the two most important productive sectors, which made a difference. These two, Sir, one in the tourism, the hotel sector, by looking to improve the lot of the hotels on the South coast of Barbados, the small locally owned indigenous hotels. In the agricultural sector and the manufacturing sector he looked, Sir, to improve their lot and maintain employment, by reducing their input requirements, and taxation on their inputs.

Sir, in all of this framework, we are pleased to say that each one of them has borne fruit. The Prime Minister's policies, Sir, are squarely based on this new economic model that he has up for Barbados which puts the private sector squarely at the center of economic activity and everything else must respond around that. Obviously, most of the people know that I am going to lead on to the one productive sector which we understand, and no one can dispute, must be the plank of the Barbados economy.

When we look, Sir, at the macro economic picture, there is very little that we can do with the macro economic picture of Barbados. Therefore, we can do very little Sir, to change that picture. We therefore need to look sectorally, and as we look at the sector which is most likely to move Barbados forward into the kind of developed country that we need to lead us in the 21st Century, tourism must be at the centre of all the economic development.

Sir, I am pleased to say this afternoon, that all policies clearly point to a change in attitude towards Government and a change in attitude towards the productive sector. That change is reflected, squarely, in a change towards tourism, in particular, and towards development in general. This new blue print for the economic development of Barbados, has as its central tenet and I must repeat, that tourism is the motor of the economy.

Sir, tourism, we believe has not achieved its full potential during the past decade. We believe that an industry that only contributes 14% of the Gross Domestic Product certainly has the opportunity to grow substantially within the next decade or so. This can be substantiated by the evidence that has been produced by the Global Tourism Makers, the World Travelling Tourism Council, particularly, which has predicted that growth in the tourism sector will range anyway in the region of 6-8% during next year.

Now, we have not just put out an "open for business" sign in the tourism sector. I believe, Sir, that this Government is backing up their words with deeds. You see, Sir, those who understand tourism and understand where tourism needs to go, understand that there are only four planks on which the tourism industry can be built. This escaped the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, by a mile.

Human Resource and Institutional Development, Product Development, Marketing, Research and

Information, there are only four areas on which this tourism industry can be developed. I want to repeat, Human Resource and Institutional Development, Product Development, Marketing, Research and Information, and then obviously adaptation and innovation in areas which we believe complement the tourism industry. I am going to talk about these areas as natural areas of cooperation for tourism, the development of services, environmental cooperation, agricultural cooperation, industrial development and, obviously, regional cooperation.

Also, Sir, there must be an effort to link tourism to the international financial sectors. That, Sir, especially the service sectors, is really important. Using this setting, Sir, as a backdrop and as a plank for development, the Minister of Tourism has set about to restructure the Ministry of Tourism and the tourism industry, to put it on a sustainable footing, taking into account, Sir, what we had inherited.

We have laid out and redefined the roles of the Ministry of Tourism. We have refined the roles, Sir, that the BTA must play and the roles that the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation must play in a new tourism format. We have also, painstakingly taken to include the private sector as a part and parcel of the development within the tourism sector.

Now, the Minister has clearly stated that the Ministry is responsible for overall policy formation, product development and project, and that the BTA and the BTIC are there, Sir, for the implementation of those projects.

Contrary to what had happened, in the past, the Ministry looks after the total, policy making development of these projects, while the BTA and the BTIC will look at the others. And, Sir, surely no one can dispute the fact that the tourism industry performed admirably in 1995. Now if we say that tourism contributed 75% of the foreign exchange earnings of Barbados and we say that the foreign exchange earnings are at their highest ever it would lead one to conclude that the tourism industry is performing at its highest and I want to be very clear in this point. We have two distinct tourism industries in Barbados and it is something we cannot live with and something that I will deal with later on but you get the point when the luxury hotels of Barbados are performing at their optimum but we have many distressed properties on the South Coast of Barbados which are not performing well.
3.30 p.m.

For a country which only had 55% occupancy level last year, with the West Coast performing at 75% and with the South Coast only performing somewhere in the region of 40% to 45% it obviously tells you that what we need to do is to get those South Coast hotels and especially Barbadian entrepreneurs who have invested their money in tourism to be able to get receipts from an industry that is performing this well.

Now, Sir, if you check the tourism visitor performance for 1995 and as this Head was not debated in the Other Place it is necessary for us to set the correct perspective. Now 1995, Sir, produced the highest level of total visitor arrivals ever in the history of Barbados tourism. I think, Sir, that is a significant point. 1995 produced tourism levels higher than ever in the history of Barbados' tourism. Sir, combined cruise and long stay tourism produced 926 779 visitors last year to Barbados. We also had the highest cruise ship passenger arrivals figure ever in the history of Barbados. Sir, we had the third highest level of long stay arrivals ever in Barbados. The only 2 years that went above that were 1989 and 1988 but given where we have come from in terms of tourism arrivals obviously the tourism sector must be firing on all cylinders.

Since October of 1995 we have been recording double digit growth in tourism arrivals in Barbados and I want to say, Sir, here, November 15.1% above what happened the previous year. December 14.9% up. January 11.1% up and February 16.2% up. The figures are just in. Barbados' tourism has produced double digit growth in the last 4 months. Never, ever, Sir, in the history has it been done. And what is significant about this is this. Sir, for all of those who talked about the dream team at the Barbados Tourism Authority and all of those who got up and lambasted the salaries, for all of those who got up and had everything to say about whether or not they were put in place, Sir, we are saying this. I believe that the dream team more than paid their way already in terms of what they have produced in the Barbados Tourism Authority and I challenge anyone here in this Chamber or anywhere else to dispute that.

This, Sir, is significant because let me tell you this as an example. Five thousand extra visitors a month to Barbados and you take 7 nights a week at US$200 and you will tell me, Sir, if the dream team at the BTA have not paid their way already in terms of Barbados' tourism? I challenge anyone to dispute that.

Let me tell you, Sir, there is a point that must be made. Even though the Ministry of Tourism has grown, what is significant about it is this, in the United States market people stay at home when there are blizzards, they do not want to travel. They cannot even get to the airport and people do not understand that about tourism. The United States market continues to show decline and we must account for what is happening in the U.S. Market. In 1986 the United States Market contributed 156 000 visitors or 45% of all the visitor arrivals to Barbados. In 1996 they only produced 111 000 or 25% of the total

visitor market. Although this is known, Sir, this is the second time since 1987 that visitor arrivals have increased from the U.S. market so whether or not, Sir, and I am going to make the point, I do not believe that we should be putting as much emphasis on the U.S. Market as we are putting now. I believe we have got to move away from the U.S. market but at the same time it is important to note that the incentives that have been put in place to help the U.S. market are bearing fruit and that is something significant that must be brought to the fore. This is the second time since 1987 that visitor arrivals have increased from the U.S. market.

I also want to say this, the U.K. market was the one that produced the most visitors to Barbados and had the greatest share in 1995 of 28.6%. In 1986 the U.K. market only made up 12.5% but by the time we got into 1995, 28.6% of our visitors came from the U.K. market. Sir, this is significant because when we analyse the marketing policies at the Barbados Tourism Authority and the whole policy which we are going after we are clear that the U.K. market presents the kind of profile that suits all tourism product much better than the U.S. market does and that is a significant point. The U.S. market does not, Sir, reflect that kind of profile from all our marketing intelligence which our industry presents and we continue to put a lot of our eggs in that one basket but I will deal with that.

The other thing that is significant about the U.K. market is this. The visitors stay twice as long. The average stay of a visitor from the U.K. is 14 days the average stay of one from the United States is 6 nights and at the same time on average the U.K. market is producing $165.00 for every long stay visitor while the U.S.A. is only producing $114.00 per visitor. So, Sir, I should say something as to where we really are heading.

Also let me say this. I do not think we are out of the woods yet, regarding tourism. We still believe that the tourism scene is fraught with many, many dangers. It has improved but there are still many, many dangers. The point about this Government is that we can admit the things that are wrong and try to put measures in place to improve them. We do not have to be on the one side all the time saying that we are the best in the world. We are, but at the same time there are problems that we have to deal with.

Sir, I will say this. The Ministry of Tourism has already set out and embarked on a programme. The Ministry of Tourism has also embarked on a strategic plan and not strategic planning just as a management exercise but we believe that strategic planning in the Ministry of Tourism is going to become a way of life and we are doing business on a daily basis within the industry. I am going to highlight the things that are good and I am also going to analyse the things that we believe are needed and the things that should be put in place. The Ministry of Tourism has already said that their mission is to ensure the sustainable development of tourism while facilitating optimum economic opportunities for Barbados and so during 1995 and 1996 the Ministry has embarked on a programme which is known as the tourism awareness programme. Now in this Tourism Awareness Programme it is a public awareness programme where the Ministry has sought funding from the Organization of American States. In this Programme the Ministry of Tourism has looked for funding in the value of U.S. $65 000 and also 2 consultants out of the OAS, a project that has already been approved. Now this project is going to be implemented in 2 phases. First of all, it is the development of informative signs at historic sites in Barbados and the production of material that goes along with it. Sir, there is also a Comprehensive Tourism Awareness Programme in which these consultants will be looking to help the entire Barbados public in terms of public education where tourism is concerned. I am pleased to say that work has already begun on this Tourism Awareness Programme. Now it will be an ongoing project. It will not just stop there even though the consultants time will come to an end.

The Minister of Tourism in terms of its public development is also pleased to say that refurbishment and expansion of upgrading of hotels on both the west coast and south coast is very clear in Barbados. Now anyone who drives down the west coast of Barbados would have seen that in the past 2 to 3 years there has been much development particularly, Sir, the St. James Beach Hotels which were all refurbished 2 to 3 years ago. Even now refurbishment continues on the west coast and in that regard Cobblers Cove Hotel was refurbished very recently, also Sand Piper and Coral Reef Club are looking to undergo serious refurbishment during 1996. Now I say that a tourism industry that is not performing will never encourage anyone to put their egges in that basket. But, Sir, we are pleased to say that these hotels have undergone massive refurbishment or will undergo during 1996 their refurbishment. Anybody who drives up the south coast will see, Sir, the Accra Beach Hotel – 103 rooms on the south coast of Barbados, the south coast that people claim is unprofitable. We have been able to source both local and overseas investment to be able to look at expanding on the south coast of Barbados. The Asta Hotel has undergone refurbishment and so have Sandy Acres and Bougainvillea. Woodville has undergone again refurbishment. It tells you of a tourism product that people once again have confidence in and a Government that people have confidence in within the private sector.

3.40 p.m.

Sir, the Ministry of Tourism is also embarking on a cruise conversion project. We believe that the reality is that cruise tourism is here to stay. Although we believe that they should be contributing more to what they are doing, the point is that we have got to work with them until we can find ways and means of extracting that. In this

regard, there is a cruise tourism project that is being undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism, BTA and the private sector of Barbados to be able to convert many of these cruise passengers into long stay visitors. Barbados still has the greatest level of repeat tourism of any Caribbean destination and this is verified by the Caribbean Tourism Organization. The CTO has claimed that people will come back to Barbados once they have experienced the product and therefore the cruise conversion project will be working.

In terms of advertising and promotion, the Estimates also made provision last year and continues this year in the same vein to look at advertising and promotion in a much higher light. Although it will not be detailed obviously under the Head, advertising and promotion was up 50 per cent last year than had been before and this is a major component for the growth within the tourism sector in terms of what we spent in the last fiscal year. What is interesting to note is this, Sir. We believe that we are able especially in the U.S. market to attract some brand name investment. I am talking here about the Four Seasons and Hyatt's – those kinds of people and hotels that people know about in the United States. So that what we will be able to produce ultimately is a product that the Americans will be able to identify with.

Sir, in the area of research regarding marketing, the BTA and the Ministry of Tourism have already started to beef up their capacity to be able to do some serious research regarding tourism and visitor arrivals out of all of the major markets for Barbados. That, Sir, is significant in itself.

The strategy, Sir, that the Ministry of Tourism has embarked on is to increase the output in the tourism industry not only in terms of the visitors that we have coming to Barbados but in terms of the yield. In other words, we are going after the quality of the visitor who is liable to stay a longer time and contribute more to the economy by the kind of money that he or she spends. We have also set out that foreign exchange generation and retention is a major plank of their strategy and I want to do that, Sir, by obviously encouraging profitability that encourages investment in the industry. They want to strengthen the diversity of the tourism product that we have by offering new niches to Barbados to the visitors. Anybody who understands Caribbean tourism will know that 90 per cent of the people who come here still come for sea and sun. They do not come for anything else but the surf. So increased awareness of Barbados in the major markets will be strengthened. Then, Sir, the Ministry has also been communicating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in terms of what the Minister calls the country team approach to tourism development in Barbados.

The country team approach is very, very simple. It is an approach where we intend to use all of the foreign missions of Barbados which are very much linked to the Barbados Tourism Authority offices to provide more resources to be able to move our tourism product forward. Obviously, Sir, it has in my estimation some dangers in it but we are able to look over the dangers and to be able to see that once tourism marketing is a specialized area that we have people who are very, very well able to look after the tourism product. They will work in tandem with the Barbados Tourism Authority to get us on a sound footing. We are also going to increase the ability to monitor both public and private sector performance in the tourism industry. That is a major part of the strategy of the Barbados Ministry of Tourism and then, Sir, to encourage public and private sector cooperation in planning. The Minister of Tourism's think tank which meets every month and which gathers the leaders of the private sector and public sector together to be able to plan for tourism and evaluate the results of tourism is a fundamental issue that must be brought out. The Minister of Tourism has already set up this think tank which includes the heads of the Tourism Development Corporation, Barbados Tourism Authority, Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association. These leaders meet with the Minister every month to be able to plan for tourism. This will increase the awareness of the tourism product to the general public. Sir, this too is important because what is going to happen is that Barbadians are going to be more aware of how important the tourism product is to our own socio-economic development.

In this regard, Sir, there is Item 212 under the BTA Operating Expenses. In September, 1996 the Caribbean Tourism Conference is going to be held in Barbados. This is the biggest familiarization trip ever in the history of Barbados tourism. This is going to bring most of the travel agents out of the major markets into Barbados to be able to sample the product. You know, Sir, in terms of fam trips we bring travel agents here one by one but travel agents on wholesale will be coming to Barbados in mass in September 1996 to be able to experience our product.

Sir, there are also incentives to expand the Hotel Aids Act to include the ancillaries in Barbados who get the major portion of their revenue from tourism and those technical and financial support to the small hotel sector. In that regard, Sir, it is important to talk about the Gems of Barbados project. We recognize that the south coast hotels of Barbados have major problems regarding their indebtedness to the statutory corporations of Government and the fact that most of them were undercapitalized in the first place. We have got a situation in Barbados where people were encouraged to borrow money from the Barbados Development Bank many years ago when the tourism industry was thriving. Most of them

are small black entrepreneurs who borrowed this money only to find that by mismanagement of the product the bottom fell out of tourism.
3.50 p.m.

Although we would put the blame on a lot of them, a lot of them have paid back more than they borrowed by paying under these interests. They borrowed as soft loans and the next thing you know the interest rates went up and these people have been saddled with properties which supposedly are under-productive but at the same time they have paid back double the amount they borrowed and still have not made a dent in the principal that they borrowed.

This Government has taken a conscious effort to look at ways in which to help them, because a lot of them will say that they have mismanaged their properties. I am saying that no Government or anybody else can lend anybody money without looking at their exposure and lending technical assistance to see how that exposure is carried out. If you lend somebody money the onus is on you also to make sure that your investment is well guarded; and at this time what we are going to do even though with the dissolution of the BDB and putting of another entity in place we are going to help these small black hoteliers in Barbados, especially on the South Coast, to get back on their feet.

Out of this, Sir, was born the Gems of Barbados project. The Gems of Barbados project is very simple in terms of how it is going to be implemented. What the Government seeks to do is to get all of these small south coast hotels together to be able to operate under one marketing administrative umbrella. These are going to be managed by one management team. I have some reservations over some aspects of it because I believe there are some aspects that dislodge some people who are right now the owners of these properties who actually live on their properties. There are some people who earn a salary every month from their properties and there are some people who practically live on their properties. It has some little tweaks that must be ironed out but, at the same time, Sir, it is the best project that has come along in a long time to help the small south coast hotels of Barbados.

The economies of scale will tell you for example that if these people are allowed to purchase altogether that it reduces the cost to them. What we are going to attempt to do is to create a marketing stamp for them, a label just like the Four Seasons or the Hyatts or the Hiltons of this world or the Marriotts, the Gems of Barbados. There are going to be 3 different categories. We are talking about gems and people who know about gems will know we are talking here about diamonds. We are talking about real jewels. These people are going to be able for the first time to set up a management company in which they are going to invest.

As I said before, each one of these properties has an individual problem, because each one has different dealings in terms of how they are indebted to a particular statutory corporation. Some of them are indebted to the BDB and are not in arrears. Some of them are indebted to the BDB and are in arrears. Some of them don't owe the BDB anything but they owe other Government statutory corporations. What we are attempting to do is to give them for the first time an opportunity to be able to get themselves on a sound footing.

It also calls for representation of these companies on the international markets. I know a lot of these people don't have much resources to invest in terms of marketing and what this Gems of Barbados seeks to do is to give them representation overseas and abroad. We don't want to go into detail about the properties but it also calls for substantial upgrading of the tourism product. A lot of these hotels have not been able because of unprofitability obviously to upgrade their product on a constant basis. What this project is going to seek to do is inject that money that is available from the public investment fund. I believe it is in the region of $10 million to be able to help them upgrade. It is also going to improve substantially their lot within the tourism sector because there is one thing that is clear: Barbados can no longer continue to have 2 tourism products within 166 square miles. We must be able to establish standards to which both the west coast and the south coast must be applicable. We must be able to interchange them. We can no longer have 2 tourism products existing in Barbados.

I also want to say that the visitor expenditure and motivational surveys which have always existed in terms of the Ministry of Tourism will also continue. Also there is a disaster plan with which the Ministry works with CERO to be able to plan for any disaster. We know what hurricanes did to the other Caribbean countries and there is a plan in the Ministry of Tourism to look at these on a long-term basis.

The Ministry of Tourism has also set about to look at institutional strengthening of the Barbados Ministry of Tourism. One of the important things that must be made clear if we take the 4 planks again as what we must build on, there must be an effort to be able to increase again product development, institutional development and human resources development. There must be marketing, research and information and I believe research and information is so fundamental to what happens within the tourism sector that we must no longer continue with the aspect of the Barbados Tourism Authority being a burden on the public's funds.

I believe it is about time, Sir, that the private sector paid its way in terms of tourism marketing

in Barbados. I believe that this $34 million that we are spending at the BTA must be cut in a way that the private sector that competes in tourism must be able to pay its way in terms of helping us develop that product internationally and promoting it internationally.

I believe that monies need to go to the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Tourism in Barbados. Those people who are going to study this tourism product on a constant basis and tell us all the resources aspects in the same way that we did a song and dance in this country about casino gambling. We should be able to tell the people of Barbados how many people we need on a beach to be able to make that beach really comfortable for visitors and locals alike. We must be able to tell the people of Barbados how many visitors we need here that are going to impact on our sewerage system and whether or not it is going to work right. 500 000 tourists come here a year long-stay, how many policemen do we need to be able to control that, how it affects our crime in this country. It is important that the Ministry of Tourism, not only the marginal element of it, is strengthened. We must have institutional strengthening to be able to study the true impact upon tourism and upon our social development in this country.

In the same way we rant and rave about casino gambling I believe we need to rant and rave about all the other areas that tourists can bring into Barbados. We need an institution that must study that constantly and must report to us constantly about how it affects Barbados. We have spent a lot of money over the years in different regimes in terms of the marketing aspect of the product but the social problems that we have in Barbados as a result of tourism have never been studied. We need to be constantly studying them and educating our people about how to look at them.

I want to make it clear that some people don't know anything about tourism and they just get up and posture. It is important also to be clear about the structure of the Barbados Tourism Authority. The Ministry of Tourism is taking effort to restructure the Barbados Tourism Authority for 1995. What they did in terms of that restructuring and in terms of the whole strategic planning exercise was to create an institution that now has the real framework in which to move forward in terms of the tourism product.

We have created, under the Barbados Tourism Authority now, an institution which can market Barbados internationally and that is their mandate and they have been doing an excellent job, if I might say so myself. Obviously, Sir, there are dangers involved in what happened at the Barbados Tourism Authority but compared to what the Barbados Labour Party inherited from the last Administration I think that the Barbados Labour Party and this Government should be commended for the kind of job that they have done. I want to repeat that the double digit growth in the last 4 months could not be there – they always talk about blizzards and hurricanes. Everybody who knows anything about tourism in those countries where there is a lot of storms they know that when there are blizzards that nobody leaves home. They cannot leave home. They cannot even get to the airport so all this talk about blizzards, let me tell you this. The dream team is performing to the max. The dream team have already paid their way.

Sir, regardless there are some areas that obviously need to be looked at. The Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. Now the Ministry has laid out areas for the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation to move forward and it is not going to be the traditional arm that it was before. The Government has made it a policy that most of the entities within Bridgetown, we are talking about the area beside the police station, things like the Empire Theatre, the old spirit bond, are going to be vested in the hands of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. A lot of these areas are ones which we need to develop.

I want also to caution because there is one thing that I will not support and that is the traditional people, the traditional large business sector only getting a stake in these areas that the BTIC will develop. I want it to be abundantly clear that small Barbadian business people need to be involved in the development of the BTIC projects that are vested in the interest of the BTIC. It is important that we legislate that only certain portions of these businesses must go to people within the traditional big business sector. I want it to be made clear that a venture capital fund for tourism is needed so that a lot of the small black people in Barbados can get a stake in the tourism industry.

4.00 p.m.

Therefore, I believe that the economic landscape of Barbados is strewn with the bones of those Heywood's, the Hilton and the like which have never ever performed well in the hands of any Government. A lot of these industries must be put into the hands of the private sector but, at the same time, the small black businessman in Barbados must be able to take up his $1 000 and be able to invest in it and get a receipt from it. I am saying that if you take 40 per cent of it and give it to the tourism business sector the other 60 per cent must go to the small black business people in Barbados.

I also have another role for the BTIC which I am going to lay out just a little bit later as I go down. There are areas obviously we need to look at and I want to come back and touch on these areas now in terms of the private sector. We have already talked about the private sector and the role the private sector is playing with the

public sector in terms of planning for tourism and the think tank the Minister has set up.

I would like us to look at the area of marketing and really be able to focus on that area. For the longest time I have noticed that what we have been doing is that every tourism expert that gets up to talk, even in this Honourable Chamber, talks about the U.S. market and what we must do to recapture the U.S. market. The profile we set up in Barbados for the U.S. market does not fit us. Our marketing intelligence tells us that the American is interested in the lavish, big spread-out 500-room hotel. He wants the 1 000-room hotel. He wants 18 pools and 12 golf courses and we cannot provide that at all in Barbados. What makes it even worse is this. Go to Cancun anytime, go to Puerto Rico anytime, go to the Bahamas anytime and you would see exactly what the Americans like. Our profile does not fit the U.S. market in anyway at all. We can get certain things from it.

The other thing is this, Sir. We have problems in terms of these areas. We have problems in terms of proximity to the U.S. market. There is no way that with the open skies policy and people landing in Puerto Rico every day and getting an incentive for landing in Puerto Rico that anybody is going to fly all the way down here to Barbados. There is Cuba next door that has 5-Star hotels that people are trading off at $40 a night. There is the Dominican Republic that people trade off and get $40 a night. There is the Cayman Islands that is near to there. There is the Bahamas and Jamaica. Who in their right mind is going to endure a trip of almost twice the length to come to Barbados when most of the people are coming here for the sea and sun.

I am saying that the Barbados tourism product needs to be refocused. We need to stop spending almost four times as much money in North America as we spend and put some of the money in Europe which has been traditionally bringing visitors for the longest time. They stay longer and spend more. I am going no further than this, Sir. Can you imagine in a German market that has 82 million potential visitors, that has the highest per capita income of any European country, that has the longest vacation as any country in Europe and we are getting only 20 000 and 28 000 out of there with one officer from the BTA running around up in Europe? We need to refocus our efforts in that market.

The other problem is airlift. We have been running around the U.S. for the longest time and we have one major carrier. Eastern went under. Pan Am went under. We have only American Airlines flying around out of the United States. We can maybe count BWIA. At the same time, could you imagine the load factors coming into Barbados? I hear people talking about the airlift. The only thing that can fairly airlift our destination is demand. I am saying that you cannot go to Continental, Delta and anybody telling them you want airlift when American is only flying 50 per cent load factors into Barbados any year.

There must be a distinct problem with Barbados as a product for the American visitor. We need to refocus. What is even worse is this. In Europe and Northern Europe we have the airlift we want. We have scheduled carriers out of Europe. We also have the greatest charter programmes out of Europe, Italy and SAS. We could produce visitors from Europe by the dozens. You know what the problem is, Sir? We have never focussed our efforts there.

The other thing is our marketing intelligence will tell you that Europe traditionally favours the small non-luxury intimate hotel of Barbados. Whenever they come to Barbados that is where they go. Within that you still draw out the people who will go to the luxury hotel on the West coast of Barbados, especially Great Britain. We are the only Caribbean country that is able to sustain a Concorde programme. It should be able to tell you what kind of visitors can come. We have enough here in Barbados to be able to attract the European visitor as well.

Sir, I also want to say this. I believe the private sector's role within tourism is this. I believe the private sector needs to play a more intimate role, a more serious role in terms of tourism development in this country. The small black people that smile when the tourists pass by they are usually smiling all the time. They do not get anything from this industry. It is about time. The people who benefit from this industry are the people who have some investment in it. It is time they pay their way in a substantial way.

Sir, I have to say it. It is about time that they pay their way. What we must have is this. I am calling for and we have continued to call for this. We must have a public/private sector entity that looks after the international marketing of Barbados' tourism. It is not a new idea. It is done in Aruba. It is done in Puerto Rico. I am calling for the establishment of the Barbados Tourism Company, a company incorporated under the Companies Act of Barbados like anyone and make the private sector come in and pay their way, withdraw half of this funding that the BTA gets and put it into institutional strengthening at the Ministry of Tourism to be able to tell us how this product is going to affect us socially and be able to move forward. I am calling for more institutional strengthening because of more research and development needed to be able to tell us how this industry should work, also the links with other industries in this tourism mix.

I want to move on to another point. When we look at the other areas of policy, there is a taxation policy in tourism that needs also to be seriously looked at. We believe that if the private sector is supposedly

going to have their say in terms of taxation, there must be a revising of this punitive tax regime that keeps these tourism entities from being profitable.

I will make this a document of the House. It is the "Caribbean Tourism Organization." It will most likely come here because we fund them anyhow. It is a tourism taxation study which was done by Deloitte and Touche, January 1996. What it clearly sets out is this. In terms of the studies, in terms of taxation within the Caribbean, the difference between us is this. In July 1995 the CTO commissioned this study but what is important is this. In a country like Barbados, they studied Aruba, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica and St. Lucia. What is interesting about this is that even though our foreign exchange is generated by tourism we are the second highest, the share of the people employed in tourism is the lowest, 10.3 per cent as opposed to all the others.

What is interesting to note is this. We are the only country in this study which continues to have profit taxes levied against the hotel industry. The contribution that comes in from taxation from tourism and the hotel industry has to be lower because most of the hotels in this study are unprofitable, therefore, there is nothing going to be missed by Government if we allow these people to have low profit taxes. Let me tell you what is going to happen because if we reduce a lot of these indirect taxation measures, what is likely to happen is this. There is going to be increased employment. I am calling for this to happen, relief from profit taxes for all of these hotels in this budget.

Sir, what is most important is this. Most of these incentives are discretionary, that is, the people must complete all these complicated forms to be able to get all the benefits they should get anyway. I am calling for a new role for the Barbados Tourism Corporation, a role which allows this to be the one-stop shop in terms of the concessions that are available under the Hotel Aids Act of Barbados. I am even calling for this Hotel Aids Act to be rewritten too so that when the Hotel Aids Act is rewritten all of the things that are used within the hotel, both operational and for refurbishment and expansion are created in Barbados will be free of duties and taxes. I am calling on the BITC to be this one-stop agency that is set up which draws its expertise from areas like the Ministry of Finance, Town and Country Planning and the Customs Department to be able to facilitate these people moving through. You do not have to go through all these cumbersome things as is done. This is again, not a new idea. This is practised in a lot of these tourism regimes which compete directly against us for tourism visitors. Most of these incentives that are given anywhere are only given to "jump start" the industry. Remember that this investment tax credit that people have for ten years, but what is important is this.

4.10 p.m.

In those formative years when a hotel is really sparking, in those early years, a hotel is not profitable anyway because it is just cutting back its investment. When the hotel really needs the help is in those latter years, after the ten years have gone, when the hotel is really starting to experience problems. That is when we are calling for a lot of these incentives to be put in place.

Sir, I have heard Senator Mascoll say, and I want to put the cat among the pigeons with him, regarding the room tax whether or not the sales tax trickles down, that the sales tax is not indicative of what happens in the tourism sector and that the sales tax does not get to the Consolidated Fund. I am willing ask him on what basis they have calculated, over the years, this sales tax and this room tax, the 5% tax.

I would like to know. Do you know why? Because a lot of them are calculating it on the room rate and the rack rate that these hotels are supposed to get, but nobody tells you that the tour operators, all over North America and Europe, give these people 30% net rates and still the percent of the rack rates that they are experiencing in all these hotels, nobody has told you that. I would like to know how they calculated it, and what they need to do is to tell you how they are calculating it.

I am saying, Sir, that most of these people, that people claimed are stashing this money overseas, have to pay their wages here in Barbados. They have to pay everything in Barbados, they have to pay their energy bills here, they have to pay the labour cost here and those are the highest component of the tourism product.

So, there is no way, do not let anybody fool you, ever again, that this is true. I am saying that a lot of these people are getting net rates that are 30% less than the rack rates and we are calculating this tax off the rack rates all of the time, and they claimed that the 5% does not add up to the amount of long stay.

Asides.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: I am clear, Sir, I am very clear. It is very important that people understand. I am going to explain it very carefully. If a man has a printed rate of $100 per night in his hotel, some wholesaler in one of these places decides that he is going to send him 200 visitors a year, but he does not want to pay $100. He wants to pay $35, he wants to pay $45, he wants to pay $40, and that is exactly what they get. I am saying that anybody who continues to calculate the tax on the $100 is going to be wrong, because what they are getting is not $100. I saying this also, too, Sir, that when we are dependent upon 95% of our traffic, 95% from the tour operations in Europe and in North America, one can easily see where the mistake is made.

Sir, it is also necessary to move out of the traditional areas and to focus upon the non traditional areas in tourism and that is what is important, Sir, as I said before to get away from this emphasis, or over emphasis, of the U.S. market and to concentrate, substantially, on also the European market.

We also, Sir, are going to be looking at, and the Ministry of Tourism is very clear on this and you have to commend the Ministry on this and the BTA, the non-traditional markets. I know, Sir, that the past administration and the past BTA had a team in South Africa looking at opening an office in the South Africa market. This, Sir, is renewed interest because there is interest in the Barbados product in South Africa.

There is also interest, Sir, in South America. The new Brazil programme, I know that Senator Mascoll would claim that Brazil is nothing new, but maybe they went to Brazil with Millie. We are going with Billie. There is the difference. They went with the wrong people. That is why the programme was not sustained. This time, Sir, what we are going with is a partner that we know is reliable, BWIA, in Barbados and Trinidad. We have produced more visitors from Brazil in the first half of this year, in the first seven flights, than for the whole of the past two years.

The other thing is this. The Argentina market is being looked at and obviously that opens up areas of Chile, areas of Ecuador, all of the other areas of South America because South America is a vast tourism market for Barbados which has been untapped over many years. We still need to be able to focus on these non-traditional markets to be able to move Barbados forward.

I believe, Sir, that it is important. I have taken you on a roller coaster ride with this tourism industry and have been able to educate people, like Senator Mascoll, who knows a little bit, who got up and posture about it but knows little about it in depth. I respect his knowledge in the economic area but in tourism he is a mere fledgling.

I do not want, Sir, not to spend anymore time on tourism, but I also want to be able to focus a little bit, in the time that is remaining, on the Ministry of Sports and Community Development. Sir, I have been, for the longest time, very worried about the Ministry of Community Development and Sports, and I want to be very clear on this. There are many agencies in Barbados, I want to, particularly, talk about the National Sports Council and the vote for the National Sports Council that goes out every year. I have been worried over many years about this $6 million, or whatever it is, that we give to the National Sports Council. This is something that really bothers me.

I believe that this $6 million that we give to these people should be reflected, Sir, in the areas of, not only, in terms of recreation in mass, but in terms of the production of the elite athleticism in Barbados.

I am concerned, Sir, that these National Sports Council programmes are not the genesis and the base under which we produce many people, at higher level, with their sports in Barbados. I also, Sir, am worried about the National Sporting Organisations in this country which every year walk around, cap in hand, and beg people in Barbados for money to send their teams away. The Amateur Athletic Association, the BFA, all of us are going to the same people every year, cap in hand, to beg for money, Sir.

Sir, it is necessary to do this. I do not understand how any kind of administration could have given away a licence. I want to put this in its right perspective. We gave away a licence for two lotteries in Barbados to individual concerns, when we know that this is a form of indirect taxation that should have been used to develop the areas in a country, Sir, with high levels of unemployment and people all around went looking for employment. Could you imagine that we could allow private interest in Barbados, 166 square miles and 250 000 people, to control national lotteries, when a lot of these associations are begging all over the place, every day, for money? Sir, again, I am saying there are areas to be developed and I am concerned about this.

Although it is said that the Olympio lottery is a lottery for the Olympic Association, I know that the amount that comes to the Olympic Association is a drop in the bucket and I know that the people are not really gaining from it. People use it like a private enterprise to be able to make money.

I am saying, Sir, that in a community like Barbados that is wrong and needs to be dealt with at the highest level. It is about time, Sir, that the people of Barbados that set out a regime where a lot of the other people in a lot of these areas, in charge of sports, earn some money from it. It should be taken back from most of these people. It should be taken back from them and I am saying that this afternoon.

Sir, I really wanted to deal with the Ministry of Broadcasting and CBC. I was really coming to that but, Sir, the time has run out on me. Sir, I have no reservations at all in giving this my stamp, Sir, for this Appropriation Bill and supporting a Government, which I understand, to be a caring Government, a Government, which I understand, knows every day that what we do in here touches each and every Barbadian, and has constantly, Sir, been providing a better life for our people.

I thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for half an hour.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I would like to make a few comments on Head 13, Prime Minister's Office, approximately $2.1 million. I do recognise that it was said this morning that there has been an increase allocation of funds to the Government Information Service and they are making great efforts in order to expand. I would like to support that but what I would like to query is their role in educating the public or giving information to the public regarding the programme.

Mr. President, while I am making this query about the zoning and flexible transfer of students in the upcoming examination, I am aware that it was said in this Honourable House that plans were on foot for educating the public for almost a year. I am not sure what happened. I am not sure if it is the parents. I am not sure if it is GIS. I am not sure what happened that some of these parents are still very concerned. I am not sure if it is the pressure of the examination to the extent that some of them would like to see the zoning postponed. I am not asking for postponement of it because I really do not know what needs to be done but I think perhaps we can learn from this lesson and next year start a bit earlier trying to get the parents to choose the various schools.

In connection with education and nutrition regarding the children it was mentioned in this Honourable House about the children not drinking the milk. I would like to point out that sometimes this is due to lactose intolerance, and that quite a few of us cannot really drink the milk because it makes us ill.

I would like to say that children are not born with any taste. They acquire a taste for fruits, vegetables, but sometimes these vegetables are so expensive that the parents cannot either afford to buy them or they do not like them themselves. So I think what one is going to have to do is to marry the education in the schools with that via the Government Information Service in order to encourage the children to take more nutritious meals.

I would also like to make a plea regarding the employment of nurses in the areas of testing. I am not talking about nurses who have just undergone 3 years training. I am talking about those nurses who are qualified public health nurses and who would be able to do the various testing in eyes, ears, etc. and pick up any other problems regarding the children when they are tested.

Mr. President, I would now like to turn to the application of modern information technology on page 7 of approximately $3 million. I note and I commend the efforts to computerise as many departments as possible but I am making a plea for the computerisation of the police stations to allow for registration of deaths and births and the issuing of certificates. I will tell you why I am making this plea because when my husband died, even though I live in St. James I had to go down to District "E" Police Station to try to register him and then I had to come back up to the one in Bridgetown in order to get the certificate. I think it is possible, given the computer technology, to set up the computer so that if one has a death or a birth etc. one should be able to go in to the nearest police station and they should be able to key it in and register the death even if one has to go elsewhere to pick up the certificate. At least one should be able to do the registration of the death and also to get the certificate too.

I would also like to make a plea regarding modern information technology to be introduced into hospitals. I know you have started it and I think it is also needed in the pharmacies. I will tell you why, Mr. President. One should be able to pull up a patient's name and look at the various prescriptions etc. I am not so sure if one would want to put the whole profile on the computer. I have not thought that through but at least one should be able to pull up the prescriptions to see if someone is allergic to medication or if the person has been to another doctor because in Barbados there is a tendency, because medical health is free, to go from one doctor to another doctor, getting the prescription filled, putting it on the shelf and leaving it at home which increases the cost to the Barbados Drug Service.

In the area of the application of modern technology I would like to make a plea for broadcasting the Senate debates, especially on radio. I am not talking so much about television because that is quite expensive but at least if they could go on radio they would be able to stimulate interest in what is being discussed within the Senate.

Mr. President I am now going to page 8, Government Printing Service, $3 million, approximately. I am making this plea to have the laws printed so that we can get a copy of the legislation. I know that you have offered that we have access to the laws here but sometimes, Mr. President, it is not convenient to get here in order to do the research and more often than not one has to do this research in the wee hours of the morning and if it is possible that

we can get the laws I think it will help us to make a better contribution to the debates before us.

Mr. President, I now turn to Head 15 – Cabinet Secretariat and I am asking for a re-examination of the matter of personal assistants. It is because, Mr. President, I cannot in my mind's eye see how they fit into the scheme of things and I am wondering if increased allowances to the constituency branches would not be better than having them physically within the Ministries because I cannot see in my mind's eye how they are going to have access to the files and to the information in order to write the Minsters' speeches etc. Maybe one could give it a try for a period, see how it works and then re-examine it and perhaps look to see if one could increase the allowances to the constituency branches where those political matters could be dealt with at the various constituency branches rather than within the Ministry and leave the Ministries to focus on civil service matters.

Head 16, Mr. President, the Ministry of the Civil Service on page 12. Development of managerial and personnel skills, approximately $1.5 million. I am wondering, Mr. President, if this is enough for the proposed Public Sector Reform. I myself envisage that there is a lot of need for training and re-training of personnel. I am not sure how much this will cost. I would also like to ask if one can include in the training sessions the topic of social graces and professionalism. I find that these are the finer points that could make the consumers more acceptable to the services. I feel that it will do us quite a lot of good to have programmes in the area of how to answer the phone, how to approach clients who come in, what to do when they come and so on. In the area of interpersonal relationships and professionalism, I think we have reached the stage where we need to realize that to be professional does not mean to be subservient. If one is being professional, one must not bring private matters about this person not speaking to this person and that sort of thing. That has no place in professionalism in Barbados. One is there to do a job and one should go to work and do it in a professional manner.
5.00 p.m.

Under the Ministry of the Civil Service, I see the Service Commission and I am aware that Public Sector Reform is in the process of looking at this area. I will make a plea when they do look to consider the notion of having a permanent chairman both of the Public Service Commission and also of the General Nursing Council of Barbados.

On Head 17 – Ombudsman $389 000 approximately. Mr. President, I am asking that this post be reviewed to see if we need 2, 3 or 4 Ombudsmen and also have it reviewed in the light of the Committee on Social Justice to see how these two services relate. I cannot see one Ombudsman being able to handle all of the complaints of the Public Service. I believe that there is need for having different Ombudsmen. I am not so sure how the Committee on Social Justice will function so I cannot talk very much about that. Having one investigator under this heading, I do not think that it is adequate. So when doing Public Sector Reform maybe one can have a discussion regarding the relationship of the Ombudsman to the Committee on Social Justice.

Head 19 – Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. The Office of Privatization Unit – I am aware that a Resolution is being discussed but I would like to issue my wholehearted support to this coming Unit and will speak further on this at a later date. On page 27 regarding Pensions, Mr. President, I think that the time has come to review the pensions of persons with a view to increasing them in keeping with the cost of living. I am not so sure how one would go about this and what has to be done, but I am asking that one has a look at some of these pensions because some of them have been paid so long ago that they really are totally inadequate. I am also bearing in mind the contribution of Senator Thompson regarding the ageing population and the working force and the serious difficulties that we are going to encounter regarding having enough persons to work, not only because of the ageing population but unfortunately because of the premature deaths from accidents and AIDS which is unfortunate. Because of the ageing population, I can foresee that persons who are older will have to be recruited down the years into the work force to assist with working.

Sir, page 31 National Productivity Board – $417 000 plus. Now, Mr. President, the National Productivity Board is very important and in this Honourable 'House' it was mentioned that it is going to be expanded. I am not so sure if $417 000 is enough because the National Productivity Board is supposed to develop ways to measure productivity and they will need help in doing this to assist with the establishment of productivity related payment schemes and monitor all aspects of productivity growth. If one just takes "to assist with the establishment of productivity related payment schemes", this is a very large task for the Public Service because there are so many different sections and areas that one would have to deal with. I am not so sure if this is enough. The National Productivity Board is also to engage in an educational programme to stimulate the activity awareness about the need to raise and maintain productivity standards. Well, that can be done through the assistance of a grant for the Government Information Service, but it is the development of the actual schemes that has me thinking that maybe one might need to expand that Board a little more.

Head 25 – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, page 59 Fisheries Management and Development. Mr. President, I am making representation

on behalf of the fishermen. The fishermen would like to see fishing tracking devices or "fads". Apparently, there were some off the various shores but because they were not maintained they are no longer there. Consequently, they do not attract the dolphin and fish that used to be attracted there. I am asking that some attempt be made to put back the fishing tracking devices or "fads" to submerge them into the water again and then maintain them after they have been laid.

I am also making representation about the reduction in the prices of fishing gear. I heard it mentioned that prices on inputs were reduced but they have not really reached the fishermen.
5.10 p.m.

For example, I have been told that a box of fishing hooks, which was $7.00, is now $14, and the fishing gear is very expensive, so what I am asking is that the persons who are responsible for fisheries should look into this area and see what could be done for our local fishermen.

With regard to Rural Development, much has been said but I would like to add a contribution and say that I feel this rural development should work very closely with community development in the area in helping to organise the community. What we would like, in addition to that, is for them to be a bit more visible. Let us know what they are doing. It does not matter how small they feel it is, I feel that Government Departments do a lot of work but it is all hidden and nobody knows but the Government Department what they are doing. I think the time has come in 1996 where the public is demanding accountability for the use of taxpayers' money. I think that Department after Department must educate the public, give press releases – I don't know how, if it is through GIS, I don't know if you want to decentralise GIS for them to do it – but they should be able to educate the public and let the public know what they are doing. The civil service is something out there and the public seems to feel that they do not do anything but sit down and just tell them Good Morning, Good Evening, *et cetera*. You need to promote and sell yourselves so that the public could be aware of what goes on behind the scenes within all of the various Departments of Government, and a lot does go on.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Head 28, CERO. An excellent contribution was made by the Senator. My only contribution to this is that CERO also needs to work more closely with the Community Development Division which is responsible for community organisation and which has trained people who know how to organise the community. The problem with CERO is that they seem to be sitting and waiting for a hurricane. You tend to get various ads coming about a hurricane and no one pays attention to them. I think CERO has to get involved in various groups, the various churches, BRNA or any other group for that matter and really try to stimulate interest within the community. To do this I think they will have to lean heavily on the Community Development Division to assist them with getting the community interested.

I find one way of getting the community interested is to use established groups rather than establishing a group yourself. Just tell them: "Call a meeting and make sure you get at least 30 or 40 people here, because I will be bringing somebody important to talk," and you will find that the Boy Scouts and other associations will get that ready made audience available. Go into the church, and instead of a sermon you give a little talk on CERO preparedness and you will get your information through to the community like that. People are not volunteering now unless they are paid, everybody is looking for payment, so you have to appeal to their moral or inner conscience. If you go into the churches...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: They will help. If you do it through the churches you will get more help than trying to get individual people to volunteer, even through the PTA's.

The Prisons. I have been advocating, and I still want to advocate, that in the interest of psychological aspects of rehabilitation you really need to have as Prison Officers properly trained psychiatric nurses and social workers to be on the staff to assist with the psychological aspects of penal reform.

And now, Mr. President, reluctantly I come to the area of Health and the Environment. Much money has been allocated to Health, for which I am very grateful and for which I hope I could make a contribution for the more efficient use of this money. I would like to say that I am aware that the wheels of Government grind slowly because of the various checks and balances. That is how Governments work. It does not happen overnight, they grind very slowly. However, we are going to have to find some ways and means in which to hurry up certain things. Regarding the efficient use of funds allocated to Health, I would also like to preface what I am going to say that these problems did not just arise overnight. The problems we are seeing in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and in Health in general are problems inherited by this administration. I would like to preface it with the fact that the nursing fraternity had a vision of all the problems we have recently encountered and in order to prevent these problems from happening, in 1990 proposals were submitted both to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Civil Service.

One of the areas the nurses themselves – I am not talking about anyone else, this is what the nurses

identified – the need for management training at the senior, middle and lower levels and made a representation that some of the nurses be trained in these areas. Mr. President, as you know, nursing is a hands-on profession and there is not very much training in management. It is sorely lacking in the area of nurse training, and it is needed. We are seeing some of the results of the lack of training in this area, we are seeing that some of the nurses do not seem to know their role, they do not seem to know what is right and what is wrong, and nothing can be done about it. I am not calling any names, Mr. President, but recently letters have been written to various agencies and I understand that because it was industrial action, even though the nurses code was violated and professionalism was breached, nothing could be said to these nurses to let them know that they were doing the wrong thing because of the laws in industrial relations. I really cannot see that. I still feel that if someone violates a code of ethics, one should be able to let a nurse know where she goes wrong, whether it is industrial action or no industrial action. I would like this examined a bit more fully, because I would like to be enlightened if this were in fact true that nurses can violate a code of ethics and there is nothing you can do.
5.20 p.m.

Mr. President, I did call on page 22 of last year's Estimates for an investigation into nursing. This is in Hansard, page 22. I am reading paragraph 2:

> "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."

I am still calling on an examination of the nursing personnel system.

In addition to looking at the nursing personnel system, I did call on page 320 in the last debate for the rationalisation and training of nursing education. This is on paragraph 8. I won't read the whole paragraph because time is getting short.

> "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."

This was in connection with the training of psychiatric nurses which we were told during this debate that the psychiatric nurses training is going to be moved into the Barbados Community College and I look forward to that move because what is happening is those nurses who came through the back door and were trained as psychiatric nurses – I am giving an example of what happened Mr. President – for example in 1994 there were 33 of these trained psychiatric nurses doing general training, but they have to reduce it to 22 because the others could not pass the exam. Now psychiatry is a speciality. We are doing things backwards.

I hope we can rationalise nursing and let these nurses do general training first and after they have passed general training, then they go ahead and specialise into areas such as psychiatry, operating room nursing, etc. I have also asked to look at the question of nursing education and this was on page 321 last year in which I mentioned that out of a class of 60, you ended up with 20 qualified.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, it was worst last year. Out of a class of 58 you only ended up with 13 passes. It is not getting better. This has nothing to do with this Administration. It was done in the 1990s even though BRNA advised not to double the intake from 30 to 60, because if you cannot train 30 nurses properly, can you train 60? You take in a class of 60 and end up with 20. Nothing has been done. It has not been examined and now with a class of 58 you end up with 13. A lot of these people are people you are paying. They are not there training like other students who go and do not get any money. They either get a stipend or they get a salary and it is not efficient allocation of resources.

It is better to train 20 in a class and let all 20 pass, because obviously something is wrong. It is either the teaching or the quality. I am not so worried about quality because I feel that you can take a student and if you have the time you can bring that person up to a certain level because when I coordinated the shorter RN course I would not accept anymore than 12 students and I would work on them individually and bring them up to the level and end up with about nearly all passes. Within the following year they would pass.

These are nurses and they only need time but what I'm trying to say is if you have 60 of them and you do not have the amount of teachers then the training leaves much to be desired and both students are unhappy and the teachers are unhappy and the employers are unhappy because it is not good. We need to look at something because it is not getting better. It seems to be getting worse.

Mr. President, regarding the performance planning and review, there was a tool that the Barbados Registered Nurses Association developed with the National Productivity Board in order to evaluate the performance of nurses at all levels. This is sitting gathering dust. We need to look at this tool so that the nurses can be evaluated and they can be told their weaknesses and their strengths and where to continue their education. The teachers started after us and they almost have their tool. We started and our tool is laying there. We need to really get that tool moving so that we can use it in order to guide our nurses in professionalism and in caring for our patients.

Mark you, we have excellent nurses. I am not criticising the nurses. I need to make that clear. There are a few who need some help and urgently.

Mr. President, I would like to make a plea and support on page 153 the call for a crematorium which was made by the Archdeacon. I feel that all the funeral directors could be asked to contribute to it if the Government does not have the necessary funds. All of us do not have the funds to go to Miami and have a cremation and come back. I feel that it would be very useful to have.

On page 188, regarding women's affairs. I really could not leave this Honourable Senate without mentioning the need to educate our women. You need to leave something for the imagination. Let the men wonder what is underneath there. You don't have to show it all at one time. There is a time and place for that.

I feel we can use the Government Information Service to educate our young people that there are certain standards one needs to observe. It is not old-fashioned to be properly and smartly dressed. It is not good for young people to be exposing themselves to the whole world in all sorts of undesirable matters and positions. Mr. President, I am very serious about this. I feel that education is very important for our young people to bring them up in the fear of God and in the way that they should behave. That is why some churches would not even let some people have their arms showing but I would not go as far as that. I feel we need to really get out there. Our Women's Affairs Department needs to get the young women and start educating them and involve the churches and all other organisations to respect themselves first and foremost. If you cannot respect yourself, you cannot respect anyone else.
5.30 p.m.

Mr. President, I do not really want to say too much about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because attempts are being made to look into the situation of the QEH. I think after they have given us their report I will have the opportunity to make comments so I am not going to comment on the present developments of the QEH other than that we need to start assigning patients to nurses by name. You need to say that Mrs. So and So is your nurse to look after you throughout your Hospital stay. That nurse must be responsible to the relatives and patients for looking after that patient. It is done in other places and it can be done in Barbados. You come in, you take patients and the relatives and everybody knows the contact person and the nurse by name who is looking after their relatives.

As they come into the Hospital they start what is called discharge planning which means they must meet the relatives of that patient, introduce themselves, find out about their home conditions, *et cetera*. Then all of this unsavoury publicity we have been seeing would not happen because you would know who is responsible for each patient by name. It is done and it could be done in Barbados. They are given responsibility over 24 hours, even during their days' off until the patient is discharged and then as professional nurses they must make sure that everything is handed over from shift to shift, *et cetera*, until the patient is discharged. We need to start that and we need to start that quickly, and then this would force accountability upon our nurses. We will know who needs help and who does not need help.

At the moment there is the code of silence and there is no point beating your head against a brick wall. Assign patients to them and say, "This is your responsibility" and they have to look after the patients, and tell their relatives "Nurse So and So is looking after you for your stay in the Hospital. If you have any problems that is your contact person." I have nothing more to say about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I wish the people well in their efforts to help sort out that matter other than we need to have an investigation into the nursing services.

Mr. President, there is one last matter I want to talk about that has not been talked about in this Chamber, that is the question of the Landfill. I do not know what the plans are but it was mentioned about transfer stations. What I would like to say is it has been done before. Years ago they had transfer stations and the transfer stations became mini dumps so if one is thinking in terms of transfer stations one has to be very careful that they are what you want them to be, transfer stations. Not where you are going to dump the refuse and forget to go back for it for a week or two weeks and then let it become a mini dump. I cannot say much more about this because it has not been discussed and I am not sure what the plans are. I will await when we have been informed about the plans so that I can make contributions if I do have them.

With no more ado I would like to support this Bill.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and to say a few brief words following the brief presentation of the previous Senator. First of all let me say that the Estimates cannot be seen in isolation from the Budget. I think the Minister of Finance has hinted that in future years or eventually we may see a consolidation of this process because this is but one half of the equation. Therefore, the comments that have been made relating to the Estimates have of necessity speculated on what the budgetary proposals may or may not be. I would just like to make that brief comment about some of the comments that have been made before.

I would also like to say that the thrust of this Government is focussed around enhanced project management and increased accountability. Those two factors cannot be over-stressed for if this country

is to move ahead and if the people of Barbados are to get value for their money, because it is their money that the Government is spending, there must be super project management and increased accountability.

Now, it has taken some time to put some of that in place. You do not grow a project manager overnight. There is no doubt that we are going to have to spend money in training people to become project managers. We may even have to bring project managers into the country for the short-term to make sure that some projects stay on stream because by spending $50, $100 or $150 000 for project management, you may well be saving tens of millions of dollars through the wastage we have seen taking place in the past.

It is not just the project management of implementing the projects but it is the project management of developing the projects, of understanding what a particular project may be and what value that project has to the people of Barbados, what value it has for our economic and social development and then prioritizing some of those projects because, obviously, everyone will have a particular idea that something may work well for us but we must sit back and have a measured and focussed look at the projects that come before Government and prioritize them so that we get the best value for the investment that Government is making for the development of this country in the future. It is this skill and focus that clearly differentiate this Government from the one that preceded us. It is this that will bring value to this country. It is this that will create the confidence that has been created. It is this that will create the economic growth that is clearly on the cards for Barbados. Ultimately, yes, it will create jobs, Mr. President.

I am glad to see that yesterday Canon Springer recognised the new energy and robustness of this Government. That, coupled with this desire for enhanced accountability and improved project management, will spell good for Barbados in the years to come.

I turn just briefly to the Ministry of International Trade and Business. It is far more than just the International Business Unit that was in the Ministry of Finance some two short years ago. This Ministry is responsible for international business but also international trade, and international trade at a time when there are dramatic changes taking place in the region and in the world. There are developments in CARICOM, there are continuing trade problems with our CARICOM neighbours because of the changing parameters in the liberalisation of trade and there is a continuing brief with the successor agreement for the LOME Convention and the establishment of stronger links with Europe as we move into the next century to develop the type of arrangement that Barbados and the Caribbean will have with LOME.

5.40 p.m.

There is the development of the Association of Caribbean States and the new trading parameters that that will bring about. There has been the expansion of CARICOM with the introduction of Suriname as a new member and the issues that have to be negotiated in relation to that. There is the World Trade Organisation and the GATT and dealing with the WTO Conventions that will affect our economy, will affect our trading patterns and will affect the way we do business and the standards that we evolve and develop for the conduct of business in the future.

There are negotiations with the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, and the Free Trade of the Americas, the FTAA. On all of these the Ministry has an active brief and attends meetings of these organisations and works on several subcommittees particularly in the areas of the small economies which is of vital importance in the FTA process to the Caribbean Countries in particular. It is this type of activity that the Ministry is specifically focussed on.

In addition to that the Ministry is responsible for telecommunications and all that that implies for the business of the future and the development of our telecommunications in the future new technological age that is unfolding before us. The importance of telecommunications to Barbados cannot be over stressed. It will affect every aspect of our business and our social life. It will be the one encompassing technology that will change the face of Barbados for ever. It will give us access to the world and it will give the world access to us. It is how we manage that process and how we develop that process that will really dictate the quality of life in this country for generations to come. So the brief of the International Trade and Business also includes the international business regime which we have been developing and in that there is not only the development of new legislation which has continued apace but there is also the development of bilateral investment treaties for protection of investment and double taxation agreements.

In the past Barbados has concluded bilateral investment treaties with the United Kingdom in 1993, with Venezuela in 1994, Germany later in 1994, Switzerland, Italy in 1995, Cuba in 1996 and this year, besides Cuba, I expect to sign treaties with China, the United States, Canada and Chile. There are other agreements being negotiated with Belgium, India, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Costa Rica and we have made approaches to Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, El Salvador and Guatemala. I plan to make approaches to South Africa.

On the double taxation agreements we are moving to expand those agreements as well and we are engaged in consultations with those that we have signed bilateral investment treaties with.

Now, this treaty network is critical to the type of international business that Barbados is involved in because it is a low tax domicile that takes advantage of the double taxation agreements. Barbados is a clean domicile. We readily maintain our regulatory and supervisory position so that we ensure that there is no money laundering taking place, that there is no illegal activity taking place within the international business regime. This makes Barbados an extremely desirable domicile for the international business community.

Now, it was earlier said that there was little in the international business for the average Barbadian but that is a very narrow, myopic and short-sighted view of the international business. There are currently under construction or might have been very recently constructed six buildings totalling in excess of 100 000 square feet to house the international business activities in Barbados and to my knowledge they were built by Barbadians. They were designed by Barbadians and the engineers and supervisors of construction were all Barbadians. Then the international business goes beyond that because there is a growing number of local employees hired by international business activities in Barbados and this I expect to continue to grow. Thus the International Business Community provides jobs for architects, construction engineers, carpenters, masons, electricians, plumbers, management and supervisory personnel of hotels, restaurants and shops, system engineers, communication specialists, musicians, graphic artists, key board operators, medical technicians, lawyers, language specialists, interpreters, project managers, writers to precis one document to another. Landscape designers and maintenance and even golf pros. So everybody in Barbados gets a bite of the apple or should I say a bite of the Bajan cherry. That is the offshore business ladies and gentlemen and, if the Ministry has a small budget, then I am proud to say that it must be efficient but it will have a significant impact on the economic life and the social development of this country. But let me say this that the Ministry does not operate in isolation. It operates in very, very close... It operates in very close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Home Affairs, Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Finance and with the Ministry of Tourism. Because what we are about is not just selling Barbados as an offshore domicile. We are selling Barbados as a superior location to live and to visit and that is what my Ministry does, to work with the other Ministries in the total promotion of Barbados in a holistic sense. So you do not just pick one thing in isolation and run with it. It is the Ministry that is deeply committed to integrating itself with the activities of many other Ministries that promote Barbados and the economic development of Barbados.
5.50 p.m.

Now the Ministry of Industry through the BIDC develops the industrial parks and the industrial plant and you have heard Senator Farley describe the fact that as fast as he can build it the space is being filled and by and large the space is being filled by people who set up here in the offshore business environment. It is that harmonious development of the total economy that is bringing about significant economic growth, developing jobs for Barbadians and certainly earning foreign exchange which is needed to fuel the economy.

Mr. President, although the Ministry may be small, it is diverse. It has extensive responsibilities and its staff are fully occupied in servicing the interest of Barbados abroad in ensuring that we are well represented in the international forum which are actively involved in discussing the transformation of the global economy and it is ensuring that Barbados has its rightful place at the global table. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, one of my pastimes and I thank my mother for that that I have always been able to sit, listen and observe and over these past 2 days there were times when I thought perhaps that I was in a commercial bank and at other times I thought that I was in a biology class, in the commercial bank in the sense that I thought we may have been seeing a number of Grantley's and Barrow's stirring around and people perhaps believing that 2 Barrow's are greater than one Grantley. In the biology class, Sir, I think that we were doing the physical structure of the human anatomy where there were some wishbones and where some of us still seem to be dreaming and wishing. There were some jaw bones where some of us seem just to talk. There were some knuckle bones where some seem to knock everything what some people were saying but thankfully we found some backbones which are the main stay and stability of the human body.

I think, Mr. President, that we as parliamentarians need to see ourselves as the backbones of our society. I believe that society in general has been for a long time looking to those in Parliament for guidance and role models and looking to those in Parliament to lead the way forward for successful living and harmonious relationships in this country. There has been much talk about the absence of visitors to the galleries of Parliament. I am not going to suggest any particular reason, but I will suggest that we as parliamentarians need to take note and to look at ourselves to see what messages we are sending to the general public if they are taking us seriously or if they are taking us as a pack of jokers. So I thank my mother of blessed memory for the ability to listen and to observe.

I want to turn to a few Heads in the Estimates. First, I would like to turn to the Head of the Attorney General and in particular the question of prisons. I am very happy to see that successive Governments and this Government in particular at this time is seeing prisoners as members

what we consider the straight and narrow path and have been locked away into oblivion forever and forever, but that corrective measures are being taken to recapture life for these individuals and to send them back into the community after having paid their debt to society to continue to be worthwhile citizens with us and among us. But there is one set of prisoners who have been the subject of attention in recent times and those who occupy the hallowed halls of condemn row. The whole question of hanging has been very much aired in our community. This evening I would like to give perhaps another perspective to the whole question of capital punishment. I think that if we are to understand the question of capital punishment we must understand the purpose of legislation. Legislation is not a system of dos and don'ts or you can or you cannot do this. But I think, Mr. President, that legislation is to be understood as being a code of regulations for the maintenance of ordered society which is conducive to good, just, moral and equitable living for all persons whether these persons are residents of Barbados or visitors to Barbados.

This then, Mr. President, calls upon us to look at the legislation relating to hanging in what I believe is its correct perspective. There are those who consider hanging as barbaric. But I simply ask the question: Which is more barbaric for an individual to be hang or for us to have a wild and loose society of men and women who are free to rush into your homes or to attack you anywhere and take your life knowing that they will spend a life with 3 square meals a day and all the pleasures which we have outside of the penal institute? I gather that those persons will give a rebuttal to what I am trying to say by saying that two wrongs do not make a right and I agree with that, Sir. But I cannot agree that the laws relating to capital punishment are a wrong for we cannot allow sentiment and our personal pet peeves to overtake and to over shadow sound thinking and sound moral judgment. I will be the first to admit freely that the law which relates to hanging is not necessarily a deterrent. I will also admit freely that such a law does not restore the life of the victim.

6.00 p.m.

I will admit freely that such a law does not comfort the victim's family. These are all true, Mr. President, but these are not the purpose of capital punishment, for murder is to be understood not as a crime against the victim or against the victim's relatives, murder is not to be understood as reform for the accused, but it must be understood as the legal framework for vindicating righteousness in the land, righteousness in our society. Therefore, Mr. President, murder is a crime against the value, the well being, the dignity and order of society. It is a crime against the value and the dignity of human life which we must maintain. Murder defiles society as a whole and it is a dishonour to God in that it defaces the image and the nature of God planted in every human being. Therefore, Mr. President, through the law which orders values in society each member of society, whether an adult or a youth, who has reached the age of thought and discretion will clearly understand that the society in which we live is saying to all of society, if you murder you die. Since ignorance of the law is no excuse, an accused must therefore be deemed to be sane when he or she commits a murder. "I know what my society will do if I take a life, but I am prepared to forfeit the value of my life, because I intend to take away the value of my society." So in this sense, Mr. President, the law does not hang an individual, an individual hangs himself.

It is very clear, and it is for this reason, Mr. President, that our society through the important jury system, through the courts, both locally and the courts of appeal overseas, through committees of mercy and clemency afford the accused more than full opportunity for justice and mercy, both in the interest of maintaining high societal values as well as determining whether or not the accused had full knowledge and understanding of what he or she was doing.

Let no one say that 12 and 14-year olds are incapable of understanding and making a reasonable judgement when a youth says: "I 'gwine kill yuh." I say this, Mr. President, because it is no rush of blood but it is a calculated decision, and I will give an example of something that took place in my own yard when my son was about five or six years of age. I had four little boys between the ages of 12 and 14 from down in the Sargeant's Village area who I got together to assist me in keeping the lawn, and I suggested to them that out of every dollar they earned I would put aside 25 cents for them, to teach them how to have a bank account and how to save. I said: "Go to your parents and discuss it and come back to me." They all came back and said: "Mummy say give me the money." Months after a 13-year old youngster turned up in my yard a Saturday morning. He came for his money. I said: "What money? You said you wanted all of your money, you have got all your money." "I going to Frank Walcott fuh you." I said: "Go to Mr. Walcott." Then this 13-year old, mistaken like a lot of other people, "Mr. Workman, I know you got 'nough money." I "gwine kidnap your son and get money from you." Calculated! He would have been prepared to murder my son if he did not get that money and no one is going to convince me that persons of that age do not understand what they are saying and what they intend to do.

So, Mr. President, we must see laws relating to capital punishment as being educational, educating our public as to the societal values which we as a Barbadian public are prepared to place on human life. It is to be understood as being regulatory of human behaviour and being proclaimed for the purpose of maintaining

general order and respect for the value, the dignity and the preservation of human life and that he or she who dares to break that moral code will pay for it with his or her own life.

I want to turn, Mr. President, to the Land Registry, a Department with which I deal daily. The Land Registry, particularly under the new scheme of land registration, is doing a very good job and I would like to congratulate Madam Registrar and her two Commissioners of Title, the permanent Commissioners of Title, for struggling against certain odds to assist us in having the work of the public done in the legal field. The physical surroundings are cramped, they have quickly outgrown the building in which they are sited, the vault space needs a vault perhaps three or four times the size. I also want to congratulate not only those at the top, but to bring the trickle down effect to those ladies and gentlemen who, without being lawyers, are called upon to administer that Department. I know many attorneys complain and quarrel because they do not interpret certain things as lawyers do, and I would ask Government to consider making opportunity for those ladies and gentlemen in that specific area who have to deal with certificates of title, which is a very tedious and difficult task, to have paralegal training that they can be even more efficient and that they can continue to improve upon the service which they already give to our community in that area. I believe that more modern equipment will be coming for them in the near future, and that in itself will make that Department even more viable.

But there is one area, Mr. President, which I think needs to be looked at also, and that is the fees which are payable for registration of dealings. These unfortunately have been passed on an *ad valorem* basis and not on the folio basis. Under the old land registration system, the cost of registering a legal document depended upon the number of words.

6.10 p.m.

This is still so where transfers are done under the old system. Under the new registration of title system, it is based upon the value of the transaction. I believe that this can create some measure of expense for the poorer person particularly. Let me give an example. A release of a mortgage for the poor person with a value ceiling of $20 to $50 000. The cost for registering that deed of release was $10 approximately. It now goes in ranges between $20 to $40. For the middle person with a transaction of $50 000 to $100 000 and the cost for registering that release is still $10 under the old system but now it is $70 to $100 for the upper man with a transaction of $101 000 to $$^1/_2$$ million still $10 under the old system for registering the release, between $150 and $250 under the new system. For those richer persons over $$^1/_2$$ million, under the old system the same $10 and now $300.

I believe that those charges should be looked at and relief given so the poorer persons of our community do not suffer unduly for registration of their dealings. The unfortunate thing about it is that when the bill comes they see it as what the lawyers charge and nobody looks at the breakdown, that the real estate agents get more than the cottage industry lawyers.

I would like to turn to a question which was raised earlier by Senators Lynch and Bernstein on gambling. I believe I made it clear in this Chamber before that I am opposed to all forms of gambling as a matter of principal because it creates the get something for nothing approach, covetousness and greed and to a large extent there is despair for those who gamble know full well from the beginning that only a certain number will win and all the rest is ruin.

We have a situation where we are being transformed into a gambling community. This has grave social and economic effects in a situation where a man believes that on Friday evening after he gets his pay packet he will win and gambles away everything he has. He loses and goes home with no money for his wife and children. The next week, after a quarrel, he still feels he can appease the mistress, goes to the gambling house and does not win but borrows from a friend to look good in the eyes of his household but he still has to pay back the loan. A third Friday he tries to make it back. The man loses again and a fight ensues and 2 bottles are broken.... We have to put this in the Bajan parlance to show the reality of it. It is the result of covetousness and the hope to get something where there is no hope.

I believe that it is significant that this is coming at this time leading up to Easter when we remember that our Saviour was gambled away for 20 pieces of silver. We are gambling away the morality and solvency of our society, which is the stability of the family, at the expense of poor people of this country and I feel the time has come when because we have legislation that permits gambling that unless you can seek means effectively to have it repealed, in the circumstances prevailing, the time has come to shield them by nationalising the same. Everyone in this country, whether residents or visitors who plays, will contribute to the funding of this country and we will not have the problems at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or elsewhere, because money would be made available.

The amount of money given to the so-called charities can never justify the disorder that comes to our community. I feel Government must do something about it at this time. I commit this to the Government because it is especially a government of morality and integrity that has the morality and integrity to ensure dignity. I believe there are some grumblings and a house divided itself cannot stand. We must not permit them to move towards self-destruction

while poor people are suffering. I will not say like my fellow, Senator Laurie, *festina lente* but I will say *carpe diem* – let's take it now...

I want to turn briefly to the National Housing Corporation under sub-program 01 of Head 12. All I want to say is that many tenants are indebted to the National Housing Corporation to the tune of $4 million and I know that efforts have been taken by NHC for a long time, and I believe in more recent times feverish action has been taken to recover these sums of money. The stark, naked truth is that a lot of people just cannot pay. Some are worthless but the stark, naked truth is that a lot of them do not have the ability to pay. They may have to drive the car to get to work.

Some years ago there was a forgiveness of debt for persons in this country who owed land taxes, and land taxes going back to the years 1971 and 1972 were written off. I am telling you. It included men and women of this country of substance who owed large sums to the Treasury and never paid taxes and the rationale behind it was that the money to be spent in recovering those taxes would have been so great that we could as well write it off.

I believe the time has come when Government should look at this aspect with the tenants of the National Housing Corporation to see what relief can be given to give them an opportunity to breathe a little again, to set their house in order and start with a clean slate. I commend this to the National Housing Corporation for careful study and to see what relief can be given in this vein.
6.20 p.m.

Under this same Head, Mr. President, I want to deal also with urban renewal. Urban renewal is like for me as it is for Senator Barker, dear to my heart. There are many years I have been thinking about urban renewal. There is a large sum of money earmarked for consultant fees and developmental costs associated with approved urban projects. I support that urban renewal programme all of the details of which have not come before us here but some of which I have gleaned as I attended some of the Town meetings not so long ago at the Frank Collymore Hall.

We have a dead Bridgetown after 6.00 p.m. and with all of the proposed development of business I am concerned about development for the smaller business people because the development programme calls for not only big business but also small business. Some of these small business people are expecting to do business at night. I know of one small business run by an accountant which had to close because there was no night clientele so the whole question of life in the City does not come automatically. Life in the City at night will not come just because the poorer people are nicely housed at Pondside and perhaps Cat's Castle, Emmerton and wherever else it maybe possible. For Bridgetown to become alive at night we must be able to change the culture of our people and that is going to be very difficult because we are a people who will work and go home, eat and watch T.V. and whatever else we have to do.

It is a place, Mr. President, where I can say from personal experience at 5.00 o'clock one Sunday evening standing in the porch of the James Street Church before taking a service I saw a sister of loving memory coming through the gate. As I turned and went in, before she could reach the porch, her handbag was snatched. What we need is to be able to create life and business together in the City. I believe there are areas in Bridgetown which are well suited for this type of activity. I would like to see that this type of development take place as well. I believe that some investors will be prepared to invest in proper housing for other than the lower class persons in the City.

I would like to suggest to those returning nationals who have been accustomed to living in apartment buildings to bring investment of that nature into Bridgetown. There are some of those returning nationals who would have bought property in the United States of America which is now worth hundreds of thousands of dollars they would get good profits. They may not be able to do it singlehandedly but the time has come when they must learn to join hands together in a cooperative effort and put up an investment of that nature in Bridgetown.

We have, Mr. President, a very wonderful strip of Barbados stretching from the Hilton right back down to Brighton and in recent days that has been my haunt. It is that area which I think we need to preserve more than ever for successive generations of Barbadians.

When we debated the sale of land at Six Men's in this Chamber towards the end of last year, I strongly suggested that the Government never ever sell the property it owns along that area, that we should turn to leasing for development activities. I reiterate that today. But as I reiterate that call I am conscious of the fact that Government is prepared to vest those lands in a newly created statutory body and that body will have the responsibility for dealing with the lands. That is good but any such authority that is established must be seen as the agent of the Government and the Government as the trustee of the people. Since the Government as principal is not able to dispose of those lands without the consent of both Houses of Parliament, I am saying that any such legislation must have provision to ensure that none of those lands can be disposed of unless they come back before us here in Parliament. That will ensure that Parliament which is the custodian and guardian of the people of Barbados and their interests must have opportunity at all times to say whether or not those lands should be sold. Perhaps, the answer

is to say that that authority can only lease those lands, full stop. But I do believe that is pristine property which must be preserved for our generations to come. I have been spending all Saturdays there now, Mr. President, and feeling fit as a result.

Mr. President, with those few remarks, I call upon all of us to redouble our efforts to see ourselves as responsible citizens of the community, placed here by our various parties, or by the grace of the Governor-General, not to have a status but to be the servant of the people, to serve the people in their best interest. We should all redouble our efforts with the resources we have, the main resource being our people to ensure that this rock, Barbados, continues to have a good reputation in the world, that this rock, Barbados, continues to be a rock, a strong and sturdy place whereon and wherein the peoples of this nation can sojourn for a lifetime.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill. First let me say that this exercise which has been running in this Chamber for two days would be one of zero if during the course of the year ahead some form of economic and financial prudence failed to obtain, if the Government does not have the access to science, technology and if also in our bid to achieve sustainable development we do not pay the due care and attention to the environment and the ecology. I would like to echo the statement of Senator Lynch, who in his presentation said, when all is said and done, it is about the people.
6.30 p.m.

Sir, we have heard, over the past few weeks, the people making several statements about our Hospital. We have heard it, Sir, in the other Chamber and we have heard it in this Chamber, some negative comments but I will not join in that vein. Rather, Sir, I prefer to look at it as to the positive things that have been done, and the positive things that can be done with the aid of the monies earmarked for spending in that institution as well, Sir, as with the management available.

Sir, first of all a hospital, like the one of the QEH, is a tertiary and a teaching institution. It embraces an Accident and an Emergency. Within the walls, Sir, will be found surgery and those not for surgery, physiotherapy, a very well established laboratory service, radiology, accounts and administration which, in recent times I supposed, has been the area which has brought the institution into great discussion.

If we cast our memories back, just about some 20, 25 years, we would see that these problems at that institution have been on the horizon ever since then. Sir, I remember every weekend, whether is was the "Beacon" or one of the weekend papers, much would be said about that institution. The "Beacon" or the "Truth," or those weekend papers not the daily papers.

Sir, it was at that point in time that a Minister of Health had called for an investigation, or allegedly called for an investigation, into that institution. It was alleged that the man, up to this point in time, I have never heard the name of the man, but he was referred to as the second biggest man, whoever he was, who allegedly said "no investigation." Today, Sir, it is a school of thought that had that investigation been carried out, that was allegedly called for, we would not have to be going through the exercise that we are. That is just a school of thought.

Sir, if I can look at the more positive side of things, the Medical Intensive Care Unit, a few weeks ago I said during the White Paper, all of us older people and a lot of eye brows were raised, but all of us here, Sir, in this Chamber, maybe with two exceptions to my far right, are now prime candidates for heart attack. We have reached the age, Sir, as soon as we have gone into that third, approaching the fourth decade, we have reached the age, whether you like it or not. This department, Sir, if we are moving into an active tourism industry and, if we are going to boast of the facilities which this institution carries, then, we must pay great emphasis to this Unit.

Yesterday, Sir, we heard, Sir, that Government could procure a ventilator from the St. Joseph Hospital, and the learned Senator said, that he has perused these Estimates in all totality. Sir, I was led to think differently because right here on page 155 we would see that provision has been made for angiography, and cardiac catheterisation supplies, Pacemaker, Puritan Bennet Ventilators with accessories.

In the medical Intensive Care Unit ...

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. President, the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. I was referring yesterday evening, during my speech, about transferring equipment from St. Joseph Hospital during the fiscal year 1995. These Estimates are for now, 1996/97. Therefore, I was referring to last year not this year.

Thank you.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: I am sorry we cannot replay them instant, Sir. The sum is being provided, Sir, to purchase a central monitoring system, to enable the units to ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gill, I think you should withdraw that. The Senator has said that he has been misquoted. In the absence of Hansard I do not think that you can question his integrity.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Sir, I do not set out to at all. Withdraw, Sir.

The sum is being provided to purchase a central monitoring system to enable the unit to acquire the capacity to provide the required monitoring treatment of patients. Items to be purchased include two Ventilators with accessories, $149 840, and an ECG machine $13 500.

Sir, there is no need to go and inherit an old piece of instrument, a used one, only then to have to put it aside, down the road, cannot get the part. If the Chamber has any idea of how these bits and pieces of equipment have to be serviced, Sir, there is one, or maximum two persons, who actually service these pieces of equipment and they are in great demand, the knowledge of those persons. So, Sir, there is a need to train more people.

Sir, if you have one which is suspect, you will see the kind of problems that lie ahead. Not only people in the Intensive Care Unit but Physiotherapy. Provision is made there for equipment in the sum of $19 000 to purchase one Turtrac Traction package with dial model traction machine, an Ultra Sound machine and a modem stimulator. Sir, we can shift from totally medical areas and go to the Engineering Department.

Under the operation of the Engineering Department, provision is being made for the purchase of a 50 000-gallon water tank, to increase the hospital's water storage capacity, to 77 000 gallons. Sir, provision is also being made for the purchase of operating theatre lights at a cost of $160 000.

How often we have heard, over the past few weeks, about surgery being held up and some negative Press about surgery. Sir, now is the time to hear what will be done and I do not think it should cause any problem.

There will be a computer system for the introduction and development of a preventative maintenance programme for the department. Radiology, Sir, not sticking only to the Intensive Care. All of us will remember, I was a little boy then, when the Indian touring team was here. You remember it? You need that, and we have, Sir, in the region the Kiwis. We Patterson Thompson in full cry, Radiology Department. Cat Scan machine, Sir. I thought I had heard, again, it was negative that you have to run from the QEH down to Belleville for these services. We will not be in the not too distant future, $1 310 000 for a Cat Scan machine, for one Cat Scan machine. The existing machine is ten years old.

I remember Senator Lynch yesterday in a *sotto voce* when he said do they expect this administration to work miracles? We are bringing one Cat Scan after 10 years and you want two in this year. These delays, Sir, the airconditioning units malfunctioned and the cables to the machine are eaten away by rodents. It is intended to review the location of the existing machine before installing a new one.

Sir, the total projected expenditure for the section, computers and printer, as well as adding machines and this goes to the Accounts Department. When I was in the ante room there, Sir, I heard, this morning, Senator Murray, who dealt with that area quite cogently, and I would like to reinforce what he said that total expenditure for 1996/97 is $1 761 357 compared to $1 568 828.

Asides.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Sir, we heard the negative talk about the nurses, but I must make it clear that just a few weeks ago, one highly specialised department had to run with less than half their capacity, the nursing capacity, because that ward was struck with a bout of Rubella, German Measles. They worked long hours, Sir, not one cried out and it was not heard and, Sir, not without one red cent, we do not hear about that, Sir.

We do not hear about the understaffed Dispensary, and, they have been understaffed for some time. I hope that with the new team on board that provision would be made, and made not with a *festina lente*.

Sir, as part of this Ministry, there is the Environmental Section. When I see the sort of provision made for the Environmental Engineering Unit, the second year running $284 780, Sir, for testing the air, it pleases my heart. I can see, Sir, how this can also be applied to the same QEH. In the QEH, as part and parcel of Government's intention for public sector reform, I would ask the Minister, who is in charge of that portfolio to, at least, incline an ear. The reason being that all of these Government Departments, and I would like to start with the QEH first, with the airconditioning units are susceptible to recurrent, even this one – illnesses, viruses, microbes.

Sir, there are hospital acquired infections, there are serious infections, Sir, and they do not pick out any one country or any one hospital, and particularly, Sir, when you have seriously ill persons, persons who have to go on the same Ventilator that we should be getting in the not too distant future, persons who cannot breathe for themselves, who cannot feed themselves or who are immobile.

When these types of people are institutionalised, even in the Old People's Homes, but fortunately they are not airconditioned. They are opened up for the fresh breeze, which is much better. When these pathogens, and they are growing to be a lot more resistant, they are a lot more virulent, and the world knows that none of the

antibiotics, none of the antivirals, available at this point in time, can handle some of them.

When someone with a compromised immune system, and we do not necessarily mean AIDS, there are lots of other conditions which dispose your system to such a state such as – we said HIV because somebody yesterday called AIDS a disease. AIDS is not a disease, AIDS is a syndrome. You do not die of AIDS. You die of another condition which takes you, be it tuberculosis, encephalitis, meningitis, one of those, Sir. AIDS is a syndrome, HIV is the condition, Sir.

Mr. President, Sir, we were speaking about multiple sclerosis, when you have to be treated with drugs which, in themselves, will predispose that person to such condition. Therefore, Sir, an institution, a hospital, a tertiary hospital like the one which we happen to have here, Sir, is an excellent area for these hospital acquired infections, some very serious infections.

I will ask that the first thing on the Minister's agenda would be to have clean buildings in public, clean public buildings, be it the hospital, be it the MTW but we are going to start there because that is the place, Sir. Simple painting, identifying areas of cross contamination, mopping floors and walls with the same mop as you do floors two and three, they predispose the floors to cross contamination.

First and foremost, Sir, the airconditioning. Let us get a private company to clean the hospital, clean the air ducts. Just going with a paint brush and cleaning out the registers, that is not enough. You need what you call, in modern cleaning technology, a negative air machine. What this does? The size of the filters are so small, the pores are so small – we are down to a thousandth, a millionth of a pin head and, Sir, by extraction, by share of microns, as my goodly friend next to me said .03 of a micron so we are down to a millionth, Sir. A millionth of a meter, just try to conceptualise it.

There is a technique which is referred to as HEPA, High Efficiency Particular Arrestors, which removes and will render fresh air and diminish the opportunity for these virulent pathogens, which I alluded to earlier.

Sir, the other thing, if Government can take the lead then the private sector will follow. As we move through, Sir, for the electronic equipment, there is something about this electronic equipment, all the faxes, photocopiers, computers, Sir, there are all driven by electromagnetic motors. These motors are themselves the agents for small particles, small atoms, being formed which in themselves act as a nucleus or seeing agent for lots of these bacteria and moulds. The only thing which is probably electrostatic charge, the only, Sir, that is saving Barbados from something like Legionnaire disease, Legionella, is because of our climatic conditions. If you take a walk through the lower parts of the hospital, Sir, you will also be seeing the plumbing section, you get little drips here, little drips there, and moulds along the path. Sir, now I am on that and the work of the Environmental Engineering Department, right now we are digging up the whole of the ring of Bridgetown as far out as to the Dayrells Road area into town. Sir, there is too much dust in the atmosphere. Sir, there are certain things we have taken for granted – clean fresh air and an inexhaustible supply of water. Sir, these two opinions of thought and ideas are no longer true. As we move out of town, yes, we may have a pure and clear air supply but when we have to be digging up the roads, and with the Sahara dust at this time of the year, I would send out a word of caution to the engineers, to the contractors, to have a sprinkling system to keep the dust particles down. Too many Barbadians, Sir, suffer from respiratory tract problems, be it sinusitis or asthma. Sir, it is a combination of factors which predispose them to these conditions, whether they are chronic or otherwise.

6.50 p.m.

And, Sir, if I may just nip back again to within the building. The other thing which causes quite a bit of these problems are some of the ethers with they use for cleaning and for servicing the photocopiers etc. Those in themselves, once they are caught up in the air flow and repeat and constantly circulate, they themselves cause problems and it is worst yet if at the end of the week an office should close the airconditioning systems down on Friday evenings and then start again Sunday, because you have gone from a very cool atmosphere up to a hot atmosphere come Monday you are looking at a humidity factor which again is the correct ingredient for what is referred to as a sick building or a building related illness. So another system of cleaning is the ultra violet system but I would not go into that.

Some of the older systems do have fibre glass in the ducts. I do not know if that is the case here but I am sure that some of the Government Buildings do. Sir, this can again, once the particles get caught up in the airflow, be hazardous to the workers.

Sir, we have also some companies dealing with plastics and the heating of plastics and we know again that by the heating of these plastics they can cause problems. Sir, once these plastics are of a certain nature and they get within the system and there is that high affinity for the cells, Sir, again it would be a problem but of a different nature. It would be a cellular problem.

I would like to see the day, Sir, when a complete pollution Bill comes before this Chamber, one which would be looking at pollution of the sea, marine pollution, pollution of the coastal environment, pollution of the land, noise pollution, a complete pollution bill, Sir.

Sir, in terms of care outside of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital we feel that there has been quite a bit of concern about the long waiting hours at Accident and Emergency and to alleviate some of these problems I have been informed that they will implement a pilot project at the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic to extend clinic hours from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. week days and 12.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. on Saturdays and 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Sundays. Sir, the environmental health services which form a part of the Ministry of Health, they have allocated an amount of $10 364 194 for environmental health services. These will cover, Sir, the public health inspectorate, an area only too dear to Senator Rickinson's heart, ancillary workers, environmental sanitation units, environment engineering division and the vector control.

Sir, each time I sit and think of the onslaught which the Ministry had carried out on the eradication or the diminution of the aedes aegypti mosquito, Sir, when I think of the possibility of not having carried out that attack I shudder to think what would have happened in Barbados. Two thousand lorry loads of bulk refuge and yet dengue was rampant. There was not one of us or of our families who did not fall victim to the dengue fever. Sir, it was a very sad period in the history of Barbados, last year, with the death of some relatively young persons, some in Barbadian parlance, who had not even seen a star pitch.

Sir, we could not move off the environment without looking at the NCC. In sum, Sir, what the NCC is doing is to bring the population in harmony with its surroundings. We debated here, late last year, the situation in St. Thomas where there was a pig farmer and the effluent from his sties had started to pose a great threat to the caves. I have been informed that this would be addressed and in addition a major pig farming operation will shortly be relocated by the Ministry of Housing and Lands. It does not happen over night.

Some of the projects on the drawing board for this corporation include 4 new trams, one tow truck, relocation of ventilation fans, construction of workshops to house the new trams, electrical refurbishment, feasibility study of proposed development and, Sir, this would be for the Harrison Cave itself.

The NCC, in total, Sir. Remember those bad old days came to an end the 16th December where again we picked up the commitment and the promise that we would put the people back to 5-day work. It was not just talk, Mr. President. Provision for new staff, 10 life guards, 2 nursery assistants, one workshop supervisor, one manager (commercial) 2 Senior field superintendents and one senior electrical assistant. Sir, if this is not commitment to the people, as I have said, when all is said and done we are dealing with the people, then I do not know what is.

Sir, I alluded to the accessibility to scientific knowledge if we are to see our promises, if we are to see these Estimates executed in true style and efficacy. Sir, this brings me again looking at the environment, to the Barbados Water Authority.
7.00 p.m.

We see here on page 212 a sum of $1 900 000 being earmarked for the Water Resource Study. At the moment work is being done on the Porters catchment area. We know only too well as we move towards the north and central of Barbados at this time of the year that the outages are frequent and bothersome.

Sir, this area which has a flow to the well of about 1.8 million gallons daily will help to service the West Coast and the Warleigh and Shop Hill areas. Sir, yesterday the Leader of the Senate brought home the real facts quite clearly to those who did not know when Barbados stands in the same category as countries like Bahrain and Jordan. We know them to be desert and dry and therefore we have to explore every possibility in trying to meet our supplies of water. Without this, Sir, I am sure that Senator Goddard and Senator Farley in their quest and their work to attract more and more international businesses to the country would be experiencing some problems. We know for our cricketing activities, and our daily activities life would become a problem if we do not have new and exciting ways and means of looking at developing our water resources. Sir, we could not move ahead without the desalination plant. This is using an old technique. Right now in the Spring Garden area the findings of the consultants are ready for presentation and they are using a system which employs an old principle of osmosis or brackish water reversed osmosis abbreviated BWRO. Sir, it seems more than likely that this will be another approach which we should be taking in the not too distant future and it is hoped that we will be looking at something in the order of 0.5 million gallons daily to be up to 1.0 million gallons daily. Not only in that area, Sir, but there is also work being done in the Brittons Hill area or a site which will be explored a lot more thoroughly in that area.

Sir, we are looking at the well-being and welfare of Barbadians and the monies have been earmarked and the projects are ready to take off. As I said in my opening remarks, we are looking at the environment and the ecology of the country. So without going down the road of how sustainable our development can be or will be and to use the term of Senator Workman, we would self-destruct. Sir, it would be remiss of me not to mention the Urban Development and again, Sir, this is an area which was very much neglected by the former administration when we see the number of houses that were built between 1991 and 1994, Sir, which does not speak well at all. Only this morning I had a phone call and the man was asking

me to please put the word in for me, see to whom you can speak. I have applied for this unit now over 15 to 20 years. I am not playing partisan politics. Daily you will get those who are newly weds. You get those who have just started to work and think that they should move on in life. This is the sort of problem which lies ahead of those folks living in certain urban areas. That whole stretch beginning from the City and coming just outside of the careenage along Halls Road, Martindales Road, up through Bank Hall into Bush Hall has been neglected. There is no housing estate whatsoever to service it and I would hope that with the Urban Development Plan to come on stream in the not too distant future that some of the cries and pain of those who have been calling out for housing units would be answered. But it is not going to be done, Sir, in a one-off, willy-nilly attitude. Sir, again there will be some degree of environmental and ecological impact involved. This is basically the guideline: (1) The provision of portable water for all residential properties by the year 2000. (2) The promotion of recycling. Sir, we have to go the way of recycling to sort of ease the burden which is carried by virtually every household in Barbados. This is a major tool. Let us start, let us continue and let us teach the younger ones in terms of recycling. (3) Upgrading public health and environmental conditions right through the depressed areas. Sir, there will also be techniques of disposal of garbage and introducing households to modern techniques of disposal of garbage. (4) Promoting a sustainable environmental development of the physical environment. We would like to see a lot more green as we do the development through the urban areas of Barbados and this would blend in well with the environment as well as the immediate ecology.

Mr. President, I know that it has been a long 2 days and we still have one other Senator to wind up. Sir, with these few words, I would like to commend this Bill as it stands before this Chamber. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Perhaps, Senator Gill, one day you can tell us how many words constitute a few. Senator Welch.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, last year in this debate I made some observations about the lack of a decent water supply in our developing country and I was pleased to hear my colleague, Senator Gill, re-examining the issue this year. I do not want to spend a lot of time repeating what I said, but I just want to state at the onset that we were in a very difficult situation last year and a lot of the plans that the Barbados Water Authority had put in place to alleviate this problem has not really been as successful as they ought to have been. I want to draw two references to this.
7.10 p.m.

There were plans for the development of a well at Buttals and the heavy rainfall situation in August last year, coupled with the lack of a rig, resulted in a situation where this project has only been restarted about two months ago. In addition to this, two wells at Alleynedale, which we had hoped would have provided about 1.5 million gallons of water per day, has not worked out in the way we thought it might have. We have a situation where we have found water with a salinity of 400 parts per million, which is above the WHO guidelines for potable water. In connection with the point Senator Gill was making, I know a study has been done by the Barbados Water Authority in relation to desalination and they have plans for a pilot project at Spring Garden. If things work out the way they expect them to, they will double the capacity of the Spring Garden plant, or alternatively put a second plant at Brittons Hill.

I think the time has come when perhaps the Water Authority should look at setting up a plant close to these wells. The water resources close to the west coast have a high saline content, I am going to suggest that they ought to bring a desalination plant where there is water already in the wells and desalinate the water.

In addition to this, we have problems seasonally with rainfall. We have an unacceptable distribution system which has quite a lot of leaks in it which is inefficient. You are wasting electricity pumping water that is eventually lost in the ground. Then we have consumer wastage, which is a problem that only education and a PR programme by the Barbados Water Authority can bring under control. We also have a national mindset that Barbados has plenty of water, which is not really true.

I am happy to see that although only $1.9 million has been allocated in the Estimates for water development, the Water Authority proposes to spend about $20 million of its own money in the development of water in Barbados. As a matter of fact, they are going to spend $20 million in normal water development, $7.5 million as their contribution to the South Coast Sewerage Project and about half million dollars over a period of time for the same ground water resource study Senator Gill spoke about. One of the important things here is that the Water Authority has made a decision to make available to the contractors doing both sewerage projects BWA personnel in order to ensure an efficient transfer of technology when the sewerage plants are finished and the contractors go back wherever they came from. I just wanted to place this arrangement in perspective.

Mr. President, I want to touch an area I do not remember being touched in this Honourable Senate. It relates to Government's programme for road development. Both Governments over the last 15 to 20 years have had a mindset of road development that saw ambitious projects like the Spring Garden Highway, the ABC Highway, Highway 2A and even the Charles Duncan O'Neal

Highway from the Arawak Cement Plant to the Greenland area in St. Andrew. It is my opinion that as a result of this a lot of the minor roads have suffered and remain in a state of disrepair. It is heartening that Government in the Estimates this year has provided $20 million, as opposed to $9.9 million last year, to complete the Highway 2A, Clermont to Canewood, which is financed by the CDB. Unfortunately, this contract which originally was estimated to cost $15 million is expected to have a $2 million cost overrun, largely as a result of the fact that the elevation of the road has been changed and hedges and driveways to residential areas have been knocked down and need to be rebuilt.

In addition to this, there is the World Bank overlay programme and there are about 10 or 12 roads within the City which are going to benefit from such a programme. In the IADB programme there is also provision for road maintenance by contract, but perhaps the most ambitious road building project the Government will be involved in the next financial year is the building of the road from Searles to Six Roads, which will involve the complete reconstruction of that road which is in a very bad state of disrepair. This road passes alongside the Barbados National Oil Company and it also serves as a conduit for vehicular traffic coming from the Six Roads area of St. Philip, which is the most rapidly growing parish in the country and one which is growing increasingly in traffic density. What it actually does is provide a conduit from the heart of St. Philip down to the ABC Highway by the Newton junction, and the Government must be commended on this foresight.

In addition to this, the Government has just completed, as we all know, the junction at Cave Hill and Codrington which is to be extended to Long Gap. An interesting feature of the lights there is that the Government, in their foresight, have placed an audible system there so that people who are sight impaired will know when to cross, and I think this is something Government ought to be commended on. I hope that these measures will be extended to the next project which will occur at the Pine East-West/North-South Road in the not too distant future.

In 1993 the then Government of Barbados signed a loan with the IADB for two ring roads around the City, an inner ring road and an outer ring road. The outer ring road comes around the Garrison, Dalkeith and the inner ring road Jemmotts Lane, across by the Hospital, Roebuck Street, *et cetera*. The unfortunate thing about this is that this Government had to pay committal fees and interest and not one single piece of work has been done on this project. It is hoped that by January 1997 work will commence on these two ring roads and this will tie in with the Bridgetown Renewal Project. The opportunity is also going to be taken then to replace the old water mains that run in these areas in a cost effective way.

Mr. President, Government in its wisdom and based on experiences in Barbados last year when we had a lot of flooding has also allocated money in a Drainage Unit of the Ministry of Public Works. This also is to be commended. This programme will see the cleaning of wells, the clearing of gullies and water courses, it will also focus on areas which suffered most last year from the devastation of flooding, like Woodbourne and Weston, and will also revisit the area in Speightstown which has certain problems which make it prone to flooding. This too must be commended.

Mr. President, I am going to wind up now by turning my attention to a couple of comments made in here during the course of the debate relating to housing. My colleague, Senator Bernstein, expressed some concern about Government's commitment to sell the NHC units to the tenants. Government is vigorously pursuing this matter, but part of the problem is that the modern units are built as single units by and large and are easy to be disposed of. When you get the older units where you have 5 and 6 semi-detached houses together they create problems of maintenance, especially when you have to change the roof and people are reluctant to buy these units. So Government's position is that it intends to offer the houses to these people, those who live in single units and do not want to purchase will be moved out into other Government units so that people who want to purchase these units can purchase them. So the logistics of arrears and these sorts of things must be worked out because if a man cannot pay his arrears I don't see how he will be able to buy a house. This is one of the problems that you run into.
7.20 p.m.

Most of all what galled me was to hear in here today a statement coming from an Opposition Senator about not seeing anything in the Estimates that relates to housing. I want to make it quite clear now that you cannot look at the Estimates only to see Government's commitment to housing and water development because there is only $1.9 million in the Estimates for water development but the Water Authority is a statutory corporation and is putting about $28 million into water development. Likewise the National Housing Corporation has a lot of money that sat there in 1991-92 at the time when Barbadians needed money for house building most. $20 million laid dormant in the housing Credit Fund and the only housing development that occurred in Barbados were a few paltry houses at Church Village in St. Philip. In spite of the fact that they were two Ministers of Housing. They should be condemned forever – to come in any Chamber and speak on housing for the next 20 or 30 years.

This Government has a 4-pronged attack on housing. We are committed to the Barbados/Venezuela Housing Project at Cane Garden. So far 5 houses

have been completed, 32 are at an advanced stage of completion. We have the housing credit fund which has over the years dispersed about $48 million for mortgages through the banking system of Barbados and is now in the process of dispersing $3^1/_2$ million to the public workers' credit union for the same purpose and money for this Fund is also used to finance purchases for people who qualify under the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act.

Further than that, this caring and committed Government has set up a tenantry relocation and development programme for those people who became the victims of the amendment to the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act. I have no problem with the amendments to the tenantry act, but there were some people who no longer qualified under that programme. We set up a programme which provides sites and services for them and also provides grants of $10-15 000 to help with their relocation, depending on the size of the dwelling. If you go to Haggatt Hall in St. Michael you can see what is going on there.

More than that, I just want to take a look at the sort of housing development that Government has been involved in within the last year. We have the phase 2 of the Maynards project, phase 3 – Corbins Village in St. Andrew: 30 lots, Cuttings Road, Haggatt Hall: 40 lots which I referred to just now at Husbands Heights, St. James: 40 lots, Parish Land, Christ Church: 15 lots, Pondside: 50 units, a day nursery and 7 blocks of 4 stories each, Hoytes Village, St. James: 45 lots.

I turn my attention to sites and services. I will just run on: 40 lots at Haggatt Hall, 40 at Husbands, 30 at Husbands Village, 40 at Mount Brevitor, 7 at Eyrie, 4 at Pilgrim Road, 40 at Apes Hill, 40 at Water Hall Land, 40 at Groves, 40 at Constant, 8 at Bournes Land, 7 at Maynards and 45 at Hoytes Village.

So it galls me to hear people talking about housing when they don't know anything about it. Mr. President, I do not think I will go on any further. I will take my position gracefully like Courtney Walsh who scored the winning runs this evening for the West Indies Cricket team. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: On a point of order, Sir, the winning run was scored by a no-ball not by Courtney Walsh.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise at the conclusion of this interesting debate on the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill, 1996. I note, Sir, with interest one or two of the interesting features of the debate, but before I proceed to do that I would just want to reiterate that this Appropriation Bill and the supporting Schedule really reflect fiscal prudence which we consider to be the hallmark of this particular Administration. The deficit which is produced is a manageable one and the method by which it will be financed will not do any violence to the balance of payments and furthermore these estimates are about people.

You have heard at the beginning of this debate a presentation of the Estimates in numerical terms, this is essential. That is the common denominator. That is the means by which we are able to analyse and compare. It is essential that we do that but you also heard throughout the debate as it continued right down to the wire by the last Honourable Senator who spoke, the Estimates expressed in terms of the programmes and it is the programmes that establish the linkage with the people. The housing programme is only expressed in numbers and documents so that we can compare 20 years from now with what would have been done today and what was not done for the last 8 years. At the end of the day, those lots for the tenantry relocation programme have names on them and the names of those persons who in the development of the Tenantries Freehold legislation would have fallen outside of that range of persons who by narrow definition of the Act would have been entitled to certain benefits but whose conditions, were it not for the legal differences, are essentially the same and who therefore require the special form of assistance by way of the State finding and assisting them in finding accommodation. What could be dearer and nearer to the heart and people of Barbados than owning a piece of the "rock"? Having that security that accrues from knowing that when you get up in the morning you have your "papers". You can decide to put your patio in the front or the back, put your kitchen garden in the north or the south. If you wanted to stand on your north corner and do whatever, once you do not offend your neighbour, that is yours and nobody can tell you to get off.

That Sir, is one example of how these numbers which I introduced at the beginning of this presentation are really, at the end of the day, about people, affecting the quality of life for people. In fact, Sir, you know that this Party which forms the Government has long been associated with a very neat phrase which I like to use "a better life for life for all people". These Estimates, Sir, as prepared and presented are just part of that ongoing process. We are obligated by law to indicate for the fiscal year 1996-97 how we are going to do what we are going to do but we consider this as all part of our ongoing attempt to have a better life for our people.

Sir, it was interesting to note as well that in these Estimates the Opposition attempted to approbate and reprobate at one and the same time. On the one hand, you have had one Opposition spokesman indicating that everything should have been done in 18 months and nothing happened. On the other hand you had the other Opposition spokesman saying that there is nothing we

been responsible for the good performance, that the good performance we were able to enjoy has been because of what they did 18 months ago. They really have to make up their minds on what it is they want to say. But the one area on which they were all agreed was that they conceded that things were better. There is a better quality of life for our people. They conceded that all the indicators are pointing in the right direction. They conceded that unemployment was down which means that employment is up. They tried to squabble on the numbers but, Sir, you will be well aware that during the last year or so over 7 000 jobs were created in the economy, for the year actually, December 1994 to December 1995.
7.30 p.m.

Now, Sir, the release from the Barbados Statistical Service would have indicated, yes, that 2 700 persons were added to the Government sector and, of course, that is true. But it also would have given the locations of those other jobs. I heard the Senator asking himself, I do not think he was asking anyone else, where were these other jobs. Clearly, first of all, in relation to the Government services he said he could not find a correlation between the numbers for wages and salaries in the Estimates and the number of persons indicated by the Statistical Service to be employed in the Government services. That is obvious, Sir, because the figure for wages and salaries in the Estimates would relate to those persons, as he well knows, employed in what we would call the civil service, the central Government component but there are some 51 or so, if my memory serves me correctly, statutory bodies ranging from the commercial enterprises to those that just have a parastatal type of status, to those performing a social welfare function, some large and some small. All that would be shown in these Estimates in relation to those bodies would be under the Head of Grants to Public Institutions. It would be shown under Current Expenditure.

The fact, Sir, is also this that the level of transfers to those institutions will not always be a direct indicator of the level of employment either because those enterprises that are commercial in nature, their budget is not constrained by the limits of the transfers from central Government. It is important to note, Sir, in terms of some o f the sectors, the Statistical Survey on employment, or about employment in industry and services conducted by the Barbados Investment and Development Corporations which is one of the sources of primary data, indicates that in terms of the wider industrial sector manufacturing and some elements of construction as well as the services sector, including Information Services and small business, that some 3 214 jobs would have been created during that period. But in terms of the breakdown that is given by the Barbados Statistical Service they have indicated, for example, that tourism created another 1 100.

It is also important to note, and this I reiterate that these Estimates are all about people and the people have responded. You may ask how, Sir? The reports indicate that the labour participation rate has increased. It indicates that the voluntary idle, that category of persons in the statistics has declined by some 1 400 persons. What that means is that 1 400 more persons in Barbados are now more confident and are now actively seeking employment when previously they would have lost hope. They would not have had the confidence to go out seeking work and that is important. These Estimates are about people.

The other important point I want to make is that whereas last year, and throughout the year, we would have heard at Estimates debates all about the Investment Sector Loan, we heard about that *ad nauseam, ad infinitum* all of the ads, even almost an advertisement. But we heard about the Investment Sector Loan until we could almost hear no more, but I did not hear the lead spokesman for the Opposition congratulate the Government during his presentation on pinning down the Investment Sector Loan with the IDB. No mention was made.

I just want to reiterate, Sir, that Barbados has been able to re-establish an excellent relationship with the IDB and the other international institutions as well because they understand, and they can respect the quality of administration which we are bringing to bear in these matters so that the important point about the Investment Sector Loan, apart from the fact that the Opposition has not even congratulated us for nailing it down after they claimed we could not do it, but that this now clears the way for access by particularly private sector entities to the funds available for project financing and some institutional support under the multilateral investment fund of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The three main areas for which those funds are earmarked, some U.S. $240 million for the Caribbean region, are for the youth, women and small business. Those funds under the multilateral investment facility are separate and distinct from the regular project financing of the IDB for whatever you may choose to have.

Sir, those are just a few of the points I would want to raise. But, Sir, I really could not take my seat without addressing a matter which has been raised. The question has been raised about the decision to sell Barbados sugar on the Barbados market as opposed to the importation of sugar. Let me say that you cannot have your cake and eat it too. The plans for the importation of sugar clash, collide and would then destroy any redevelopment, expansion or any of those words relating to the sugar industry of Barbados. So that the plans for the importation of sugar are those plans that are associated with the 65 000 tonne output target for the sugar industry, and that was strictly to satisfy your export markets.
7.40 p.m.

Sir, on the other hand, the other option that was put forward in the early stages, relating to a 75 000-tonne industry, cannot, at the same time, be one which involves the importation of sugar, because the 75 000-tonne option, obviously would have factored in the supply to the local market.

So that having taken, Sir, the decision to go the route of the 75 000 tonnes output for the industry, then decisions for continuation of the importation of sugar clashed with that, but not only that, even in terms of the numbers. As I understand it, the Barbados market is, with respect to the local industry, still the most lucrative market for the sugar. Sugar is sold at a higher price per tonne than it is exported. Sixteen hundred dollars per tonne is what sugar is sold at in Barbados. The Honourable Senator did not make mention of the redemption of the sugar industry Bonds, Sir. Over the years the sugar sold on the local market, and the reason why the price was at that rate was to allow for the redemption of those Bonds, Sir.

Over the years, Sir, with the decline in the production of local sugar and the necessary decision to export what we produce, in order to maintain our overseas market, the source of the funding for the redemption of those Bonds would have dried up.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: On a point of order, Sir. Just to make one explanation. Surely the money for the cess, that Government takes, would be far in excess of the money that was put aside for redemption of the Bonds.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not sure what that was. It certainly is not a point of order.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: It is a point of cloudiness. Mr. President, the point is that the Barbados sugar industry will be sailing perilously close, as well, to extinction by producing quantities of sugar, which are bearly enough to satisfy our minimal requirements. What happens in a bad year, Sir?

There is another fundamental point. Barbadians, I am sure, would prefer if Barbados is a major sugar producing country to use Barbadian sugar. Who are we to determine that Barbadians are not entitled to use Barbadian sugar? Why, Sir? Also, our failure to produce ...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Our inability, Sir, to produce our molasses for the rum industry has been threatening the competitiveness of the rum industry. The freight cost for molasses has been eroding some of the profitability and the competitive edge of our rum industry, Sir.

Also, we are likely to come up against the problem of Rules of Origin criteria, Sir. At what point does Barbados rum become Barbados rum? At what point can we allow the level of foreign input to increase to such a level that our rum becomes challenged as to whether it is Barbados rum or not? We have to bear in mind that in order to continue to access our preferential markets we have to respect Rules of Origin criteria.

So, Sir, just to make the point that the continued importation of sugar would be a fundamental clash of positions with a decision to expand the sugar industry in Barbados, to a point where you produce 75 000 tonnes as opposed to 65 000 tonnes, and we cannot have the two of them together. We either go with 65 000 tonnes and importing or we go to 75 000 tonnes and not importing. That is the fundamental position.

Sir, let me just conclude by saying that this Appropriation Bill seeking the grant of some $771 million plus, to be used in the service of Barbados is very much worthy of the support of all Honourable Members. It seeks, Sir, to release the necessary funds for the advancement of the programmes of this Government. As indicated in our presentation of these Estimates, we have ranged from what was essentially a numeric presentation in the initial stages, to a full explanation of the policies and how they would impact on the people of Barbados, Sir.

With that I commend this Appropriation Bill, 1996 to this Honourable Senate and I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move, Sir, that this Appropriation Bill be now read a third time and to certify that this a Money Bill.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
7.50 p.m.

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PAPERS

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1. Charter for Returning and Overseas Nationals.
2. The Estimates of Expenditure 1996–97 and Schedules of Personal Emoluments.
3. The Land Valuation (Fresh Valuations) Order, 1996.
4. The Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 1996.
5. Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the Year ended December 31, 1992.
6. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the Year 1994.

MOTIONS RELATING TO SITTING

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Suspension of Standing Order 45(2) for the remainder of the Sitting.

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1. The Appropriation Bill, 1996.
2. The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996.
3. The Police (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 921

1. The Appropriation Bill, 1996.
2. The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996.
3. The Police (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

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BERNSTEIN, Senator S. P.
BOLDEN, His Honour Senator C. L.
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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.
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.