
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 9, 2000

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, February 9, 2000, at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP, K.A.(President)

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

Senator the Hon. P. C. GODDARD (Minister of Public Works and Transport)(Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and the Civil Service)

Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

Senator T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources)

Senator the Hon. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, G.C.M.

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator G. E. N. BROME

Senator Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE

Senator D. D. MARSHALL

Senator C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance)

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A.

Senator B. R. COLLYMORE, C.M.G.

Senator the Rev. L. W. B. ROCK

Senator Mrs. V. E. NEWTON, S.C.M.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have two announcements. First, I have received a communication from the Ombudsman by letter dated February 2, 2000 - The Special Report of the Ombudsman Section 13(7) Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8(a).

"I have the distinct honour to submit the enclosed report which was prepared pursuant to the provision of Section 13 of the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8(a). I would be very grateful if you cause the report to be laid before this Senate in accordance with the provisions of Section 13(9) of the said Act, Cap. 8(a)."

Signed: The Ombudsman.

Earlier in the session I advised the Senate that I had received from the Honourable the House of Assembly a message dated November 2, 1999, advising the Senate that the House had nominated six of its Members to serve on this Joint Select Committee on Law and Order and inviting the Senate to appoint three of its Members to constitute the Joint Committee. I am advised that the Leader of the Senate is now in a position to put forward the names of three Senators for nomination to this Joint Committee.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President I have the honour to nominate the following names:

Senator Jessica C. Odle

Senator Velma E. Newton

Senator Cyrilene Thomas-Mascoll.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is there concession on these nominations?

I therefore declare the three Members named by the Honourable Leader of the House will serve on the Joint Select Committee on Law and Order.

PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

1. Land Tax (Rate of Tax) Order, 2000.
2. Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the financial year April 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998.
3. Report of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the quarter ended September 30, 1999.
4. Special Report of the Ombudsman of Barbados dated November 1999.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that the following bills be read a first time:

1. The Savings Bonds (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
2. Fire Service (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

ORDER NO. 2 – THE FIRE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of the Fire Service (Amendment) Bill. This Bill is designed to remove an anomaly which has proved to be a hindrance to the recruitment of suitable personnel into the fire service. It is also to redress problems that have arisen in the last stage of recruitment.

The existing Bill restricts the age of firemen to be recruited to the age of 28. It is the only bit of legislation in the Caribbean that is so restrictive. This Bill seeks to amend this by deleting the words "or more than 28" appearing in paragraph 8 of subsection 2 which will allow us to recruit those people who are qualified, who may be returning nationals with quite considerable experience, who are physically fit and who can contribute in a meaningful way to the fire service department.

In addition to that, it will also remove obstacles from a recruitment that was earlier done where it took some 18 months for the public service to go through the bureaucratic procedures of establishing the post so that people who were recruited were caught in a time trap and then found themselves disbarred from recruitment after they had passed the examinations. After they had passed all the qualifications and actually gone through training, they then found that because of the lightening speed of the bureaucratic service, they were 18 months down the road and had passed the age of recruitment.

This Bill seeks to redress this problem.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD the SENATE resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.
11.35 a.m.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, 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 motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Fire Service (Amendment) Act, 2000.

ORDER NO. 1 – SECOND READING OF THE PENAL SYSTEM REFORM (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President the Penal System Reform (Amendment) Bill, 1998 was approved by Cabinet, passed by the Lower House of Parliament on 15th December 1998 and the Upper House on 21st December, 1998. Subsequently, views of the new Penal Reform Act 1998 proffered by the Honourable Chief Justice and the Director of Public Prosecutions to effect minor changes were taken into account by the Attorney General.

As a result this Bill seeks to amend the Penal System Reform Act by replacing section 5 of the Act by a provision which disapplies sections 3 and 4 of the Act in relation to juvenile offenders. It also makes a technical amendment

to sections 7(2) and 8(2) of the Act, Clause 5 and replaces section 121 of the Act by a provision which makes it clear that mediation will be restricted to charges brought by private prosecutors only. These are some technical arrangements in the Act.

There is an urgent need to have sentencing options other than incarcerations, fines and probation placed at the disposal of the judiciary in order not only to modernize the Barbados Penal System, but also to more effectively and appropriately punish first time low risk offenders and not to place them in close and continual contact with hardened criminals where they tend 'to go to school' in the area of criminality.

This was discussed with the Registrar of the Supreme Court and other magistrates in a discussion seminar last year to examine the new Penal System Reform Act, in particular its concomitant implications in relation to the sentencing of low risk offenders.

In addition, the Steering Committee has held public meetings at Sherbourne Centre and the Queens Park Steel Shed to sensitize Barbadians and receive feedback from them on the various community sanctions mentioned in the new Reform Act. A special meeting was held with all representatives and stakeholders of the print and electronic media on the matter.

Given not only the level of expenditure for Barbados correctional institutions, the enactment of the Penal System (Amendment) Act will contribute over time to the reduction in expenditure on the penal system as a whole, reduction in overcrowding at Her Majesty's Prison, and most importantly, provide highly rehabilitated opportunities for first time low risk offenders and a decline in offences and recidivism.

It is therefore urgent that we promulgate the Penal Reform Act. We are all in this society concerned about the level of crime and the changing nature of crime. However, we cannot just talk about crime and punishment; we need to understand the causative factors of crime and this is what the Government is intending to do – to have a holistic and all-embracing review of the causes of crime and how we will address the problem.

We all have to recognize that there are many factors involved. High unemployment could be a factor. There could be a factor of international pressure. There is a clear and dangerous pressure through the growth of narcotics trafficking, and this also is connected to the widening use of firearms in the society.

It is clear that those who have firearms do not know how to use them and pose a danger to the general public and probably themselves. We are all concerned about the level

of firearms in this community. However, it is the duty of each and every citizen to assist the authorities by letting them know where these weapons are. The police cannot do everything themselves. The courts cannot do everything by themselves and they are just but a tool of the society to maintain a lawful and peaceful environment for all of the citizens. All Barbadians here have a duty and a responsibility to ensure that the whole society addresses the problems of criminality and criminal actions responsibly and properly.

It is not good for us to set up a security watch in a particular area and to feel self-satisfied that that area has a security watch. We must be concerned about all of Barbados. Therefore, the involvement of the average citizen is exceptionally important. We must be aware that there is more to addressing the problems of crime than just punishment or just strict policing. That is an easy answer. It is an easy focus and it is a well-beaten drum, but it is one that is seriously lacking when we do not consider the overall problem of crime in our society.

11.45 a.m.

I might add that we have recognised a certain lack of discipline throughout the society, be it in the school, be it with the ZR culture, be it with the nature of the interaction of school children with the ZR vans, be it the mode of dress or be it the common courtesies that we extend to one another. We have to recognise that we should all set an example. I do so, when I say 'Good Morning' to people and when I walk into an office or meet someone on the street. That is something that I learnt from my parents and at the schools that I attended. These are the common courtesies of life. These are very important factors when we talk about the issue of growing crime and lawlessness in this society.

Above and beyond that, there is an abnormal impact of external factors, and I speak specifically of narcotics trafficking and the link between arms trafficking and narcotics trafficking. It is very clear that we need to integrate our policing methods within the region and in the international community to bring to bear the best level of expertise, the best level of information and the best level of intelligence that will allow us to address the very unusual types of criminal activities that are now being foisted upon the Barbadian scene.

There are some things to which we are unaccustomed, but this is the unsavoury side of globalisation. This is reality. This is the real world that we live in, and what we must do is to recognise the environment and the technologies that we have and use those technologies to our advantage in the control and the detection of criminal activity in our society; but we also must do so by setting leadership standards.

Many people do not recognise that a gun is made just to kill people. That is the objective of a gun and I think that we need to move towards disarming the society. There is no need for people to have vigilante groups. There is no need for people to have weapons willy-nilly throughout the society, and where they do, there must be proper training, proper reason and proper registration. I am no stranger to weapons. I have used them as a young man, but I certainly would not want to use one in Barbados. I abhor the use of weapons against a civil population. These fellows who are embarking on gun fights in the street clearly have no regard for the lives and safety of their fellow Barbadians who are outside of their close paternal group. They drive for vengeance, they drive for illegal imposition of turf control, and they put men, women and children at risk in our society. I would wish that the full weight of the law be meted out to those who have been apprehended or who will be apprehended with illegal firearms and ammunition.

Once again, I am drawing to the attention of this Honourable Senate that this issue of crime is not a simple one. As I have said before, mental illness is a very significant factor of our health profile in this country and around the world, and we do far too little to address the issue of mental health which in turn, if properly addressed, may well lead to a reduction in criminal activity.

Mr. President, this Government recognised the many different facets that we have to address and this Penal Reform (Amendment) Act and the Penal Reform Act will go a long way to setting the right environment for adequate correction, for trying to redress the problem of repetitive criminal activity and developing a sense of community awareness and a community consciousness which brings about a respect for the rights of individuals and the value for human life in this country.

Mr. President, this Act will go a long way not just to modernise the Penal System in Barbados but to have a much better and more rational way of addressing the types of punishment that are meted out in our society. Our society cries out for voluntary systems of work such as community service, and if community service can be learnt through this medium, then maybe other Barbadians will understand what community service is about. One of the areas which I believe our society is very deficient in is the area of voluntary service to our society. Many of us in this Chamber have taken on vast amounts of voluntary work for many organisations that benefits this country, but it is not the common thing. It is not what people would normally do and quite often we come to it very late in our lives. Voluntarism needs to start at the school level, the University, the Barbados Community College (BCC) and throughout the work experience where we can bring our skills, our hands and our labour to benefit communities, especially deprived areas of the society, and individuals who need help in our society.

Mr. President, the Penal System Reform (Amendment) Act will pave the way for us to put the regulations in place to update the Act and to assist us towards a more holistic, humane and effective way of dealing with the elements who conduct criminal acts in our country.

11.55 a.m.

As I said before, this is not a simple thing of locking up and throwing away the key. It is not an issue of hanging people. It is an issue of understanding what crime is all about; understanding the nature of the criminal activities that are ongoing; understanding the nature or the linkage between violence and rape; understanding what causes someone to want to dominate somebody so brutally. We can then address the problems and try to correct them.

It is all part of the human condition, Mr. President. None of us likes to hear about the violence and crimes that take place in this community but all too often the only solution that is being proffered is to catch them and lock them up. We have to start at the point of addressing it in the early stages of childhood and young adulthood.

We have to understand that there is a direct linkage between animal cruelty and cruelty to human beings. We have to understand that when we observe a child being cruel to animals, that child needs to be corrected at that point.

The debate about crime and violence in our society needs to be widened to a much more holistic and encompassing sphere to understand the nature of criminality, to understand the implications of certain deviant behaviour which if addressed early in the game could bring about a community awareness, a community support system that will assist the police and the relevant authorities in addressing the issue of crime.

It is not them and us. It is all of us. We are all in this together. It is your home, it is my home, it is you walking down the street and me standing by the bus stop. It is all of us.

We cannot but recognise that the Barbadian society that we knew as children and as young people has been affected by the international environment. We do have the impact of television. We have the impact of movies with its mindless violence where the slaughtering of people is sometimes glamourised, and we do not and cannot see the full horror of it on celluloid or on a television screen. We do not understand the horror of the violence that is perpetrated. All of these things have to be debated and discussed in our society. We have to change our attitudes. We have to develop a society that truly sanctifies the value of life, and that starts from the beginning of conception to the day we all die. So it is a wide ranging issue and one that this Government intends to address fully and frontally, not leaving any stone unturned, and involving the whole community, and delivering the mechanisms to debate,

investigate and to develop systems which will address the issue of increasing criminality, and certainly the increasing level of mindless violence that takes place in our society.

We cannot do it alone. It is clear that there are strong international linkages and we are going to address those issues vigorously and forcibly.

With that, Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I will be very brief because I simply do not have the expertise to deal with this very serious topic of penal reform. I am of the view, as I have always been, that any such problem or matter deserves to be fully analysed before we can prescribe and, as in other professions, sometimes we take it for granted that because we are human beings, we live and exist in a society that we can understand and diagnose the problems of the society when it, in fact, requires special skills. Of course, there are several areas where we never dabble, especially in medicine, astronomy, physics because most of us feel incompetent to deal with such issues.

I say this to say that because the sources of crime may be located somewhere within the society and we are part of the society, it does not mean that we can understand and appreciate all of the problems associated with such. This is why I am saying that it will require a very comprehensive study to understand the causes of crime and violence in Barbados. This is why before we can enter into any debate on penal reform that we need to understand the characteristics of crime and violence in Barbados.

Even if we were to go to other countries to appreciate their experiences, we would still need to adapt whatever measures they find appropriate in their penal reform legislation to the special circumstances in Barbados. I have a little difficulty because this issue of crime was raised and identified to be a major concern of all Barbadians. In some respects it was trivialised by the Other Side during the last election campaign. The issue of poverty was also identified as a concern, a social scourge that we would like to get rid of, but what I find most fascinating is that whereas there was an immediate "attack" on the question of poverty without any study to understand the characteristics of poverty whenever we speak on the issue of crime we are being told, and rightly so, that we need to understand the characteristics before we can prescribe.

Now I was hoping that crime being such a critical issue in today's Barbados that perhaps the same urgency and desire and the application of financial resources which the Government thought necessary to apply to poverty would have been applied to the whole question of crime and violence. You see, they are different political animals.

The issue of poverty has an immediate characteristic that allows it to be a public relations gem where pictures can be taken....

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member but on a point of order, I am afraid that the Honourable Member is misleading the Senate when he says there were no studies on poverty.

Sir, I am sure that we all recall the very extensive IADB study on poverty in Barbados which shows St. John as the poorest parish in Barbados. I am sure the Honourable Member remembers that.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, this is precisely why we have had the brakes put on several of the apparent advantages that we were making in this country, because whenever you attempt to raise issues in detail and have them debated widely, this kind of trivial intervention is now the hallmark of the Other Side.
12.05 p.m.

It is quite evident for anyone who studies the IDB Report that the contents were not worth the paper on which they were printed. It was foolishness, not a study. It was an attempt, once again, to politicise an important issue by making it seem as if St. John, because it happened to be the constituency represented by the Leader of the Opposition, was the poorest parish in Barbados.

I am saying to you that no proper techniques were employed in that study and that the study was dismissed by all and sundry who read it. It was a foolish study not worth the paper on which it was printed. I say that and I repeat it because it did not address the characteristics of poverty in Barbados. It did not tell us who were the ones experiencing poverty in Barbados. It did not state the characteristics of poverty stricken individuals. You could not determine whether the individual was a female or the age category. It was rubbish and I repeat, it was rubbish. I am saying to you that whereas that area was given immediate attention by the Government, there was no immediacy at all in relation to studying the whole question of crime and violence in Barbados. Now, I expect in this debate, Mr. President, for a whole range of solutions and ideas to come to the fore from the Other Side in the absence of any scientific study of what are the causes of poverty and crime and violence and how we can, in fact, address the whole question of penal reform.

Until a study becomes available to me since I do not have, or pretend to have any such expertise, I cannot make any sort of pretension at all that I have the solutions to this whole question of penal reform in Barbados. While I can proffer an opinion as to what may be the cause, it will never be the case that my opinion would have any particular weight in this issue of penal reform.

I will sit patiently to hear the wonderful solutions from the Other Side. I will anticipate, Mr. President, an attempt to prolong this whole process for other reasons beyond the desire to provide any major input into this question of penal reform.

On that matter, I will sit and await the outstanding recommendations from the Other Side.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I think it is well-known that incarceration is the ultimate punishment for negative behaviour but for first time offenders punishment needs to be far more individualised. The design of it should meet the needs of the individual and what would be in his best interest. I will use 'his' here not only in a grammatical sense but because although girls are catching up, the majority of people in prison are still men.

The Leader mentioned some of the causes of crime and I should like to elaborate on a few more. The offender may come from an environment which seems normal to him but which may be anathema to society and therefore, as a young person, as a child even, he may become ostracized by people from a balanced societal background and so he grows up resentful. If we were to ask what kinds of people are in prison, one might receive the answer, those from dysfunctional, deprived homes and by deprived I mean emotionally, socially and financially. Persons with low self-esteem, persons with little schooling. Regrettably, in spite of our very high educational standards, despite compulsory education, there are still many out there with little schooling and sometimes they are even illiterate. Inwardly too, you will find that there is hurt, pain and anger and the desire for revenge that comes with such suffering. Therefore, in this type of punishment or rehabilitation it will be important that the personality of these offenders be assessed. I think a correct assessment is vital.

I speak subject to correction but I believe that forensic pathology is relatively new but assessment will help to determine what has gone wrong and to plan for these offenders. The majority of them can be saved but the punishment has to be tailor-made. Therefore, the idea of creative options is, I think, an excellent one.

Moreover, I think that comparison with a classroom situation comes to mind where detention may be brushed aside by some students. Life might mean nothing to others while to some it will be a calamity. Similarly, some offenders may be psychopaths. I think one has to recognise that and thus a creative option for such a type might seem like a slap on the wrist and to the anti-social it might be licence to commit the offence again.

12.15 p.m.

I think too that care will have to be taken in placing offenders, if there is a pathological problem. They could not be sent to a geriatric home or to a children's home because those people are vulnerable. So the choices of places assigned are very important.

The Leader mentioned community services which again I think will be a very good approach. There are many types of services which can be found: road markings, pedestrians' crossings which fade very quickly, and some of the lines which are no longer marked. I have heard elderly people complaining about being unable to see the paint at night when they are driving.

I would also hope that the Attention Centres which are planned would give a more rounded view of life so that they would get the opportunity to reduce the hurt, anger and pain, and continue with conflict resolution. I think that would be important so that they will benefit from a second chance. I think in life where we all make mistakes that it is vital that people be given a second chance.

Mr. President, this Bill is courageous and creative. It shows a sense of being your brother's keeper and of trying to rescue people from themselves. Even if the pathologically disabled are not able to benefit, there will be few, but the majority will benefit. As our Leader said, again it is sending a message to society, but before offenders reach this stage let us go back to the concept of the village or community becoming actively involved in saving those who need it.

I think it sends a message to parents who see sometimes that things are not going all-right, but they do not know who to turn to or who to trust and they should try and find someone who can help, whether it be a clergyman, a doctor, a teacher, older friends or some relative. Because so often you hear the cry 'where did I go wrong', and parents blame themselves and do not always see the signs and symptoms early enough.

Mr. President, this Bill adumbrates a return to the recognition of and the acceptance that the rearing of a child is a shared community responsibility. I know that was said originally but I think it cannot be said too often. I do not want to quote the cliché about the village but it is important to recognize how we all have to accept responsibility. I think adults nowadays are afraid to speak to people. They are afraid to speak to children. They are afraid to speak to young people. They are afraid of being abused. They are afraid of being even physically attacked, but I think that that is something which we must at all cost get over and go back to the days when we could speak to children without fear of any sort of reprisal.

With those few words, I wish to say again that I very much support this Bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, the 1998 Penal Reform Act has made provision for the courts to impose a number of sentences other than the custodial sentence. As some of the others who have spoken before me have said, this is a valiant attempt by the authorities to deal with what is a pressing and urgent problem in many countries, and especially in a small society like this where our penal system is under severe pressure, and where we just do not have the space and facilities often to deal with some of the persons who commit crime in this society.

Sir, having said that, there is one particular section of the 1998 Act that has caused me some problems and this is the section dealing with mediation which is Part III comprising sections 20 to 29. This section provides for a settlement of disputes by a third party called the mediator who will be appointed by the Minister to act as such and who, at the end of the hearings would prescribe that the offending party either do unpaid work for the benefit of the Other Side, pay compensation to the other or participate in an education or rehabilitative programme.

Mr. President, this is a well intentioned provision but with all due respect to the framers of the legislation, this is really not mediation. Mediation as a concept is well-known in alternative dispute resolution and I will quote.

"It is a voluntary process whereby a non-partisan third party, the mediator has no independent decision making power or legitimacy beyond that afforded by the parties and while the mediators may assist the parties with specific provisions of any settlement arrangement, the final result of a mediated agreement must be legitimized by the informed asking of the parties themselves."

So, as far as I can see, the minute that the Statute spells out the results, the concept of a mutuality is lost and this Statute is seeking to force a conclusion on the parties in advance, and I think that is a problem.

Section 21 which is the one that is being amended by the Amendment we have before us, provides that a person eligible for mediation be 21 years or under. I would like to know why there is an age limit. Older people also commit crime. Older people also commit serious or minor offences and I see no reason for having any age limit there.

Sir, the section specifies that the person should not have been charged with any offence previously. My question is, what if it is a minor offence? What if it is for riding a bicycle without light for instance? Would the person still not be eligible for mediation? I think that that is a problem.

This provision is of great concern to me because the whole concept of alternative dispute resolution with which

the section deals, solves community problems by removing tensions and involving persons in the community in trying to reach settlements in some criminal activity. By restricting the cases for which mediation is available, by taking into account a minor previous offence is to compromise the seriousness of the process as far as I am concerned.

The mediation process should be broad shouldered enough to have as many as possible in the society benefit from it, and I really see no need for the restrictions which are hedging the section dealing with mediation and in fact are a feature of the entire Penal System Act. It is extremely cautious and I know this is probably because it is the first time that we are actually legislating for sentencing other than custodial, and therefore the framers thought it was necessary to be cautious. I feel that the entire Act could be looked at again because there are some anomalies and undue restrictions. Under Section 23, after the court invites the defendant to apply for mediation, the court is adjourned and the defendant must make a written application for the process to be applied to his or her case.

12.25 p.m.

Mr. President, this is a very formal provision and it puts the onus on the accused person alleged to have committed the offence to be remorseful and virtually beg for the process to begin. In my view, it would be far better if the Magistrate starts the process by deciding whether the accused has a good case for mediation or not and then bring the Probation Officers in to help explain to the accused what the process is all about, and what it is likely to result in for him, because if the accused is left to fill this form out, he is probably going to do it with the help of the lawyer whom he employed in the first place. We have to remember that the lawyer has no part in the mediation process as is defined in the Act, and it would be difficult to see any lawyer advising his or her client to opt for mediation because it is self destructing. There is nothing in it for them and this is why I see it as a difficulty.

Mr. President, Section 25 (2) provides that even after the defendant and the complainant have agreed on the mediation, the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) is entitled to be heard before the court determines whether or not to make an order for mediation. This is a stab in the back if ever I saw one, and I am wondering why the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) is brought in at all. The objective of mediation is to give the parties a chance to settle, and if the State apparatus represented by the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) is brought in, the process might not even get started.

In the United States of America and other countries where the principles of ADR are being practised, the moral

authority of the court is often brought to bear to persuade the parties to go to mediation, but in the whole system here where we have a situation in which the Constitution guarantees every citizen a right to open trial by a recognised court of law, the process has got to be one for which the person voluntarily opts or is assisted to make up his mind to adopt.

I suppose this is the reason why Sections 23 and 24 provide for the accused to actually apply for the mediation process as I mentioned earlier, but by making the system so formal and involving the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) who can appear to object after the accused has opted for mediation, this may result in the process being of little use.

I recommend that Section 22 of the Act be amended to let the Magistrate start the mediation process by stating his or her views as to whether or not the case is a suitable one and letting the accused know the advantages and the disadvantages of the process, and to use Probation Officers to further advise the accused.

As far as I am aware, there is a dire need for Probation Officers and I am reliably informed that some persons have to be remanded to Glendairy Prison just because at this point in time there is no point in making any other sentence, because there are not enough Probation Officers to keep an eye on them or to advise them. So before we can think seriously of implementing alternatives to imprisonment, we must ensure that the personnel necessary to make the system work is available.

In closing, let me say that the Penal Reform System Act is a valiant attempt on the part of the Government to put in place alternative forms of sentencing which the Honourable Attorney General has been advocating for sometime now. However, apart from the need to draft the legislation more carefully, we should not violate the well-recognised meaning of the term mediation by undermining some of its cardinal principles.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss J. P. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I rise in support of this amendment because in my opinion an amendment to a piece of legislation shows, more often than not, enlightenment of the people. It shows that there is recognition of change necessary to the old way of doing things. I think that when we are dealing with penal matters we are dealing with the lives of people who have obviously gone outside of the laws set up by this country. I believe that it would take a lot more than amendments to laws to change what we have today. I recognise that we do need amendments to laws, but as I have said, we need a lot more

than just amendments and people shouting to Government to do something to prevent what we are having in society today. I am of the firm view that no Government can legislate morality, but people keep shouting to Government for certain types of behaviour to be changed within a society which is entirely outside of the hands of a Government, but Government can only do its part and we do expect that Government would do its part.

Sir, I believe that we have undergone a great cultural transformation within this society, and I am of the opinion that most of the problems we are having today stems from the change of what is happening culturally in this country. In the process, I believe that each and every one of us, not the Government, seems to have created some monsters in our society who seem to think that they are entitled to rape, rob and to destroy what we have built on as a nation. My opinion is that each and every one of us including those in the other political parties has created what we have today.

I believe that in our quest for wealth and power and the acquisition of the material things of life – today we now have an unprecedented standard of life in this country and we have great advancement in science and technology – we have greatly undermined the moral, civic and religious culture of this country and we are beginning to pay for it.

I can remember speaking in this Chamber before and I said that I held great hope still for the young people of this country and that hope still burns inside of me, Sir, because I believe that we can save a lot of our young people in this country today. We have allowed our children irresponsible freedom in their immaturity. These are my opinions, I can only give an opinion, Sir, which comes out of my spirit and not out of my head. I am of the opinion that our children need to be taken better care of. They need to be trained and they need to be directed and guided until they can acquire the knowledge and wisdom required for taking control of their own lives. In my opinion, we have neglected to discipline our children properly and we call it building self-esteem. They must be taught moral education from primary school because we now have young children, 8–9 years old, in acts of inappropriate behaviour and we need to begin to teach our primary school children moral education. Gone are the days when we had to be hiding things from children. It does not make sense hiding it, because they are going to go outside and see it, they are going to see it on the television and they are going to see it all over the place, even on the Internet as well.

Sir, I believe that they should acquire a sense of what it is to be a person in a way that will give them a profound respect for themselves and for all human beings, because I believe that if a person has respect for another human being, they would not so easily take the life of that other human

being. I believe that we need to teach our children profound respect not only for their own life but for the lives of other human beings. They should acquire an appreciation of and a respect for the world that has generated and supported them. They do not have this respect for the world that surrounds them.

They should be taught the responsibilities of being a human being and how to cope with their desires, their feelings and emotions, how to relate to others and the world around them, and how to renew their inner God given strength to control their behaviour, and to take responsibility for their actions so that Government will not have to go about making these laws to control people's behaviours.

12.35 p.m.

Moral values must be instilled in our youth, anchored in and supported by a philosophical view of themselves and the society in which they live so they can have that everlasting power to govern their lives.

Mr. President, for me it is sad today that legislators have to be engaged in formulating into law the moral voice of society. What has happened to the parents in this society? Where are the spiritual fathers and mothers that we have in this society?

I believe, Sir, that as a nation we need a cultural transformation. I am in agreement with the Government for setting up a committee on law and order, but I think we also need to set up a committee to look at the culture or the change in what has gone on as far as our culture in this Barbados is concerned.

Sir, as the Leader said, I believe we have to start developing a society that is fit for human beings rather than try to change human beings to fit the society.

Sir, as a person I try to practise a godly life, not a religious life. I do not practise a religious life but I try to practise a godly life; I try to follow the principles that have been set out by God in the Bible. I do sometimes visit the Prison. I visited the Prison. I know a youngster in the Prison. Whether I can speak on this or not you will correct me if I am going down the wrong road.

There is a youngster in prison who worked with me while I was at Purity Bakery. I believe it is probably 15, 20 years now. He was under the age of 16, an extremely nice boy at work. One could not fault him; he was mannerly and obedient, but when he left the environment of work and got out into society with his peers, he would follow the company he was in. It happened that someone was murdered and he was part of the group. I really do not recall whether he was the one who did the actual murder or whether he was part of

the group. But he sits in prison today at what is termed – I am not this legally minded – at Her Majesty's pleasure. I often wonder what is going to happen to this young boy who I think had such a good inner being but yet was led astray by others when he went outside.

I am not saying, for one moment, Sir, that the law courts did not do what they had to do and that they did not come to the right conclusion in putting him in prison. I am not questioning that. What I am wondering is what is going to happen to this youngster.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: But what does it profit a person to spend the rest of his life in prison if a person can be rehabilitated and brought back out into society? I hope that amendments to the penal system would one day go on to look – I am not talking about the hard back criminals that have done things all their lives and are now languishing away in prison. I am talking about those youngsters who in their first instance got themselves involved in a problem. We must hold out some hope for some of these people who are sitting in prison like that.

Mr. President, I am of the firm view that we need to do something about these young boys and men and sometimes young girls that are hanging around in this country liming on the blocks.

I am of the opinion, Sir, that when you leave school you should either look for a job and be properly employed, go on to study or you should be put into the Defence Force or the Youth Service or some disciplinary force, or indeed the National Service. I really do not think, just because you do not feel that you want to go to school or want to work that you should go and hang out on a block and then get yourself caught up in all these things that are happening within the country that is not right for the country. I think we need to look at that as a government and do something about it.

Before I sit down, Sir, I just want to say one other thing. I am also of the opinion that crime has never been trivialised by the Barbados Labour Party, neither the people in Government or the people outside of Government.

I personally feel that crime was used as a political football by the Opposition because we were in an election process. We would never trivialise crime. Crime is too important to every single human being in this country for it to be trivialised. It was not even trivialised to the point where I can recall, Sir, and I am not a political animal and I have not been in politics that long.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: I am not a political animal.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: Sorry, Sir. I can recall, Sir, some time in the past when the other party was in Government and we were starting to experience that gangs were being formed in this country, the then Prime Minister of that Government said: "No."

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: Somebody in the Government said "No we do not have gangs in this country." I believe, Sir, that there are some things which you need to take the politics out of in a country. If recognition was given to the fact that the people of this country were telling to that Government at that time that such a thing was happening in this country and it was nipped in the bud, it probably would not have escalated into the problems we have today.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: Yes, we do have problems. We all recognise that we have problems today. You do not have people passing and shooting innocent bystanders and do not recognise that we have problems. I do not believe that the problems lie entirely with the governments of this country. I believe it also lies with the people of this country.

It is heart-breaking to me, Sir, sometimes when I see small children who can scarcely walk but have on the brand-named shoes breaking down their feet. They can scarcely walk in them. They have their little shirts in the pants but as long as they have the brand names...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. J. P. ALLEYNE: There are wrong values we are giving to our children, particularly those parents who cannot afford it. That, in my opinion, Sir, is the reason why a lot of these young girls in this country prostitute themselves. Because they want to be dressed in these brand-named clothes, they go and commit acts that they should not be committing in order to be able to dress in the latest styles.

I am not saying there is anything wrong with the latest styles. If you can legally afford to buy them, go ahead and buy them. That is your money. You go ahead and buy what you want. That is your money to buy what you want, but

when you have to act in a way that is contrary to the morality of your spirit, then it is wrong and should not happen.

Mr. President, Sir, as I have always stated, I am very proud to be a part of this Government and I am very proud to speak out for anything that this Government is doing for the betterment of the people of this country. I thank you.
12.45 a.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it was not my intention to speak on this Bill, but certain statements made in the debate so far have forced me to represent at least one interest and that is the interest of attorneys-at-law. I know that Senator Newton in analysing the Bill itself thought that in the ADR sections lawyers would become involved in helping an accused person to make an application that might not be in the interest of lawyers to go that way.

I want to let Senator Newton know that many times we go to court and we try as lawyers to bring the parties together and ask them to settle their disputes outside of the court, particularly where there are young people involved.

Senator Newton was worried about the DPP being involved. Let me explain what happens here. About 20 years ago a certain lady was appointed as the Director of the Child Care Board, a Barbadian, whom I know very well because she was once my tenant or tenant of some property which I am privileged to manage. She brought with her numerous concepts. I have to be very careful with what I say. From then onwards, this country has been faced with accusations of molestation, accusations of abuse of children, all sorts of things against adult people and parents.

Now you find in our courts a person might be charged with an offence, basically a sexual offence more than molestation, and the parties begin to discuss a settlement outside of the courts, and then you would hear that you might make your agreement outside, but we have to send these papers to the DPP for him to say if we can continue the case. So all that has happened is that the

draughtsman, acting on present day circumstances, might have included the DPP for that reason.

One must remember that in drafting, a draughtsman has to project his mind 20,30, 40 years ahead and try to envisage what is likely to happen so that at that time this law would still be relevant. As I have said before, we lost two generations of young people in Barbados due to the Child Care Board and the Probation Office. Tell them I say so!

Mr. President, in our quest to train our people at the highest level, we sent personnel from these two departments, the Child Care Board and the Probation office to overseas universities and they have come back. This is a failing of Caribbean people that if you ever have a consultancy in Barbados and attach a civil servant to that consultancy, whenever he is finished, he is talking more like an American or a Britisher than a Barbadian. We seek to lose our identity from the time we get in association with people from elsewhere, not realising that we have an environment. We have a past that we are proud of and we should try to maintain that in the order which is satisfactory to us.

We go so far, Mr. President, that we take up every U.N. Resolution and we try to stuff it down the throats of people in Barbados, whether or not it applies to us, because we have to go back to the U.N. and report that we have complied with this Resolution. Some resolutions we want and others we can do without and Trinidad has had to abandon certain Resolutions of the U.N. I think Antigua is abandoning some as well as other Caribbean countries. We have an environment that we must preserve.

Our children would not have gone astray if the probation officers and child care board officers did not tell you that you cannot chastise a child or you cannot hit it. The next thing you will hear in Barbados is that children are putting their parents before the courts like they do in the United States of America. I am in court every day and I see it.

Another thing that I do not understand. I have practised law for 38 years in this country. A young man is charged with an offence, comes into your office with his mother and the mother says, "Not my boy. He don't do those kind of things. Not he at all." I would tell the chap, "Son, the case is coming on next Thursday. Do come and see me the day before so we can go through what happened." When the boy comes, you say, "Look, I couldn't get your statement well last week. Give it to me again." He gives you a completely different story than what the mother has put forward. Then that same boy walking down the street does something which is wrong and if a caring bystander or another parent, sees him and tells him "Don't do that," he goes home and mother is out with a cutlass to cut off the man's or the woman's hand.

I have had the privilege of sitting in the Cabinet of this country and it is time the public in Barbados know where we are going and why we are going there. For those of you who can remember, we had a Cabinet Paper in which we were being advised that we would have to put maids in schools to serve school meals or pay teachers danger money over an incident that happened at one of our schools. As far as I can recall, the incident was that at the school during lunch time one child snatched another child's hamburger. The teacher smacked her on the hand and said, "You cannot do that. If you have eaten yours and want more, ask a question. There is always some that you can get." The next morning the mother of the child that was slapped was outside the school door with a cutlass calling out the teacher to cut off her so and so hand.

2.05 p.m.

Mr. President, a President of one of the teachers' unions was behind it, that teachers were no longer to serve school meals.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: They do not serve it, they supervise the children. He said that teachers were no longer to supervise children in the school meals service.

We have to take a step backwards. I remember as a boy growing up in Massiah Street, if I did something wrong at school, the children only had to line up in front of my mother's house and my mother would say, bring the belt, what did you do wrong at school today? If I did not bring the belt, I got a flogging. When I brought the belt I had to say what I did wrong at school. When my mother heard, I got a flogging and if it involved the school, I was taken back to Society Mixed School where she spoke to Mr. Fred Parris, the Headmaster and I might get a flogging in front of Mr. Parris. When my father came home and heard the story and thought I deserved a flogging, I got another flogging but I never did the same thing again.

Mr. President, I could go on all day and talk about why we have gone this way, because parents no longer enjoy the privilege of chastising their children due to this thing about molestation and abuse and what not.

I was talking to a young probation officer the other day in court and she said, Mr. Bolden, there are several factors in what I see going on here that I do not agree with but the older folks tell me that I have to follow. When Senator Newton said that a lot of people were remanded in custody because there are not enough probation officers, I do not think that is right Senator. What usually happens is that

the magistrate determines whether or not a person would be put on probation. There should always be a probation officer in the court. If the probation officer is in the court the magistrate says to the probation officer, "he will be your responsibility. Get a report written for me. When can you have the report ready?" That person has to report to the probation officer and the times are determined by the probation officer. It is not that there are not enough probation officers but then you will hear how many times the person has not reported because his mother tells him he has to do something else and not mind those people up there. That is the thing that we have to worry about. We have to look at parental control and how we are going to deal with the parents of today. That is what we have to look at.

What the Government is trying to do is to save first offenders from Glendairy Prison. I have always called it the institution of crime. If there are any others in here who have had the years experience in practicing criminal law as I have had, they will tell you that when a young man goes up to Glendairy Prison, there is the barber shop, the joiner shop and there is the kitchen. Those are the areas where the trustees work. In some cases when you have the international wrongdoers incarcerated at Glendairy Prison, when people come back down you hear all kinds of defences and all kinds of accusations against the police, against the wardens and deprivation of one's constitutional rights. You should hear them now.

What I think the Learned Attorney General is attempting to do in this Bill is to save these first offenders from being put in an environment where they can be dealt with and where they can see that the Government or the public have an interest in them going straight and kept away from a life of crime. The Act may not be as precise as Senator Newton or others may want but the intention behind the Act is a glorious intention. I have often said that if we can create a situation where we can help a person who has found himself in difficulty for the first time and placed before the courts, it might give them an opportunity to reflect on their condition and they might not go there again.

This Bill must be taken in conjunction with a Bill which has been previously passed in these Chambers where we are going to eradicate offences after a certain period to give persons a clean record. One of the things that we have suffered from in this country and something we must remember is that other countries look at your personal records when you travel or you seek to reside in those countries and you apply for a visa. If a person who has fallen by the wayside by a small infraction can be dealt with without recording a conviction it still gives him a clean record so that he can enjoy the benefit of travel elsewhere. If we remember, the Attorney General amended the Immigration Act because some businessmen who had lived long in Barbados might have had a single conviction for

illegal drugs, and the Immigration Department could say they cannot come back in. The Attorney General amended that to give him the discretion.

These are a series of Acts which are being used to look at the rehabilitation of our society to see if we can have a better citizen out there who understands what life is about, who cares about himself and in the long run cares about the society. Mr. President, I support the amendment but what I would like to see is a further discussion as to what we are going to do about the offending parents.

I just had a discussion with some people. This man who has got to be in his forties complains about a lady whose children at nine and twelve years old are coming in at twelve o'clock and one o'clock in the morning and the mother accepts this as normal.

Asides.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Senator Rickinson will tell you her experience. All I am saying is that we have to look at the parents. We have to get to the bottom of the situation. Unless we have parents who understand what the society is about and who understand that they are still responsible for controlling their children, and unless we have a Probation Department and a Child Care Board that understand that our jurisdiction has rules and principles by which we have lived long ago, then we must not adopt these North American or European standards and thus sell ourselves short.

2.15 p.m.

I remember two Christmases ago I was in Broad Street and in the store was a woman with a little child. The child was running and touching everything and the attendant told the mother to hold the child because if he breaks anything she would have to pay for it and she replied, "When I am in North America he can do what he feels like, he does not have to pay for it." That is the situation.

Sir, we have to stop that North American attitude. Unfortunately, communication has put us in the position where every night as you turn on the television set, you get stories, you see vision *et cetera*, lots of it dramatized. Our people do not understand that it is for entertainment but seem to be accepting this as the gospel. It is not only in the behaviour of their children because they are doing it as far as legal damages are concerned. Somebody walks in to my office and tells me "I got struck by a motor car. How much should I sue him for, \$1 million, \$2 million? I saw a picture where a woman got struck by a car and she got \$2 million." When you ask them where they tell you in the United States.

So we have to bring ourselves back to reality. We are a little third world country, but at one time people boasted

about these little countries where crime was at the very lowest. Today and every day when you open the newspaper there is crime. Again, we have to analyze the reasons for our criminal situation, and when we have done the analysis, and I hope that we do this analysis very soon, we have to take urgent steps to remedy the situation as we see it.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution and I hope that when the Bill is passed it will quickly come into operation so that we can see how we can rescue this new generation from a situation which now exists and is not really favourable to our society.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rock.

SENATOR THE REV. L. W. B. ROCK: Mr. President, I am sure that we will all support the intention of the Bill. I believe, not that I represent her, that what Senator Newton was pointing to were further amendments which no doubt would enhance the Bill and make it even more acceptable.

Senator Goddard in his presentation placed the Bill in the wider context of crime and violence in the society as rightly it should be placed, because the penal reform, the efforts of rehabilitation already in progress and which needs to be improved and increased even more so and other measures adopted to help to improve the situation in Barbados, certainly are things which all of us would agree with.

I am sure that we also agree with Senator Goddard when he said that the matter of crime and violence is not a partisan issue. It is not one for which the Government has sole responsibility. It is one for which all of us and each citizen and resident of this country, must play his or her part in trying to redress this situation.

I want, Sir, to suggest that as we look at the increase of crime and violence, we cannot separate it from certain broader issues in the society. It has always been my contention that a contributory factor to crime and violence is gambling. We have become a gambling nation. I say this because I believe that a principle of gambling is to get as much as possible for the investment of as little as possible. When we create a mentality which uses this as a principle to live by, I believe that it contributes to those who see lifestyles that are presented on the television and in the ostentatious way of life which we see in our society. We present these lifestyles and related is the thought that we must get as much as possible for as little. You have the seeds of the whole setting of crime and violence, so I believe that a contributory factor is the ease with which gambling is accepted in our society.

I want to suggest also that at the wider level of the society we see the concern about drug addiction, and we hear that this is linked with the possession of arms. I do not think that we can talk about substance abuse and not give some consideration to the prevalence and the use of alcohol in our society. We are told by the experts that there are more alcoholics than there are those who are addicted to heroine, cocaine or marijuana. It is important that we include alcohol in our consideration of our substance abuse, and I would join with those who are calling for some attention to be given to the way that alcohol is glamourized and made to appear as necessary to certain lifestyles in our society. We cannot, if we are talking about seriously looking at the whole issue of substance abuse, exclude from any examination of it, the use of alcohol in spite of the contribution which it makes to the economy of the country.

I want to suggest also, Sir, that in the wider issues about which I am talking, we have to include the instances and what they say, what message they send to the wider society when for instance we hear that there are businesses in Barbados owing the country VAT; that there are businesses that owe the NIS taxes; that there are businesses where workers are exploited. I believe that all this contributes towards this attitude and this atmosphere which we have in which crime and violence seem to be becoming more and more a part of the society, which is undesirable.

Further, life in our country is defined for the most part by what we have, more so than by who we are. I believe that in this definition of life as it is presented, as people are made to feel that those who are important are those who have rather than those, by their essential being, and how they express themselves in service and caring for others, that these things are also contributory towards this unfortunate situation in which there is the prevalence of crime and violence.

2.25 p.m.

The heart of the matter is that we have to remember that as human beings we are spiritual beings. So much emphasis is placed upon the material needs that we undermine the spiritual needs, so what we see in our society is an inevitable consequence of it. To redress it, we have to start at that point of looking at the value of ourselves as spiritual beings, and we have to try and inculcate a sense of worth, value and esteem as a person, and essential to that is the whole question of the value of human life because what we are seeing now is a devaluation of human life. Never before, have I heard people speak so glibly about killing someone as we hear it today, and that tells us how life has been devalued. Only when we return to that point where we see spiritual value as essential, will we help people to value life and not to see it as something that can be taken away so easily as it is done.

I want to support the Bill in terms of the intents which is there and to suggest that some consideration be given to the suggestions made by Senator Newton.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you very much Mr. President for the opportunity to make comments. I very much like what was said by most Senators so far, but in particular what was said by the last Senator who touched on the aspect of respect for life.

I have started to list a couple of areas, and I think that I have had the privilege of being able to do so because of the kind of upbringing which I had in the particular time and era in which I grew up, in the 1950s and 1960s, in this country. Unfortunately, there are a number of changes going on in our society that have caused many of our parents, leaders and other individuals to divert from what we knew as good and wholesome in helping to build this society.

I look at areas such as choices and consequences. I heard one of the Honourable Senators this morning make mention of chastisement – parents chastising children – and what I thought was excellent about the parents then is that they never went to any university, they never went to a parent support programme and some of them never had the opportunity to even go to school. However, because it was the normal thing to happen in the society to have good parenting skills, they were able to train their children to tell them about the choices and on the other hand to show them or to identify the consequences. Every time you did something that was good you were most likely praised, but when you did something wrong, you were told that it was wrong. You would then ask why was it wrong because you told me the last time – whatever the situation was. Every time you had to make a choice. As a child growing up you weighed out the consequences and when you did not, you were chastised in some way. It was not always to do with flogging, you were stopped from attending that regular bus excursion which was really the joy of every child in Barbados in the 1950s and the 1960s, because that was the only time in the year sometimes when children got a chance to go out and have a lot of fun other than the games that they played in the neighbourhood.

I also look at neighbourliness and being your brother's keeper. I also touch the Golden Rule which was what children learnt from the time they were in the home and it was reinforced at Sunday School where you heard about the Good Samaritan and then that was reinforced within the school environment and in the rest of the neighborhoods. I look at the Golden Rule – do unto others as you would like them do unto you. Few of our children nowadays know the Golden Rule. Why? It is because the parents of this generation of mine have failed to give our children the opportunities and the experiences that we had because we

feel that they were the opportunities that only poor people had, and it has failed us in this society.

I also look at "training up a child in the way that he should go" and all the other biblical aspect of things that were used to help to prepare our children for a good life and therefore the respect for life and so on came in there.

Mr. President, what has me most dumbfounded at this time in our history is to do with attitudes, poor work ethics and disrespect for law and order. When one has to draw a matter to one's attention at all levels, it is not just at the level of the working class; people suck their teeth and they blindly ignore you. To go in a store and you do not look like a visitor, they do not even ask you if they could help. If you ask them to tell you the price of a pair of shoes, they say to you, "those are \$300, I do not think that you can buy them". The snobbery that is coming through in our society is permeating the society. It is killing our people, in particular, the youths who do not know how to weigh out the choices from the consequences.

Forgiveness, again coming from the biblical aspect of things. Many of us do not know how to give young people a chance. There are many of us in this society who are now role models, who, people in the neighbourhood gave a chance to when you threw a stone and struck somebody's glass window. There were not many glass windows then, but you went and said, 'Ma'am, I beg you, please do not tell my mummy' and the person will say 'all right, you make sure you do not do it again' and you had that as a learning experience. Therefore, you were saved the irony of having to go to Dodds or whatever was the punishment in those days.

Identifying with those who are less fortunate, notice I did not say the poor, because every last one of us sitting around this table has come through a system where there was poverty, but what worked well for us were the good attitudes, the biblical training, the respect for others, the respect for life, respect for law and order, being your brother's keeper, the neighbourliness, knowing of the choices and the consequences and knowing of the Golden Rule. Those are the things that helped us in our upbringing. Even though we were poor and wore 'hand me downs' we had that respect and we had good attitudes. We did not see the 'don't look poor' that our parents instilled in us to mean that you must have brand name clothes. The 'don't look poor' nowadays means you must put on your Sunday best whenever you are going out and do not let anybody see you looking poor. That did not have that same understanding for me when I was growing up. It meant to make sure that you looked tidy on the road and when somebody asked you if you wanted something, to say "no thank you" although you were really hungry, because you were told not to go out there taking things from people and that kind of thing. The 'don't look poor' now has a different understanding.

Therefore, Mr. President, I have a special interest in this discussion and I want to lend my support to it.

Crime and violence for me, is a matter of concern for every Barbadian. I am one of the individuals who attended the 'March Against Violence' last October because I felt it was my business as it is every other Barbadian even though the level of crime in the neighbourhood where I happen to live is not as it is in many others but it is my concern because when I turn the radio on, the person who got injured is a child I might have met, or the person who has been raped is a person I knew or the man who beat the woman is somebody I know. So it is affecting all of us in some way or the other and therefore it is not the domain of one individual or one particular group, it is every Barbadian's concern now, as it was when we were all growing up.

Mr. President, I also support all ventures that may be put in place to help to eliminate crime and violence and the deviant behaviour that is in existence in our society. I want Honourable Members to remember that although the standard of discipline and the moral value started to erode before, because of the complacencies of the people of my generation, it was still not as bad as when that song came down from Jamaica "What the hell the police can do." As soon as that song came in and our young people got wind of it, at every function you attended that song was playing, all the buses were playing it and that song has caused the destruction of this society. I do not care what anybody else says, it has destroyed this society because as soon as you break down the respect that is offered to police officers or to law and order, it is going to destroy any society.

I would not like to see the day when Barbados has 1 000 deaths as Jamaica does. I would not like Barbados to become a society where certain sections of the country have to be cordoned off and only certain people allowed to go there. I read an article yesterday and it made reference to places in Barbados that were out of bounds to people of a certain colour. Surely, we do not want that to ever happen in Barbados again but at the rate that we are going if we do not come together as a society and tackle this problem, our children will be as involved as anybody else. Not only perhaps might our children get injured, but our children are being influenced by their peers and by other things that they are seeing around the country, and they too might get caught up in the violent behaviour that is in existence.

2.35 p.m.

We are good copycats in this Barbados, Mr. President, and it has created quite some problems for our young people. I am not saying that we should hold individuals who commit certain felonies and destroy them. Yes, there is something called democracy but there are certain questions that one has to ask when you start to look at that democracy.

I am going to move on, however, Mr. President. The small things that happen that have also helped to contribute to the erosion of our moral standard are riding bicycles without a light, or without brakes. The law is there but it is not being enforced adequately. Therefore, not only do adults do it now. You watch the little children on the street. They do not have lights on their bicycles either. They hardly have brakes. Not only that, to make it worse, very little respect is being paid by most Barbadians to traffic lights and road signs so these same little children seeing a big man ride through a red light they ride through too. When they get to a major stop, they are not stopping either, and it continues.

Pedestrians, when they see you now and you are a motorist, they stand on that line and start to cross. If you ever let your brakes ease forward having not seen them when they step down, you will get the blessing you know you do not deserve. Automatically they say, "this is my country, this is my road and I can cross it as I like and how dare you drive through; you are in your car so you do not know what it is like to be walking." You hear all kinds of things.

That is another breakdown that nobody seems to be tackling.

Then you hear of all these millions of dollars that are owed to the Licensing Authority because people have not paid their road tax, or there were accidents and there was no insurance for the other vehicle, or the licence was not paid, nor renewed. Those are some of the difficulties we are having. Everybody is lambasting you. Why beat the children? Why flog them?

I was flogged with a dog-hunter, window stick, a wet blouse or pants or whatever, and there is nothing that can give you a harder sting than wet clothes. They hit you harder than a tamarind rod, but whenever that was done, the choices were there. We were told then the consequences are this wet sheet, this pants or whatever, so we understood.

Our parent would say every morning "when you go to school open your mind and learn." You see the thing that is called "freeness", Mr. President? That is also destroying this society. Go to school and learn. "Why are you going to school and learn?" was the next question my mother would ask. I do not want you to come into the agricultural belt, because this is hard work. You will have to come here because you will have to work for yourself whenever you get to the age of 16 but see if you can learn a little bit. Whatever the teacher has in here you want. If people would tell their children that every morning, we would not see the confusion that takes place in Bridgetown every day, children with bags on their backs as big as this little fig, no books, but they line up by Queen's Park and over by Harrison College's bus stop everyday for somebody to come from the

Truancy Department to say: "Boy, go to school." "Girl, what is your name?" The disrespect that comes with it really hurts every Barbadian's heart to know. Therefore, Mr. President, those are some of the things that are causing the breakdown.

Parents are refusing to go to Church. "I am not sending my children to Church. I used to go three times a day and to tell you the truth, I do not know if it has done me any good. Do not hurt your head. If you want to go, go, and if you do not want to go, do not go." So that is what parents have put things down to, parents of my generation again. I am not talking of a 16-year old now but parents of my generation again.

Mr. President, we have to do a number of things in this Barbados if we want to help to arrest this problem. I heard Senator Mascoll speak about a foolish study, rubbish, it was not worth its paper. Yes, a study was done but we cannot now stay at the stage of the study. Senator Bolden made mention of taking things lock, stock and barrel and trying to implement them. That is far from being true, Mr. President. There are certain aspects of programmes that will be withdrawn and used that will fit into this society. It might be culturally sound or it might be useful to the situation that is in existence and we use it but we do not take out every aspect of what happens in other countries and try to implement them here. It will destroy this society.

Sir, I have to say up front that education is one of the major things that will help to eliminate some of the crime and violence and some of the bad behaviour and deviant things that are happening.

I remember, Sir, in 1996 a survey was done by the Youth Affairs Department under Mr. Richard Carter's guidance. That study indicated that six out of ten young people said they never attended Church, or they had never been a part of a club at the school, in the neighbourhood or wherever. That Youth Affairs Department through the Youth Development Programme has been reaching into communities. The Community Development has also been doing its work as well, but it has been moving into communities where the young people told the department what they preferred to be participating in. Sports topped the list. Then they looked at using their hands in craft, weaving, drawing, painting, things of that nature.

The Youth Development Programme has been training over 3 000 individuals every year in the communities where they live, to help pull some of the same youth out there who need a sense of direction off the block, or helping them to cultivate the creative abilities that they have in a positive way.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme. In the past many young people did not have the opportunity. They did not

have the collateral, therefore they could not use the ideas that they had and have them properly implemented anywhere. The Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme is now assisting young people under the age of 30. When they have that idea then they get the training. There is a Mentorship Programme set up to work with it. They do the marketing, the advertising and all aspects of it and they also get some funding that will assist them. Whether it is coming in the form of a loan or in small grants, they get that kind of funding.

The Urban Development Scheme is doing it. The Rural Development Department is doing it, and there are a number of other institutions between 1994 and now, and indeed there were others before, like the Youth Service itself that were pulling in 100 students every year. It has now reached the stage of 250. Our plan is to see how we can get in at least 400 of the young people who have lost hope or who had no sense of direction because their parents had failed; they, too, themselves not having the training.

The loss of the extended family has helped to erode a number of the principles and the standards that we in Barbados have enjoyed for generations. We need to see how we can get aspects of it happening. I am not saying the extended family may come right back, but we need to have aspects of what happened then taken into the communities to help our young people to generate a sense of worth, a sense of belonging, a sense of knowing that they are making a worthwhile contribution to the development of the country.

We cannot keep pointing fingers at them. We cannot keep accusing all of them of being involved in drugs. Therefore, it is important that as a collective body all of us in Barbados as adults work at planning and implementing programmes that will help our young people get a sense of hope.

Mr. President, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic in 1994 had just over 1 300 students. Today, it has over 2 600 because of the kinds of programmes that have been put in place that are in the interest of the youth. Landscaping was something that persons would never have thought they would want to offer in a polytechnic but there are a number of young people who can earn their way. They do not have the academic ability but they have the ability to use their hands. They know how to market what they are doing so they move into neighbourhoods and they are doing the landscaping. They are sewing. They are doing catering. They are also looking after the care of the elderly.

I have been told by the Principal of the Polytechnic that as soon as the Care of the Elderly Programme is completed the individuals find employment in the Nursing Homes, and some of them are even setting up their own little facility in their neighbourhoods. I support the idea that any senior citizen who no longer has family to look after them

should still remain in the neighbourhood where they live. That will take some of the pressure off the District Hospitals or even the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that does have a number of individuals whose relatives will not go back for them.

2.45 p.m.

The Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is doing that and the Community College, and that aspect of it which would be the Hospitality Unit, has expanded. We said no more certificates in order for you to go the Barbados Community College. If we are looking after a tourism product, then we need to pull the people from the hotels and give them the necessary training, pull them off the streets when they have an interest in becoming waiters and the other areas and give them hope. That is the kind of hope that will save some of our young people from getting involved in deviant behaviour. That will help to give them a focus that they can prepare themselves for the world of work, and for living in a society in general and displaying acceptable standards.

Mr. President, our parents. We must, as a caring society – and I do not think that all is lost – ensure that we look after each other. We are our brother's or sister's keepers. In the past, children were expelled from school. Indeed, suspended first. But when a child received a suspension for 10 days, that child went right back into the neighbourhood where that deviant behaviour might have started and got involved for 10 consecutive days in the same bad behaviour. It did not get any homework. It did not get any assistance.

At the Edna Nicholls Centre which people call the Out of School Suspension Centre as soon as a child is suspended, that child is directed to the Edna Nicholls Centre to study, to do the same courses that it would have done. So if the child comes from Lodge School and it has to be suspended, it goes straight to the Edna Nicholls Centre. Transportation leaves Queen's Park on mornings to take them there. They are under the supervision of the teachers and they are brought back there so they can go to their various homes after. But that is not all. The parents are involved in the whole process so that they get the training, the counselling and all the other things that are necessary in that package to give them a little more comfort in knowing how to handle the children. Those are some of the proactive things that I would expect any caring Government to do to help to cut down on the deviancy that will lead our young people into Summervale and Dodds and Glendairy and into other institutions.

Mr. President, I agree that we should be proactive. As was mentioned by Senator Goddard this morning, I support volunteerism. I have mentioned in here in this Honourable Chamber already that few Barbadians volunteer their service

to help to build the society. Every parent would like his or her little child, boy or girl in the school system to be a member of the Cub Movement, to be in the Brownies, to become a cadet, to become involved in the Photography Club and the Debating Society, whatever, but we are not getting persons to come out and to volunteer their service.

It is important that we who consider ourselves to be the role models and, indeed, we are, should help. We may not have the actual physical time to do it but we can help with the programme. We can pay visits; we can tithe our time, an hour a week to help these young people get hope.

Too many of our young people lose their self-esteem. Some of them have never had it. We need to give them that love, that affection and that caring moment to help to build their self-esteem, that they see themselves as somebody. It is when the self-esteem is poor that you do not care about a fellow, that you will destroy, that you will kill and cure, that friends will come and tell you "let us rob the bank, let us go to the teller machine." Because of the reasoning ability that is not there they will get involved. So the education and the volunteerism coming from among all of us will help our young people to be able to improve themselves.

Mr. President, we know of the utilisation of skills of retirees. I have always put forward this idea to individuals. I talk about the "latch-key" children, the children with the key around their necks. We have too many retirees in our communities who can foster those children after they leave school. They come to one facility and are given a cup of something to make them comfortable and their homework is done. They can have a shower, they can have a rest, they can watch television. All of a sudden we have given our children a way to the television and the computer. So sometimes they pull down any information from the Internet and nobody is there to monitor them. Communication is lacking in everything. So we are giving our children opportunity to do things that we think might be useful to them to keep them quiet but at the same time it is having a negative impact.

We as a society must re-look and re-examine the way we do things and why we do things and put monetary systems in place. There is nobody who knows that better than I where my mother worked in the agricultural belt from morning to evening, but we were not able to get away with foolishness. There were always questions being asked and there was always provision being made to ensure that the children were comfortable.

We as parents need to look beyond our own personal development and look towards helping our children to come along with us and make the sacrifice that parents of the past made, and some are still making but the percentage is small.

Mr. President, poverty is no excuse for crime and violence. I do not support that at all. All of us know about hand me downs – clothing that you wore from your older sister or even a neighbour that was good enough to wear to church or to wear to school. All of us know about good manners. All of us know about high standards. Because of poverty it did not mean that we disrespected the teacher or the police officer or the judge or whoever. People go to court now and stand up in front the judge saying, “uh-uh and uh-huh.” We know about “Yes, Sir” and “No, Sir”. That is not being reinforced but if I were a judge and I am not one, any child who speaks to me would have to say “Yes, Ma’am.” or “No, Ma’am.” We have to make sure we do it. It is not servility. It is a level of respect that has worked well for us.

When I see my old head teacher, the great Lester Vaughan, and he says, “Cynthia, so and so...” I say, “Yes, Sir. No, sir.” It is training. I consider it to be training. A lot of people say, “Don’t tell me, Sir. We are the same level now.” I do not support that at all, Mr. President. Those are some of the things that are eroding our society.

Mr. President, I am going to wrap up but I want to say that our parents need that kind of education. Education has started with PAREDOS and reaches into the communities to many parents. They do not only want the training as to how to teach their children the goodness of things but the parents also need the counselling because some of them live in very violent home environments. Many of them are unemployed but do not have the guidance as to how to go about choosing a job or furthering their education or training. Therefore the Parents’ Support Programme will help them to empower them so that they can make their own choices.

The Church, the home and the community in the past worked together. They were very cohesive units to build our children. Nowadays, Mr. President, it seems as though some of the parents do not know better and leave the training to the school. The school may do its little bit but then the school says, “Go back, your parents have abdicated their responsibility.”

When it comes to the Church, the Church is trying at times but, to my mind, it seems as though it is more trying to raise funds than to raise souls. Therefore we as a society need to get into the Church and make sure that we carry out our responsibilities as church people looking after the youth, looking after the aged, looking after everybody’s needs to help them to develop spiritually. It is that spiritual element that will help to eliminate some of the “I don’t care,” “I can kick you and nobody will tell me anything”, “I don’t care about a fellow” kind of talk. It is because there is no spiritual feeling coming from those individuals. They do not know any better.

The Church has its work cut out for it and I am tired with the finger pointing, with the home saying that it is the Church that failed and the community saying it is the home and the school, and everybody is pointing the finger. The three institutions have to come together to save some of our young people from the kind of incarceration that we know they will have to undergo when they get involved in that kind of deviant crime.

Too much emphasis is placed on the saving of money and not on the saving of souls in some of our churches. That has to be changed.

Mr. President, many of the role models that we had in our various villages – as Senator Symmonds said this morning (I say in our communities) – because of the upward social mobility are now into other communities, most of them. What we do not understand as a people is why our policemen, our firemen, our teachers, our nurses, our senators, our politicians who were the role models when we were growing up do not really command or demand the respect that is due to them. Sometimes the children see them behaving in the same manner that they the children behave.

Senator Rickinson, the town hall meeting behaviour was raucous, eh? Any young child that would have been there...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have one second.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Yes, Sir. I am going to wrap up by saying that our communities have been raped of our role models. We have to make sure that our role models even, if they do not live in the community must go back and give back to society, to the community. Giving back is significant if our young people are to see the real role models and not the Michael Jordans, or the Mr. Ts with the big ugly chains around his neck and all of these people in the media that came up in life like us. It is a television star thing but it comes over to the children as something else and our children want to be like them but they do not understand that they have to go to school and do all the other things.
2.55 p.m.

Mr. President, I support a rehabilitation programme. I support the efforts of the prison fellowship programme. I support the efforts of the prison fellowship in working with individuals who would have been incarcerated before but are out in the community because they need the self-esteem, the skills and the training to help them to readjust to the society. I support the training of parents and the extended family unit. I support the enforcement of the legislation to ensure that every Barbadian complies with the rules and the regulations. I encourage the introduction of a range of non-custodial options which the courts outside of Barbados

use so that it can be practised here where a young girl or boy who has been extremely disrespectful will be given community service to go and clean around an old lady or an old man's house in the community where they live and that should help to change the attitude. Once these efforts are effectively used and done in a humane way, it will help those young offenders. I support any call for young offenders not to be put in cells with those individuals who are hardened criminals because of the negative impact that it can have on those young individuals.

Mr. President, I had a couple more comments to make but I am sure that other Honourable Senators will be able to make their outstanding contributions which will help other Barbadians to understand and appreciate that despite whatever situation an individual is in, that individual needs the help, support and guidance of all Barbadians in order for him or her to become an asset to this society.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill which I think is very important. Before I get into the nitty-gritty of the Bill, I would like to let Senator Forde know that I think the town hall meeting.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson, I must stop you. Please get to the nitty gritty as you said.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I will get to the nitty gritty of the subject as you have commanded. I listened very carefully to the Leader of Government Business who found it necessary to mention on several occasions that we need to take a holistic approach; he said it once, he said it twice and he kept repeating it. He looked at it in a way that I see that we need to approach this system. I do accept that we need to do some surveys but we cannot wait until we have surveys, something must be done here and now. When we hear or read about kidnapping and shootings and school children going to school getting shot and young women getting kidnapped and even in offices, it is alarming and it tells us that we need action right here and now before we can employ persons to do the research that is needed.

Mr. President, I personally feel that education is fundamental to any form of penal reform in Barbados and elsewhere. It was brought out to some extent by the Leader of Government Business, and I would like to enlarge on the nature of education that is needed which would make a difference to the level of criminal activity among so many people in our society. This is causing us to put up wrought iron one inch thick in our homes, get dogs and put up rails *et cetera* and not go out in the evenings.

Mr. President, I feel that we need to start education from conception. I will tell you why I say this. There were days when the public health nurses were charged with the responsibility of educating mothers-to-be as soon as they were pregnant. They went into the community or into the clinics in those days and taught about parenting. They did an excellent job. They were taught in the school what parenting should be. The public health nurses were told what they should teach the mother and they were all told that if they wanted to get through to a mother, the time to start the teaching was when they were pregnant, especially if they wanted that baby. They will do anything to keep that baby. We used to try and get in as much education as possible about how they could get involved in parenting, even to the dressing of the child, not to wear nylon but to wear cotton *et cetera*. This continued into pre-school where there was a follow-up. I think that we have to look at our health care system and restructure it.

I must give the Minister of Health credit for publicly saying that we need nurses in the schools. I feel that it is very urgent before they get into the school that they need to be released from the activities in the polyclinics in order to work in the community with the young mothers, to teach them breast feeding, parenting and deviance in behaviour. We said that their word was their bond and if they said something to a child they should mean it and stick to their word. These are things that the nurses were taught to teach parents. It is missing in our society and it is needed again. When the children get to school there is a need for the nurses in the school to help identify deviant behaviour and also to examine the children yearly. It is done elsewhere and there is no reason why it cannot be done in Barbados to pick up any form of sickness as well as deviant behaviour and work in collaboration with the psychologist in the Ministry of Health. There is no point waiting until we have drive-by shootings and kidnappings to try to do something. We have to do it before. We have to get in those day nurseries and talk to those children. They understand and they understand perfectly well. We need to get people qualified and attached to the day nurseries to talk to the children.

Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT took the Chair.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: My trend of talk was with education and I will continue.
3.05 p.m.

We need to get the nurses going into the day nurseries and attached to them on a regular basis so as to pick up certain types of behaviour, and so that the person could be

given help early and not when they have killed somebody and ended up in Gendairy, then we are trying to get them out.

Mr. Deputy President, I would also like to see counsellors in the schools. I know there are counsellors there, but what Barbados needs to do is to go a step further. We need to separate the difference between guidance counsellors and career guidance counsellors. There are two different aspects of counselling. We find that the counsellors in the schools have to be involved in career guidance which sometimes takes precedence over the actual guidance, and I think we need to look seriously at this because I do not feel that going to Dodds does any child any good. They always seem to come out worse than when they went in, so it is better to have the help before they reach the stage which takes them to Dodds. If we have nurses and counsellors who can help them and follow them up in the community, we will find that we will not only spend less money, but they will not go into institutions where they learn how to beat the system and how to do more wrong things than they were doing before.

Mr. Deputy President, I also feel that we need to introduce in the schools programmes more focussed on conflict resolution and values clarification. I talked about this in the 1980s when I had a Canadian consultant who was working with me with drug abuse in the schools. At that time Canada was going through something similar to what we are going through, and he explained how he admired Barbados with some of the old-fashioned values. He explained to the teachers whom I held seminars for, that Canada was now trying to turn the clock back and go back to the old-fashioned values, and he sincerely hoped that we would hold on to the old-fashioned values.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to do this and now I find myself saying the same thing the Canadian adviser was trying to tell the teachers. He also explained that when the Canadian children wanted to travel, if they had a drug problem, they could not travel anywhere and this had an impact on the parent; so they were trying to turn the clock back. The same thing is happening here and I sincerely hope that we can turn the clock back.

Mr. Deputy President, I agree with the education but we must not use the scare tactics that were used elsewhere. For example, in Canada they told people that they should not use alcohol, because when they took alcohol they went on to marijuana and then on to cocaine, *et cetera*. It is not true, and the children know it is not true and you lose your credibility. We need to keep our credibility. We need to give the children the facts so that they can make wise choices. If they make the wrong choice, they need to be told that they will be punished and they have to accept the punishment. They have their choices.

Mr. Deputy President, that leads to community involvement. Before I get to community involvement, I would still like to say a word or two about the schools.

I have read – and it is good – about the different types of education that is in the schools. We have AIDS people going in. We have the drug abuse people going in. We have the family planning people going in and now there are supposed to be the environmental people. I do not know how this is possible. It does not seem possible to me. I feel there needs to be one programme called “lifestyles” and then one could touch on the various issues. For example, you can touch on sexually transmitted diseases as part of the health education programme which will involve not only AIDS, but syphilis and other conditions that are very serious and prevent them from having children, *et cetera*. That is in the area of health education.

To do this, I think a health education unit in the Ministry of Health is needed. There is one person there. It is not enough. You need a unit with resources that can give the persons who are going into the schools little simple booklets about choices, conflict resolution, values clarification and conditions which affect their lives, *et cetera*.

Mr. Deputy President, as far as persons with drug abuse problems are concerned, I would like to draw to the attention of the Senate, the Medical Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1995. It indicates that out of a total of 299 substance abuse cases, only 75 were alcohol related and 208 were cocaine and marijuana related. In 1996, out of a total of 335 – these are people who were admitted to the Psychiatric Hospital for treatment – there were about 100 for alcohol, 112 for marijuana and 38 for cocaine. In other words, those figures do not say that if you are an alcoholic you automatically go on to marijuana, cocaine or whatever and we need to get that very straight. I know they are doing a good job but they need to just give people the truth and not try to scare them into doing what they feel is the right thing.

As far as the penal reform within the prison is concern, there are several people who are remanded to the prison for various forms of substance abuse, and the Psychiatric Hospital personnel only visits the prisons twice monthly. This is unsatisfactory. They need to have more clinics because if people are incarcerated for drug abuse – and I hope the time will come that if they are first offenders, they would not be incarcerated because that does not do very much good to someone who is abusing drugs – what they need is medical treatment. They need to be dried out. They need to be given help to find out why exactly they are taking the drug, how to get off the drugs and how not to go back to the same environment that led them to taking drugs in the first place.

I feel that if one could concentrate on providing the resources for rehabilitation of offenders of drug abuse, it will go a long way in the area of penal reform. If you are using drugs, what is the purpose of locking you up in a cell, especially when we hear that they can slip some into the prisons? We do not know how they get it in there but they seem to be able to get things in there and continue abusing the drugs. We would like to see some form of treatment initiated and a proper medical system, whereby persons who are admitted are medically examined and given the help and assistance that are needed in order to get them better, and also the psychological help that is needed to get them not to abuse drugs.

3.15 p.m.

At the same time I would like to say a word or two about the area of maximum security – this comes under penal reform – at the Psychiatric Hospital. As you know, this is the place where persons are sent at Her Majesty's pleasure, and there are quite a few of them there. We need to have nurses trained in forensic medicine. For many years they have been promising to have them trained and it has not been done. They are just doing it by trial and error. The training is available in the United Kingdom and I think that we should try and send as many persons as possible there for the training so that they can assist in rehabilitating the patients in the area of forensic medicine. People who are mentally ill also need treatment and care, and there is no excuse for them not to receive such treatment.

I would like to say that I fully support the Minister calling for the rebuilding of some aspect of that hospital. I personally feel that we need a bulldozer to bulldoze the whole thing and start from scratch because it would cost less money. The time has come in the year 2000 when people are no longer being locked in at six o'clock, stay in all night and are unlocked in the morning. That is the type of system that we have at the Psychiatric Hospital. We have to move away from that system. We cannot in one breath say that people who are abusing drugs should be given a spanking new building because of the stigma attached to the hospital, and yet persons who are mentally ill and who cannot help their illness are to be condemned to that hospital. That is not fair. We need to have some social justice about mental illness which is going to dominate the health care system because of the rapid changes in science and technology and the rapid changes in our society, as all of us would have witnessed, that we cannot keep up with. It is virtually impossible. There is far too much stress and we are now trying to find ways and means to deal with this stress.

In this respect I think that we need to use the non-governmental organisations (NGO's) a bit more to assist in helping this society to keep those first offenders and other offenders out of jail. For this you need some money and it appears that Government does not have any money. I am in

an organisation that applied for a subvention last year and it was refused; this year it was refused again. I think it is time that we start getting some money so that when organisations apply for subventions to assist in the area of community work, they would be given the assistance that is needed. You cannot in one breath say that you need volunteerism and calling for it with a lot of rhetoric and not be really serious about it because you need some form of money to assist with holding seminars and training of people. You just cannot hold seminars like that. You have to train a cadre of persons to hold a seminar and to know what to do; so you need money.

Mr. Deputy President, as far as the Probation Department is concerned, I think that one would have to look at a total restructuring of that department – if it is not being done already – if one is really going to get into penal reform. It is going to take many many man hours to be involved in community work. There are not one or two people breaking the law that will be sentenced to community work. I do not know how it is going to be done but one has to employ quite a lot of people in order to supervise them.

I also would like to see monitors that are used successfully elsewhere being used here to help curtail the movement of some persons who are being punished for their deviant behaviour, but whom we would not like to incarcerate into our Prisons.

Mr. Deputy President, another area of penal reform we have to look at is some of the written information on some of these box carts. I read on a box cart outside Jordan's Supermarket "all informants must die." These are the types of things that are being displayed which means that people are trying to indoctrinate others. This is the type of thing that frightens me; that someone could write that on a box cart and leave it there and get away with it, because somebody must own that cart. I am not so sure whose duty it is to get rid of that type of behaviour, but I sincerely hope that something could be done to stop people from writing such type of information which is intimidatory to persons in society because on the one hand we have the police calling for information, and on the other hand you have the people in society saying "all informants must die" and we know within ourselves that most people do not want to die, so therefore they are not going to inform, and there lies a problem that has to be solved.

Mr. Deputy President, I would like to respond to something Senator Forde said about the care of the elderly and people setting up their own things in the community. That is totally illegal. Those persons trained in the care of the elderly must work under the supervision of a registered nurse because if something happens to those elderly people, they do not know when to send for the doctor and when not to send for the doctor and they run into problems. I have drawn

to the attention of the General Nursing Council on several occasions that persons trained in the care of the elderly and nursing assistants should not be working on their own. According to the Laws of Barbados, they have to work under the supervision of a registered nurse, a registered medical practitioner or a dentist. That is something that one has to look at regarding the training of these persons because they really need to be supervised.

Mr. Deputy President, another area that I would like to touch, is teacher training. I would like to see more training for teachers in the area – if it is not done yet – of conflict resolution and values clarification. If it is being taught in the schools, something is going wrong somewhere because it is obvious that the children are not practising it, because they are going for a cutlass at the drop of a hat as soon as they get into an argument.

We have something called Parent-Teacher's meeting and when I started Health Education in the schools, the same programme I did in the schools, I did with parents at the Parent-Teacher's meeting so that the parents knew what the children were being taught.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must draw to the Senator's attention that she has less than one minute to conclude her speech.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. Deputy President, I do obviously support the Bill. I am concerned about what is happening in society. I know the Government is concerned. I know everyone is concerned but it seems as though most of us are throwing our arms up in desperation because as soon as you think that you are getting somewhere, you hear on the radio about a drive by shooting. As soon as we feel we are getting through to some people, something happens that throws us off balance.

I do not know the answers but I know I am trying to make some form of suggestions. I sincerely hope that the community can come together and see how we can improve the situation.

I thank you.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support the item before us, there are just a few comments I would wish to make. Much has been said today and needs to continue to be said with respect to the arrangements put in place to assist young people in particular and to improve their lot in life, if I could put it that way.

Senator Forde alluded to the various organs of Government established to give assistance in that regard. Of course there are Youth Commissioners in particular who have been employed to take care of administering and

organising programmes to assist young people in particular with doing things in a certain manner, keeping them occupied, stimulating their minds and keeping their bodies in fine tune, and that will hopefully make them whole and good citizens. They too also work with seniors in the communities.

Much has been said also about the whole question of values and where we should really look to for values. Senator Forde alluded to a lot of the old-time values that most of us in the Chamber would have benefited from, like, do unto your brother as you would do unto yourself, be your brother's keeper, and so on. I endorse that 100 per cent and it needs to be said over and over again.

I am one of those who continue to say I am from the old school. I do not care whether it is old fashioned but there are some things that never go out of fashion in terms of good morals and values which would be among those ranking very highly.

There is much discussion today and this is my pet area, when we talk about the whole question of esteem building in terms of helping young people. I really want to speak about young people first before I move into other areas. I believe that the future really and truly lies in the hands of the young people, and to this extent much of what we do today will affect what society will be like tomorrow.

In this esteem building, Sir, there are many mechanisms and I think that many are being employed. Senator Goddard spoke about volunteerism and the need for being involved, if we are not already involved. Most Barbadians generally do volunteer to help these organisations like the NGOs even in terms of supporting Government projects like the YESS Programme which is always looking for men to assist the young people in their programme.

Mr. Deputy President, all of these things we continue to do and to put in place. I believe it must be said that those whom we seek to assist must have a wake-up call. They themselves must make that choice for change because if we continue to just do and do and help and help and they do not recognise that unless they take stock, unless they make that commitment to want to do better, all that we do now will make absolutely no difference.

Mr. Deputy President, I do not know what words to use but the words must go to young people. Stop and take stock. You have a responsibility to make that choice for the change in your life. I do not say so frivolously because in some of the work I do, I have a very strong attachment to some of them in particular. In talking about reforms, that particular institution causes me some worry, more than a little.

I do not want to over talk in terms of the Summervale context, but there has to be something very very wrong, Sir, if we have an institution that, in my view, is tantamount to a prison, so therefore penal reform would apply in Summervale as well. Here you have a situation where you have young people in a place of confinement with and I must tell you that Summervale is, indeed, a place of confinement, very depressing physical conditions, and some of the few programmes that exist cause me to ask and to wonder whether or not any rehabilitative care is going to come from some of those programmes. Yes, albeit there are few, but there needs to be a whole lot more. I am not even sure at this stage to what extent the Board that is established for that place has any input in that regard. I am prepared to keep whittling away at it until such time as it can make significant reform.

My question really, Sir, speaks to this. We know that most of the individuals come to Summervale because of this thing called "wandering" which still boggles my mind, because we know they wander because oftentimes the conditions at home mean they cannot stay there as there are abuses of all sorts, sexual, emotional, physical, and the list goes on.

More often than not, it is the young women who are receiving this sexual abuse in particular, and both the young men and young women are getting emotional and physical abuse. I am concentrating at this point on Summervale, but is not to say that I do not recognise that there are many young men in the communities who have similar problems but I am speaking to Summervale and this talk about wandering.

Sir, there is a history, and this is a life experience, so there will be no names called, where there is need to have mental custodial care, let us put it that way, and then the same individual three weeks later can be in Glendairy Prison. Something has to be very wrong. I cannot really get to the bottom of it. I do not know if it is in place to dig and delve further, but the individual is already in one place of reform and has to have treatment in another place for a medical condition. We are talking about a minor, Sir, because up to the age of 18 is the maximum time you can live at Summervale, so if you are under 18, what could have been so terrible, having had the medical treatment, that you must now end up in Glendairy Prison? Sir, it boggles my mind. I am not happy about it and I continue to focus on it because the individual is now again back in Summervale.

It makes me wonder to what extent the programmes that are currently in place can help an individual who has been through the vagaries in such a very tight and short time frame. If we are speaking about reform, Sir, yes, penal reform, I see that Summervale is well placed to be revisited

once again, or to be revisited, not tinkered with, but dealt with in large measure to ensure that the young persons who live there, when they come out, can be whole citizens.

We acknowledge and recognise that there is a scourge that is attached to them having gone there, but there are some young people who have come through that system and made it to a very significant place in life; but I am dissatisfied with the mechanism that they have to go there in the first place.
3.35 p.m.

I am unhappy with some of the conditions that exist while they are there, and I would want to see some measure of reform done to correct that anomaly.

Much was said about apportioning blame, generally speaking, in terms of values and morals. Some comment was made about the Church as well. There is much debate that people should go back to church and that kind of thing but going into a church in my view does not necessarily give the individual the pastoral care that is required.

I am not knocking any particular organisation, but I really feel that we need far more outreach from the established bodies or religions in terms of reaching into the lives of those people who sometimes are floating like flotsam and need to have that guidance because, at the end of the day, that sound spiritual strength which can come, as Senator Goddard mentioned, even by the way you say "good morning" to somebody, often determines whether they are going to react negatively or positively. In outreaching in that spiritual vein, responsibility must come not only from the leaders in the established churches but must come from every single one of us.

Even a small vein, however small, can make that difference in the lives particularly of the young people. Much was said about children not going to Sunday school anymore. I remember when we had to go to Sunday school and it was not a question of not wanting to go. You went at 3 o'clock every Sunday evening at the Cathedral, and I recall going in the car trying to squeeze into the car. I have absolutely no regrets.

I believe that parents must be responsible and must take blame in large measure and I am going to apportion it to them. What if my mother and father did not discipline me and made sure that I had spiritual food and sufficient love. That is the thing that is missing these days. I am not talking about this tangible love, but that love that lasts forever and ever.

If you are going to bring a child into this world willingly, in my view, you have to take the necessary care if you do not want that young person to fall into some of the deviant behaviour that was alluded to because of drugs,

because of alcohol, and the attendant crime that would come along with the use of the same.

Talking about bringing people into this world, I must touch very briefly on the question of abuse by way of sex on minors because that is an area that is a crime, and I wonder to what extent the perpetrators of the same are being punished. I wonder to what extent they pay the price.

I think I need to delve more into this whole question of the legal arena because I am not satisfied that oftentimes the punishment befits the crime. I know we are talking in large measure about the forming and looking at more non-custodial care, but there is a lot of crime committed, and I do not know to what extent the laws permit maximum sentence and how much penalty you must pay, but everyday I see crimes that have taken place and I say, "Is that all?"

Of recent memory was a case where, in my view, the fine was small and there was no time spent for what could have amounted to a death or if they had not been stopped could have been a rape. No dollars and cents fine is big enough in a case that should merit time. I am talking about rapes. I feel really strong about this because lock up is one thing, but lock up can lead also to parole.

My feeling is that it should be once and for all. I know they talk about rape as a medical condition. It is not just about sex but about a whole condition. I personally feel, Sir, if it is a condition, let us start by fixing one of the items that will stop them from doing that abuse. I feel very strongly that rapists should be castrated. That way they cannot use that particular item to bring abuse to women. More often than not these rapes are abuses against women in particular. I know they talk about young men getting raped, and they use different language; but that is at least one mechanism. Men may cringe when I say it, but that is the way I feel. If you cannot do anything with that, then that is one less thing. Maybe eventually you will then begin to reform yourself.

It may be primitive, Sir, but so are so many other things. Sir, that is my feeling with respect to that.

As far as I am concerned, for rape the time spent in prison could be raised to a maximum of life but I gather that certainly from the experience of one learned person, in his lifetime there has only been two life sentences for rape. Sir, rapes in 1990 - I am taking my figures from the Commissioner of Police's Report and it can be made a document of the Senate if it is required - were 68 cases. It might sound like a little bit but that is 68 too many. They are 68 reported cases because we all know that many women who receive abuses of this sort pin their lips because of the methodology that is used to examine some of these very cases. Sixty-eight might sound like a small figure but that is 68 too many.

Sexual intercourse with minors - 36. Absolutely and totally unforgivable, 36 too many. Sir, I would want a day to come when crimes of this sort are dealt with very heavy handedly....

Aside.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I have absolutely nothing against men but I have...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member should not listen to the asides. You are doing very well in your address. Ignore the asides! Do continue!

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I would want to see that heavy hand used in correcting those who would seek to mash up people's lives by way of rape, by way of abuse of minors of a sexual and emotional sort. Sir, emotional rape is a very serious thing because you are raping the mind, you are making the individual feel less than human. Yes, there is such a thing because once a person has been abused in this manner, life goes steadily downhill more often than not.

It is not that I am putting a case for women only because I recognise in life that women are the nurturers of the family, and if the woman in a family is disenfranchised, then the family and community as a whole is disenfranchised. We are the bearers of the children and therefore we must have a special place in life generally because without us there would be no other people anyhow.

So this question of emotional trauma must bear looking at in terms of corrective measures. Interestingly enough, just last night I happened to spend a few minutes, about an hour, doing something I do not do which is watch TV and there was a case on, and it was interesting that it came before today's Sitting. It was the Tracey Thurman Story. A woman who continuously made reports to the police about the abuse verbal, emotional, sexual, all kinds on her and it ended in bare negligence. I am not suggesting for a moment that our police are negligent in this regard. I really do not know. I do not have the facts to support that so I am not going there. This picture spoke to me because ultimately he ended up stabbing her until she became quadraplegic and more often than not, Sir, this could happen in these cases.

In emotional abuse you come to the stage, I understand, where you feel you deserve this kind of treatment. No human being, no dog even, deserves to have this kind of treatment.

I want, Sir, in making these statements and in looking at and reviewing reform of legislation that we do not forget the other areas which call for a heavy hand. I gather in the Magistrate's Court that sentencing is a little different and in the High Court it is a little heavier but I understand that a lot

of those who do these crimes know full well how to manipulate the system to get the sorts of penalties they would want. Sir, I would want to guard against and to make sure that our laws truthfully make provision for taking care of all those who do that.

3.45 p.m.

Sir, I am very much in favour where very minor offences and low risk crimes are committed for the non-custodial arrangements to be made. It is something that for a long time I felt was a positive thing. In 1993 or so we had one or two old estates around and I thought that they would make perfect places for creating the sort of work environment for those who were first time offenders. I have heard Senator Forde say and I really support that, put them back to work in the community. I remember as a child growing up they used to clean all the sides of the roads. Government House got cleaned by prisoners so why cannot those non-custodial persons do that kind of work? It would certainly take a lot of stress and ease off the National Conservation Commission and the Ministry of Health. I am not suggesting that we take away jobs but at the same time there is more of that kind of clean up that is required. This community service element is an extremely good one.

I do not know how we are going to set the margin at what is a minor offence. I am sure it must be written down somewhere but we want to make sure that that is very exact and very specific. I am very much a supporter of that because once we get any kind of incarceration, I believe that you go from bad to worse because of the stigma that is attached. If we are going to put everybody in prison, then we are going to have a problem. The whole question of drugs and alcohol was mentioned and their impact and so on but I must say that the television is used in large measure for negative purposes and I would like to see it used a lot more positively. Those who use it, the young people in particular and some of the seniors, instead of watching blue movies and rubbish...

Asides.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: The blue movies are a lot of junk and I really would like to see the television set as a stronger tool for education so that when it is turned on you can learn more about the positive things in life and at the end of the day you are able to make that choice. Making that choice for change is the only way that those would-be offenders would come along the straight and narrow way which is the right way, the correct, the honest way, the disciplined way, the loving, caring and spiritual way. That is the only way to uphold a fruitful life, one free from incarceration and the need for any sort of reform.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR G. E. N. BROME: Mr. Deputy President, I rise in support of this Penal System (Amendment) Act

today. I believe that this is a very important piece of social legislation and I am happy to take part in this debate. I am aware of the fact that we have very serious problems out there in society but at the same time I will not encourage people to commit certain offences or acts and give them the impression that what they did was right. I would not like my children to say that this is the first offence and then to go on. I think that we all have a role in society to play and we as role models should upkeep that.

I do not think that in some cases we have done sufficient whether it is the church, the labour union or the schools, and none of them do not stand up and represent real morals in our society. I believe that we should find new ways of approaching our young people in supporting law and order in Barbados. Barbados is not isolated from the rest of the world. We should recognise that we are influenced by external forces, mainly America and Jamaica. If we are influenced through music with negative vibes which are accepted as alright, then there is something wrong with our media people. I for one would not say how great the guys are in pushing and promoting those negative vibes out of Jamaica but we are a free country, free and democratic people and you cannot say 'no' to the people. The people must be free to decide for themselves.

I, perhaps, might be one of the least fortunate of most people but somehow I have managed not to fall victim through negative forces. Education and some of the basic necessities of life were hard to come by but I fought against the odds to make things work for me and have been able to contribute to many other people out there.

I am a fighter who believes in equality, who believes that all people, at the same time, should be given a fair chance at life, not because we have made big mistakes or have done things against the law. I would not like this to be the norm where people feel that they can do this and that and so on. Then it starts from one crime and goes to another and the crime is always upgraded. Some enjoy mischief. It is easy to do and they do enjoy it. Most of the people who commit these offences do not take them initially as anything serious. It is only after the outcome that they begin to realise that they have done something wrong. Some of their friends out there and some of their friends in the detention centres also encourage them to go from bad to worse. If our people can be prevented from going to those places of detention and can be put in the community to do some social work, I believe it will do us real justice.

I would be happy if some sort of system would be implemented to encourage people not to do mischief and be given a chance by doing social work but to get those people involved in social work before the mischief.

I am not going to say that the church is going to do it or that the church understands the methodology and how to apply it. I am going to ask our teachers and parents and so on to encourage our young people to become involved in community activities. That is where I got my development and without that I might have been at minus, and I could have been carried away like anyone else.

3.55 p.m.

It has worked for me and I would like to encourage as many young boys and girls to become involved, and I would like corporate Barbados to contribute in this respect to the social development of Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support the measure before the Senate, I would wish to congratulate Honourable Senators who have spoken before I did for the very thoughtful, and to my mind, deeply thought out sentiments which they have expressed in a matter which is perhaps the single most important item before our nation today. Many persons have pointed to some of the issues which they perceive to be of paramountcy, and I regret that I would have to repeat some of that, though not in such a way as to violate the rules of this Honourable Chamber.

It seems to me as though the central thought within this piece of legislation relates to section 6 and although the other sections are equally important, what we are in the final analysis looking at, is the question of how we might be able, when we examine the penal system that we have in the country and the reform systems as we have been trying to implement them, how would we provide for the juvenile. The more one speaks to those persons who are older and in most cases wiser than we are – I should not say that they are wiser than you – the more I speak to persons who are older and therefore wiser than I am, the more I am led to the view that there is much that we do not fully understand regarding the bases for the deviant behaviour that is before us.

It is also easy, possibly far too easy for us to point to parents without recognizing that parents, not all but many of them, are as anxious as we are for them to be anxious. Parents are anxious to have their children do well and to be free of crime. Even those persons who are criminals in their own right, in my view would wish to have their children go straight and to be respected members of the community.

What then is the problem? Beyond the fact that we would argue that there are societal problems of inability of parents to spend enough time because of work, what then is the problem? And it may very well have to do with the fact that we have lost many of those values which were very

important, and the loss of those values has been touched on by various speakers and I do not wish merely to go on touching on them.

My own organization, the Barbados Workers Union, has over and over again spoken to the matter of the need to teach the young. I do not think there is any gainsaying in training up a child in the way that he should go and that "he" means "she" as well. So train up a child in the way that the child should go, so that when that child gets older he or she will not depart from it. Even though we might stray for a short time, we know where the moral moorings and the philosophical bases are and we can get back there.

Moral suasion has become less of an important thing and many persons have spoken to that, Mr. Deputy President. I agree with those who argued that to a very great extent, we have to be able to improve on this. We are trying in our organization to offer the organization directly to the workers and the children of the workers, to the Government and to anyone else who may wish to use our facilities, where we all together try to impact as early as we can, on the young person so that that young person comes better to understand and to appreciate the advantages in doing it right the first time.

Sir, we apply that as much to the world of life itself, the world and the society at large, as we seek to apply it to the world of work. This would then, I am sure, allow for section 6 to have a certain relevance and meaning because we want to reduce the number of repeat offenders and, as Senator Brome said, we would want people not be offenders in the first place. Part of the problem, it seems to me, springs from the fact that people do not listen.

Mr. Deputy President, the worst thing in the world to do is to be a patient in the hospital. Not to visit; to be a patient in the hospital and have someone visit you to inquire from you what is your problem. When you start to explain what you are suffering from, rather than having that person listen to you, sympathize and emphasize with you, the person begins to tell you after 30 seconds how that individual's mother, aunt, cousin, or grandfather was suffering from the same illness and, by the way, the person always died. Any time you are going to explain something else, the individual goes on to talk about something else. The reality is that for the juvenile there is the same problem. The child wants to talk to the parent, the child wants to talk to the guardian. The child wants attention.

Senator Odle said the child wants love. That is true too but sometimes the love is known; it is the attention the child or juvenile wants and the grown up is always too busy, always too wrapped up in adult things, always wrapped up in talking somebody else's business – where that happens, and I am sure that no Member in this Honourable institution would be involved in such kinds of deviant behaviour, the

adults and parents are always far too busy to do anything other than talk at the child, not even to the child, but talk at the child.

Consequently, the child learns that there is a society of oppressiveness and there is an opposition of adults versus children. Then, when that child takes that forward to school, the teacher ought not to be surprised. The teacher has to recognize too that the child wants to hear more than instructions about the lesson. The child wants to hear the teacher and to see the teacher talking to and listening to and not talking at or being too busy to hear.

It is the same way with the child when he or she becomes the worker, Brother Brome would tell me, and I repeat very quickly, Sir, that he wants a trade union officer, in the same way that the child wants the church officer to be willing to go beyond the end of the meeting, to spend time and to spend time to listen.

I think it is very important, Mr. Deputy President, that we understand that we can only seek to mediate for and on behalf of the over 21s, indeed for and on behalf of the older 21s, if we have a basis from which to do that. If we do not know the people and we do not understand the people, and we do not understand what it is that turns their minds, that brings on the stress that Senator Rickinson spoke to, how then would we understand why people are not willing to listen.
4.05 p.m.

If you do not listen to the youngster, when that youngster is a teenager or when that youngster believes that he or she has shed the yoke of childhood and is able to make his or her own decisions, that child is going to say "why should I listen to you?" So we have a problem that we have to address and address other than by the form of punishments.

All of us, I think, Mr. Deputy President, must take blame. I am not suggesting for a minute that any Honourable Senator in this room has on any occasion deliberately set out to cause a problem or to set a stone in the way of another person. But I am suggesting that in the same way that we start by being sinners before God – and I do not hope to overtake the job of my illustrious clerics in this Chamber – in that same way we by our actions and sometimes by our failure to act are culpable, when we look into the mirrors and when we look into the mirror of life itself, for what society is today. We are going to have to try to make a greater effort to deal decisively with the subject which has no further... I was going to say no further than it can go but that is not true because evil always seems to find further levels of depth into which it can sink.

We have to look again at the number of role models and how they play their roles. Those role models have got to

be able to understand the contradictions which are in their behaviour because someone may believe that if he is a role model as a cricketer, all he needs to do is to make a century without understanding that the person who admires him as a good batsman or as good bowler or as a good public speaker, admires him as a person and is going to emulate him, imitate him and pattern himself on him even patterning himself on his faults. Thus, it is true to say that the evil lives after us, although Shakespeare might have meant it differently when he spoke to Julius Caesar's death in that people will not talk about it. The evil lives on because people see it and those who patterned themselves after you will continue that evil long after you have ceased to be a memory.

Perhaps, as well, Sir, it may be that there are far too many loopholes in our penal system and it is to that, that I will wish to advert for the rest of the brief time that I have in which to address you, Sir.

I believe that in our efforts to change the society we have on the one hand to build and to build in such a way that the people have something to aim for, to hope for and to benefit from. At the same time, we have to recognise that this amendment before us and generally the amendments which there have been for penal reform are by and large, cosmetic. The amendments are cosmetic but the problem of crime in our society is a problem that is endemic and is bordering on the epidemic.

What then is there before us in that kind of dichotomy? How are we going to be able to address our need to take the action of trying to build the society by trying to rehabilitate those who are miscreants or those who have become criminals? At the same time, how are we going to address the fact that there are several malefactors who have moved from a first level of crime and malefaction to a position where they begin to believe that they are more clever than the rest of us, that law has no sense or relevance, order has no importance to them and that their evil wits are the best way by which to live? It seems to me that in such a circumstance we have to have more, wider sweeping remedies. The question before us then would be, have we captured the major bases for the crimes which there is initially before the young people and also among the older people?

A second question would be, have we got any way to deal with parents and/or guardians, who have condoned or encouraged and supported juvenile delinquency; who tell their child from the age where they cannot talk yet, 'to curse him for me, or curse her for me'; whose child as a youngster at school, not yet age 11, is pleased when the child brings home money that the child could not have worked for – legally anyhow – and does not choose to question him or the parent or guardian who has a young child who brings

home money far in excess of what that child could work for even working overtime every day and does not believe that there is the need for a question to be asked. What have we got that can help to take those parents and guardians into a loop and show them that the time will come for regret for that miscreancy on their part?

The third question is, have we put in place significant motivators to aid the youth who are pressured by their peer groups, those who might wish to do well but who find that the pressure of those who would say "come, join with me" might be too great? What are we doing in all levels of the society to identify and to help those persons to escape that kind of pressure? Have we determined a structure of deterrents to cause delinquents to feel the true penalty for miscreancy or hard crime? Have we discovered whether those persons who advised the miscreants or the criminals have used their moral or professional positions to discourage the crime or merely to advise how to avoid the punishment? When we, or any of us speak to a young person or to any other person for that matter who has done something wrong, are we saying that you are a fool to commit the crime, or are we saying that you are stupid to be caught committing the crime?

Mr. Deputy President, has any effort been made to amend the discretions or lack of discretions within the Magistrate's Courts for crime involving offensive weapons to give the Magistrate greater scope for penalising, and if not, why not? Why cannot we legislate so that cutlass wielders and gun toters no longer escape serious penalties by pleading guilty at the lower court or otherwise have their matters addressed where they consider the punishment to be less? Is there not a means by which the officers of the courts at all levels were able to have a transparent arrangement debated among themselves and determined so as to have one system where one knows what the crimes are and what the punishments will be?

Mr. Deputy President, when will there be a progressive punishment structure which will permit persons who are repeat offenders to receive consecutive sentences rather than concurrent sentences and to prevent an arrangement where somebody who has just committed his first offence from being subjected to the same three years as somebody who has got 15 other offences for all of which he or she may be guilty?

4.15 p.m.

The last question that I will have the time to put, not because I am running out of them is, what has been done or can be done regarding recognisable gains obtained by criminal action? I know there has been some speaking to this subject, but when are we going to be able in a meaningful way to make it true that crime does not pay, so that we do not any longer get a situation where school children at the primary level tell their teachers they do not need to learn

because they are making more money than the teachers themselves are making?

Mr. Deputy President, we have a problem. The amendments to the law are good amendments. I urge that we all support them. The problem is not the amendments. The problem is the abysmal deviancy, the great level of deviant behaviour and the fact that the longer we stay in talking around the subject, and talking at those others who have done wrong rather than accepting that we are part of the solution, the longer we will have a difficulty on our hands.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I join this debate to express my pleasure at this very progressive step which this piece of legislation represents. To me it is an excellent first step on the part of Government. It is an indication that we have come to the point where we have resolved that all there is to punishment for infringement of the law would not be a matter of virtually lick and lock up. The rest of society has moved and progressed admirably in areas of health, education, infrastructure, even in nursing and, therefore, this physical area is now catching up with the rest of the society. There has been a time lag between the progressive steps taken in the rest of the society and the other social institutions, so with this aspect of our national lives, as I said, we are now beginning to play catchup.

This will not be the only step, but I suspect that much more of it will come and many more changes will come if only because the whole nature of society is a dynamic process and what is good for today is not always good for tomorrow, or next week because of the whole dynamic nature of the human life and human progress.

Sir, this step, also coming at a time when some persons in society who, quite understandably, are concerned about the high level of crime, particularly the high level of very violent crime which is really not in keeping with the traditional nature of crime in Barbados, this is a whole new phenomena. I suspect it is also linked with an international situation, particularly where the existence of the illegal drug trade is concerned.

Therefore, Sir, persons might be tempted in these circumstances to want to resort to instant justice and things like the Law of the Jungle, the Old Wild, Wild West days, Cowboy justice and Kangaroo Courts and that kind of mentality.

I am glad to see that despite the concerns over what is happening now with regard to the levels of crime, persons are not necessarily calling for that, but are prepared to give the legal system a chance to work. That is why one must be

very appreciative of a government when it seeks to modernise and upgrade the whole legal and penal system in keeping with society's aspirations.

Crime, Sir, is a very complex phenomenon in human life in the same way that sin is or disease is. Crime has always been with us. I suspect given the nature of man it will always be with us in one form or another, just in the same way we can expect that we will all expect to be fighting disease in one form or another.

Therefore, the whole question of crime at one time, Sir, revolved around the debate of nature versus nurture. In other words, some people held that people were born bad. They were born criminals and there was nothing you could do about them. That was their predestination and that was that. Once you committed a crime, that was it for the rest of your life. That was nature.

The other school of thought, which is the more progressive school, and which is reflected in this penal system is that of nurture, the social influences *et cetera*. It holds that even though persons might have indulged in deviant behaviour, there is still a possibility that they can be reformed if placed in a certain type of environment and if exposed to certain positive influences.

This whole debate, Sir, rises above the whole temptation to resort to rather primitive methods of dealing with crime and just falling prey to your primitive instincts, because you want to extract an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Therefore, that is the kind of atmosphere and the context in which this whole thing obtains.

I must congratulate the Attorney General whom we know from the very beginning has easily been the most progressive Attorney General ever, who has systematically worked to improve not only the infrastructure where the legal system is concerned, or the penal system, or law enforcement. He has worked systematically not only to improve the salaries and conditions of officers but also the institutions, the infrastructure *et cetera*. This is all part of the broad stream of his philosophy supported by a government which is appreciative of his approach. We see it as being richly deserving of a society at this stage of our development.

Sir, this Attorney General, like I said, has worked hard to bring us to this point and therefore I congratulate him. I am glad to see that the fruits of his labour are beginning to come to fruition.

Sir, I could not contribute to this debate without seeking to set the record straight particularly where Senator Mascoll's minimal contribution was concerned. Let me make

it plain that where Senator Mascoll's minimal contribution is concerned, it was virtually a non-contribution.

I was shocked if only because his party, or the party he represents in this Chamber, has been making a great song and dance about crime and violence not only in the last election. The last pronouncement I heard from the party was where people were being urged to write letters to the Prime Minister expressing their disgust, horror and dissatisfaction with what is happening in the society, *vis-a-vis* crime. Therefore, I would have expected that when one links that with the central focus that crime and violence played in the Opposition's last election campaign, one would have thought that he would have come with a more substantive, substantial and comprehensive approach to this whole issue.

Sir, I was shocked and disappointed because I thought this would have been his chance to lock horns on an issue, having been deprived elsewhere of locking horns on any other issue. I thought he would have come prepared to lock horns on this issue of crime and violence.
4.25 p.m.

I must also point out to the Chamber that the attitude of the DLP towards crime is not new when it seeks to back-raise the BLP where crime is concerned. I remember very well in the 1961 election that crime... In 1961 when the DLP won their first government.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I know and I will teach you some political history.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: The political history of Barbados will show that in 1961 when the Barbados Labour Party – I remember it very well because I was a school boy and was very active at the meetings – was concerned about the conditions at Glendairy and thought that it had to be upgraded and modernised and even expanded in certain areas, we were accused of trying to build more prisons to lock up more black people. That is the context in which the DLP of that day put the whole question of crime.

That contributed in no small measure to the defeat of the Barbados Labour Party in 1961. In 1961, I attended public meetings on many nights and when the Barbados Labour Party said "let us have meters for water" they were against that, saying that we wanted to stop black people from drinking water. They were opposed to meters, a very progressive measure even though it was 1961. Water meters could not enter into the thinking of the DLP.

That is all right if you cannot remember 1961. If you do not know about 1961, certainly you can remember 1986. We remember very well, Sir, how the Democratic Labour Party – and I am sorry that Senator Mascoll is not here to hear these facts because I was very disappointed over his lack of participation in this debate – blamed the Barbados Labour Party, which was then in government, for the whole incidence of crime in Barbados, especially drugs, to the point where Ministers of the day and other parliamentarians and certain “big-ups” as they would say, in the BLP were accused of being involved with the drug trade, and that they and their wives were financing and running it. We know what a significant role that played in the thinking of the electorate of that day.

Crime and drugs, and crime and violence have always been figuring very prominently in the thinking of the DLP where they seek to make it a political football and to exploit it for political ends, to the point where some persons in the BLP had to take persons to court in order to try to clear their name.

Sir, I remember too the time when we had to institute a policy of the police being able to search vehicles to track down drugs and weapons. They opposed it and said it was unconstitutional and called on people not to cooperate. Therefore I do not understand the dippy-doodling, the inconsistency of the DLP on this issue.

Sir, Senator Mascoll then says that there were no studies on crime and no studies on poverty. I already set the record straight when I made reference to the IADB study on poverty in Barbados a couple years ago which to the chagrin and the discomfort of the DLP and with which it will live with great discomfort for the rest of their lives, that study found that St. John was the poorest parish in Barbados.

Sir, the Barbados Labour Party for the first time made a comprehensive scientific study on the whole question of crime. Sir, in 1995, we established a task force on crime which produced the Report on the Criminal Risk Factors of July 1997 prepared by the National Task Force on Crime Prevention.

It would be instructive if I were to make a few references to this document, if only to refute the specious representation by Senator Mascoll that no study was done on crime and violence and this measure was a knee-jerk, *ad hoc*, superficial reaction which had no basis in any kind of scientific study.

Sir, as I said, the task force which was set up comprised a number of persons. It started off by saying on page 1 that crime is a universal problem which has commanded the attention of administrators worldwide. Law abiding citizens have made it clear to governments of the day that they are

not willing to accept the diminution in the quality of life because of the unscrupulous and criminal behaviour of others. They have demanded that the problem of crime be approached seriously and defensively.

That is the context in which this study took place. This study has made a number of interesting points and it shows and makes reference to some of the factors which Senator Forde made in her presentation. This study sought to give a background to the factors that were determined that contributed to crime in Barbados. For example, under the heading: “Community and Organisation Involvement” it found that apart from the 23 per cent of persons who were subjects of this study who were inmates of Glendairy Prison, who indicated membership in a club, the vast majority of the inmates, that is, 76.4 per cent were not involved in any sort of constructive character building or development activity. Under “Religious Participation” almost 90 per cent of the inmates went to church as children, but only 24 per cent attended church prior to incarceration. As a matter of fact, many of them had stopped attending church before the age of 16.

It looks at the whole question of education and background. It looks at the whole question of unemployment and gives a criminal profile. It deals with the question of health. It deals with the question of family influences or lack thereof.

Sir, for the first time ever there was this scientific approach to the whole question of what it is that could be contributing to this phenomenon of crime in a way in which we had never seen it. It looked at factors that emerged such as drug abuse, unemployment, semi-literacy, poor socialisation, lack of respect for religion etc.

This measure, Sir, does not come without any sound intellectual or theoretical conceptual basis. It is a study which has brought new light to the whole question of the correction of crime in Barbados and how it has occurred and therefore opened the administration’s eyes to the best way it can be approached.

Sir, the term holistic has been used before to try to describe the question of how government is approaching the whole question of crime and violence and penal reform, and that is really the best way to describe it because it is not just seeking to concentrate on making life better for those who administer the system, but also for those who are inmates of the system.

Therefore we in the Barbados Labour Party have no reason to be defensive or apologetic about our approach and our efforts at dealing with the crime issue in Barbados. The forces whose job it is on a daily basis to deal with crime have been hammering away at it and therefore I want to

make some reference to some figures in the Commissioner's Report.

If one were to look at the whole question of rape, as Senator Odle was so concerned about, rapes are definitely on the decrease, not that that is a big thing in itself, but as Senator Odle said, every one rape is one too many. But the fact is that rapes do occur, but rapes are on the decrease.

Between January to October 1998 there were 81 cases of rape and for the same period in 1999 there was a decline from 81 to 60. There was also a reduction in crime against visitors and in crime against locals. Therefore we have the figures and the facts to show that we have not just been talking, not just been indulging in studies, not just indulging in programmes, but that what we have been doing, when taken in a comprehensive and integrative manner, has begun to bear fruit.

It is interesting to recall that when we had a national consultation on crime at Sherbourne Centre a few years ago which was attended by some 500 people of all walks of life and from many of the institutions in Barbados, including the NGOs, the DLP boycotted that same event, did not make any contribution and did not participate in it.

Therefore Senator Mascoll's mere non-participation in this debate is in keeping with the tradition of his Party and so we should not be too dismayed about it.

Sir, I want to add my full support to this debate. In a liberal democracy such as that in which we live, we have to be able to balance how society protects and defines itself and defends its values, with how we infringe or might tend to infringe on the rights of individuals.

Therefore, it is no easy matter for as we seek to be more vigorous and more decisive about tackling crime, that we also have to respect the rights of others and make sure that we do not seek to defend society as a whole to the detriment and at the expense of individuals.

Sir, I want to add my full support for this measure and ask that other Members do the same and to commend those Senators who have risen to the debate at such a high level on the question of a very important measure in Barbadian life. I thank you.

4.35 p.m.

SENATOR D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. President, it gives me tremendous pleasure to rise in support of this the Amendment to the Penal Reform Act. I am aware that we have spent most of the day discussing these proceedings. I would like for a brief while, Mr. President, to add my own voice of support but to frame that support within the context of a few things which I believe we have to pay careful

attention to. In my not so long ago days of studying law, when we were looking at the jurisprudence of it and considering the reasons behind punishment we looked at things such as retribution, we looked at things such as deterrence and the view was widely expressed that punishment of any criminal act had to fit the crime. These are things which are still shouted very loudly today when we are considering penal matters. I believe that a softer side or a more moderate side of our society shows its face when we recognise that the old punishments and so on which were inflicted on individuals who run afoul of the law may not necessarily hold any sway in today's environment especially, Mr. President, when we consider that main place of incarceration of criminals in Barbados is sometimes a hotbed of ferment for further criminal activity when some of these people come out. I think that this is important to remember because we have to spare no effort in trying to ensure that while at the same time you satisfy the society's need to punish that we also temper that punishment with the opportunity for correction with a view to ensuring that individuals benefit from this punishment and that punishment is not just inflicted on people in satisfaction of the society's blood lust.

Mr. President, I said that I would put this within the context of something that is very troubling. During the course of the debate all of the participants of the debate honed in on a few things that they found very troubling about the current level of criminal activity in our society. It would be remiss of me, Mr. President, if I did not pay some little attention to the issue of criminal activity within the sector which is pivotal to the Barbados community, the tourism sector.

Mr. President, I have no doubt that you would have all noticed over the last few months a series of newspaper reports relating to crime against tourists. Perhaps the one which was most hideous was the reports of the young man who was shot through his face with a four-foot long spear from a spear gun. We cannot in any consideration of penal reform or in any examination of criminal behaviour in Barbados fail to consider the impact which that kind of behaviour has on our tourism product.

The Commissioner of Police recently pointed out that crime against tourists has been on the decline steadily since 1995. However, notwithstanding that I may continue to be on the decline, we have to be very very careful in how the society treats the issue of crime against tourists. The Barbadian society can ill afford to have our tourism sector devastated as other country's tourism sector has been in the face of rampant criminal activity. I do not, Mr. President, wish to sound like an alarmist. It is very heartening that crime against our tourists is on the decline but at the same time, Mr. President, the tourists who we are receiving today are perhaps a little to some that we might have been

receiving a few years ago. An interesting report to be seen in the Press, a couple said that they intended to use the Internet, Mr. President, to publicize, what in their view, was an alarming incident of criminal activity against tourists.

In the face of today's technology, Mr. President, we have therefore to recognise that tourism is still Barbados' business and that we all still have to play our own part. We cannot, Mr. President, idly stand by and observe and just hope that it would not happen to us and rely on the mechanics of the Barbados Tourism Authority and other organisations. We have to understand that crime in any society that we all have to take responsibility for it, we all have to accept that we have a role in policing our country, we cannot just assume that it is the sole responsibility of the Royal Barbados Police Force, we have a role to play in that regard and especially we have a role to play in trying to ensure, if we can, that the tourists who visit our island are safe for the duration of their stay. Many people seem to assume that the Barbados Tourism Authority is a policing arm of Government. I think after the Royal Barbados Police Force gets the first call the Barbados Tourism Authority gets the second call. Since taking up Chairmanship, I too have received some calls in the middle of the night talking about tourists who have been attacked.

The reality is that Barbados Tourism Authority is there to market our tourism product. There is still something called truth in advertising. For many, many years, Barbados has been seen as the idyllic paradise and it is perhaps regrettable that some of the tourists who visit Barbados are so relaxed that they let down their guard and some things that they would not dare to do in Miami or London, they do take the kinds of liberties and do them here and they may leave their doors open. At the same time, you have to recognise that when you advertise yourselves as a prime tourism destination, a place that is safe, it is not so surprising that many of our visitors will adopt a more relaxed stance than they would when they are in their homelands.

The reality is that the Barbados Tourism Authority or Barbados as a whole can only market a product which remains good, a product which remains safe and a product which remains pleasant for all of our visitors. It is regrettable that that is all that we can do from the point of view that after the incident happens, the Barbados Tourism Authority Public Relations goes in and tries to act as a palliative. The Barbados Tourism Authority has on permanent retainerment a trained counsellor to deal with these kinds of things to help to salvage that particular visitor's trip.

The bottom line is, Mr. President, that we all have a very, very serious role to play when it comes to the issue of how the behaviour of our young people perhaps especially impact on something like the tourism product. It is an extremely fragile industry, Mr. President, to allow a few deviants in our society to hold the country to ransom.

A distinguished colleague of mine once said to me that in Paradise Island in The Bahamas they know that crime is consistently being committed by 150 people and the police know who they are. I am not able to say whether that same statistic hold true in Barbadian society but I do think it will be fair to say that the crime against tourists, the crime against all Barbadians is repeated by the same people over and over again. It is quite likely that many of these people have at some point in time in their lives, had a small taste of criminal behaviour. Therefore, we have to ensure that our penal system is able to salvage those persons lives so that they do not sink deeper and deeper into criminal conduct and in years to come present an even greater threat to the society.

We therefore have to treat – while we do not want to treat them with kids gloves, we have to ensure that those people who get involved in criminal behaviour perhaps at an early stage or in their late teens that they are not dealt such a vicious blow by the society in its penal system. I differ in some ways from my colleague, Senator Odle, who may be seen to be taking a different century in the past but we do have to ensure that the way in which we deal with our young criminal element is such a manner that is strong enough and firm enough to ensure that they do not repeat the activity and gentle enough that we do not thrust them further into the depths of criminal behaviour.

With that, Mr. President, I again reiterate my support for this Bill.
4.45 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD the SENATE resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, 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 motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Penal System Reform (Amendment) Act, 2000.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.15 p.m. today.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 3 – THE SAVINGS BONDS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, this Bill is to amend the Savings Bonds Act, and the purpose of this Bill is to increase the savings bonds' limit to Government from \$100 million to \$250 million.

In November of 1978, the National Economic Council (NEC) agreed that the Central Bank of Barbados should study the issue of Government savings certificates oriented towards the small saver as part of the programme for national savings year.

In May 1979, the Central Bank of Barbados submitted its proposal for this country's first issue of national savings bonds. The Central Bank of Barbados maintained that in devising the scheme emphasis was placed on simplicity, liquidity and attractive yield. The following terms and conditions were proposed regarding the matter:

- (1) The Central Bank of Barbados would be responsible for the distribution, registration and encashment of the bonds.
- (2) That commercial banks, especially the Barbados National Bank would be invited to participate as a distribution agent for sales and encashments.

- (3) The Central Bank would arrange for the design and security printing of the bonds and for their safe custody.
- (4) The proposed bonds would be similar to the Treasury Bill in that the offered price will be at discount and interest would be payable only on maturity or on early surrender.
- (5) Surrender values would provide a progressively higher annual yield over the life of the bonds to discourage early surrender thereby encouraging savings.
- (6) Interest payments would be exempt from withholding tax and holdings to Barbadian nationals and institutions exempted from the payment of income tax will be limited.

The advice of the Attorney General at that time was sought regarding the relevant legislation for issuance of the bonds. It was later agreed that a separate Act will be needed for the issuance of the bonds and in June 1980, Cabinet approved the Savings Bonds Bill, 1980 to authorise the issue and payment of savings bonds up to a limit of \$25 million. Cabinet also agreed that a commission of 1% of cash collected should be paid to the commercial banks acting as agents for the Central Bank of Barbados.

On August 25, 1980, a proclamation was issued by the Governor-General appointing that day as the date on which the Savings Bonds Act came into operation. In September 1986, nominal value of savings bonds issued was \$10 million and a further issue totalling \$7.5 million was planned before the end of the year. A redemption of \$2.5 million was also upcoming in November of that year. At that time a proposal was made to increase the statutory limit up to the nominal value of the issue of savings bonds from \$25 million to \$50 million. This move was expected to allow Government to raise funds for financing its operation as well as to provide opportunities for individuals to invest rather than spend savings.

In October 1986, a Resolution was introduced into Parliament to increase the statutory limit to \$50 million, but no amendment was made to Section 3 of the Savings Bonds Act. Nine years later, in October 1994, the limit of \$50 million was reached and a proposal was made by the Central Bank of Barbados to increase the limit to \$100 million. It was at this time that it was realised that there was a need for an amendment to the Act and the Savings Bonds (Amendment) Act, 1994 was therefore introduced into Parliament to raise the limit to \$100 million and to validate all monies in excess of \$25 million and up to a limit of \$50 million which were raised between

October 7, 1986 and the date of commencement of the Amendment Act. So we regularised something that was done in error.

In October 1999, the limit on the total value of Savings Bonds permitted to be outstanding under the Act was reached and in order to accommodate new issues on the market before the end of the current and subsequent fiscal years, the increase in the limit has become necessary.

Savings Bonds are also one of two Government securities which will be used to encourage public servants to invest the 8 per cent pay back, the other being Treasury Notes. In addition to that, it is recognised that we need to encourage the Barbadian public to save more of their money and it was decided to offer attractive, simple and easy instruments for them to save. A decision therefore had been made to increase the limit from \$100 million to \$250 million.

The national debt at December 31, 1999, was distributed as follows: Treasury Bills – \$505 million; Ways and Means Advances – \$44 million; Debentures – \$1.438 billion; Local Loans – \$3 million; Savings Bonds – \$94 million; Tax Refunds Certificates – \$1 million; and Tax Reserves Certificates – \$0.3 million; for a total domestic debt of \$2.088 billion and total foreign debt of \$737 million.

The stock of foreign debt at December 31, 1999 had increased by 9.7 per cent or \$87 million. The major cause of this was the foreign debenture which rose to \$319 million from \$232 million. This was mainly due to the acquisition of the City Corps US\$25 million bonds in April 1999. It might also be noted that the second tranche of the US\$50 million Bankers Trust Bond was repaid in December 1999 which was an amount of \$30 million. The stock of Savings Bonds represents 4.5 per cent of total domestic debt and 3.3 per cent of the total debt.

The fiscal position at December 31, 1999, compared with the corresponding date of 1988 is as follows:

Current Revenue 1999-2000 – \$1.073 billion; 1998-1999 \$1.11 billion; a change of – 3.3 per cent. Current expenditure is \$1.076 billion versus \$1.093 billion and the current balance is – \$3 million versus a +\$16 million. Capital expenditure is relatively level at \$161 million versus \$153 million and the overall balance is – \$165 million in the year 1999-2000 versus \$136 million. I have rounded these figures off to drop the decimal points.

The deficit position at December 31, 1999 shows a decline of 20.9 per cent from that of 1998. The \$165.2 million deficit reflects a 3.3 per cent decline in current revenue, a 1.5 per cent decline in current expenditure and a 5.7 per cent increase in capital expenditure.

The domestic portion of the financing of the deficit at December 31, 1999, declined in 1999-2000 as compared with 1998-1999. Domestic financing represented 31.8 per cent of total financing at December 31, 1999 as compared with 68.2 per cent in 1998.

The Central Bank of Barbados proposes this \$150 million increase of the limit to issue \$40 million in Savings Bonds for the remainder of the year with yields ranging from 7.5 to 7.72 per cent as well as \$130 million in Treasury Notes and Debentures with interest rates ranging from 7.25 to 8 per cent. These terms, however, will be reviewed closer to the time of issue in light of prevailing market circumstances. Therefore, we are now coming to this Honourable Senate to raise the limit from \$100 to \$250 million and it is envisioned that this limit would last us for several years.

5.25 p.m.

It is not that we are going to be borrowing the full extent of the Treasury Bond levels. I might also add that with the significant growth in the economy and the tremendous improvement in the employment levels, there has been a certain personal liquidity in the marketplace which has resulted in significant personal consumption and we need to give incentives for individuals as well as opportunities for individuals to save by buying Government savings bonds.

I would say that this is an extremely serious matter, one not to be treated frivolously and one where concerted thought and Government's commitment to prudent, economic management to preserve the long-term, sustainable growth of this country is being put in place.

This Bill before us provides for the wherewithal for Government to encourage savings in the domestic market and to increase our local borrowing in order that we may pin down our foreign debt. You will notice that our foreign debt has been reducing every year as we go along.

We are more and more dependent on our own resources. We are less beholden to foreign borrowers and this is all part and parcel of our economic policy and management of this economy.

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

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to make a contribution to this debate that in fact does not require any coverage by the media. This particular debate I see as particularly crucial in terms of providing some explanation of the status of financing of Government's deficit in Barbados.

Let me therefore for the purposes of the Senate and for my own satisfaction, when as a man of about 70 years I can look back with pride at my contribution to debate in this Senate, say that at the beginning of the fiscal year, the Government outlined as I have before me in the approved estimates its intention to spend as well as to raise revenue, and it also outlined in the estimates where it intends to source its financing costs. This is in Table 10 on page 20. If you look at Table 10, the summary, you would see that for the approved estimates for 1999-2000 Government intended to borrow \$105.6 million. This is for this fiscal year.

Let me remind the Chamber that the Prime Minister is on record as saying that he only intends to borrow in any given fiscal year the limit of his foreign amortisation payments. Those issues need to be defined. Amortisation is simply the repayment of loans outstanding but only the principal and not the interest. I recall the debate in April, 1999 when it was said that Government would be approaching the Trinidad market for \$150 million, and I said in the debate that that was so and it was denied. I said that the \$150 million exceeded the \$105.6 million which was supposed to be the limit that Government imposed on itself for this fiscal year.

I then expressed reservation and concern as to why it was necessary to break the principle that the Government outlined, not Senator Mascoll. It struck me that something had to be amiss. Having outlined the principle only three years before and never having broken the principle, why in this particular fiscal year immediately following the elections of 1999 should there have been some haste to borrow way in excess of the stated limit of the Government.

The reservation which I expressed then I can apply now because we are less than three weeks away from the Estimates, and if we believe the principle here is to increase the level of savings in Barbados, I am wondering what is the haste in this particular amendment to the Savings Bonds Act because it could constitute part of our Estimates debate or part of a renewal of how we look at the financing of Government's deficit beyond this fiscal period.

I am convinced that the real reason for this sudden haste has more to do with the danger that is apparent in Government's financing of its deficit from that very tender source at the Central Bank of Barbados.

Like a household, a government can have an overdraft facility. Like a household, a government can have deposits. The Central Bank of Barbados is the Government's bank. When we speak of the printing of money we are speaking of the utilisation of the overdraft facility at the Central Bank on the part of Government. It is called advances in published documents in the assets part of the Central Bank. It is referred to as Ways and Means in the daily position of the Central Bank, and it is regarded as overdraft which is a more common way of expressing that facility that the Government

has in the Central Bank. So we can have four different things: the printing of money being the same as the utilisation of the Ways and Means account, being the same as the overdraft facility at the Central Bank and being the same as the advances of the Central Bank.

It is quite possible, as was demonstrated only last week, for some person who is vigilant enough to recognise that contrary to the Prime Minister's view, he will not resort to the printing of money at the Central Bank, that there is substantial evidence that there was the printing of money at the Central Bank, because any time that the overdraft facility is utilised you have to regard it as printing of money.
5.35 p.m.

In the approved Estimates, which I have in my hands, the limit of that overdraft facility is 10% of estimated revenue which is \$163 million for this fiscal year. We well recall that a previous administration move that limit to 17.5% of estimated revenue and that in 1995, it was reduced under the Financial Administration and Audit Act back to 10% of estimated revenue. Between April which is the beginning of this fiscal period 1999 and October, the Government drew down \$101.1 million on the overdraft facility at the Central Bank of Barbados. Since the overdraft facility is the same as printing money, the Government printed \$101.1 million. The advances as you will see under the Central Bank's table, they drew down \$101.1 million. Since the limit is \$163.0 million, and since it became quite apparent that the Government was experiencing cash flow problems in the first quarter of 1999, it was indeed possible for Government to exceed that limit of \$163 million.

The Central Bank of Barbados, in a recent Press Release stated that the deficit for January to December 1999 was \$138 million. This is net of amortisation. The Central Bank of Barbados in its December quarterly publication stated that between January and September of 1999 that the fiscal deficit was \$66 million. It therefore means that between October and December, 1999, the last quarter, that the Government incurred a fiscal deficit of \$72 million net of amortisation. It is the highest fiscal deficit ever recorded in the financial affairs of Barbados in a fourth quarter of a given year. I repeat: the deficit of \$72 million is the highest fiscal deficit ever recorded in the financial affairs of Barbados in a fourth quarter of a given year.

Since the Prime Minister's comment was that he would not resort to financing that deficit by use of the printing of the money at the Central Bank and that that deficit excluded amortisation, I could not say that the Prime Minister's statement was untrue but I said that it was misleading because if you net out amortisation it still has to be financed. The Prime Minister saying that he will not resort to the printing of money to finance the deficit that does not include amortisation may not be an untrue statement but it could be and was a misleading statement.

Mr. President, the reason why amortisation is not included in that smaller defined deficit is because like an individual who may have access to a mortgage in the year 1990 of \$100 000 that individual would have translated that financial asset of \$100 000 into a real asset in the form of a house and property. Therefore, it is only the interest on that loan that would be technically regarded as expenditure. This explains precisely Government's quotes, as is quoted in the Estimates at page 2, Government quotes a deficit without amortisation and a deficit that includes amortisation. While it is technically sound, the Government must, when it is seeking to finance its deficit must include amortisation.

On page 2 of the Estimates you will see Table 3 represents Sources of Financing of Overall Fiscal Deficit and that source on this table is \$225 million for the previous fiscal year when in fact, the deficit net of amortisation was only \$60 million. When you include amortisation, the deficit was of the order of \$225.6 million. I am saying in short that the financing requirements of Government must take into consideration the repayment of amortisation. Therefore, I state again that when the Prime Minister said that he will not print money to finance a deficit, that he was referring to a deficit that did not include amortisation so I could not say that his comment was untrue but I can say that it is misleading because your financing requirement has to include amortisation as is evident on page 2 of the Estimates and every previous Estimates and every subsequent Estimates would have that. It would have a deficit that is net of amortisation and one that is inclusive of amortisation.

Sir, it does not stop there. The reason why there was some difficulty in the fourth quarter again can be traced to Appendix D which is the Statement of Public Debt and Sinking Fund. You will see that under the Local Loans Act that we have had some loans being redeemed at December 31, 1999. I can quote the local loans. An amount of \$10 million which would be amortisation, the principal of the loan. An amount of \$10 million, again this is issued 92-08 and the previous one was issued 88-04. We have had other loans being redeemed at the 31st issued 94-07, an amount of \$25 million and then we have had an amount of \$20 million issued 97-05, which therefore means that on the 31st day of December alone, local loans to the tune of \$65 million which Government had to look for in the month of December alone on the 31st day, an amount of \$65 million because those loans matured at that date.

Mr. President, this was compounded as we heard from Senator Goddard with the repayment of a loan which is called US\$50M which is now the external loan cap. US\$50M global medium term 1997 on page 32 of the Estimates when the redemption period was 21st day of December, 1999. The Government had to repay a position of that to a tune of \$30 million so that is \$30 million, plus

\$65 million, equal \$95 million in amortisation in a quarter – the fourth quarter of 1999.
5.45 p.m.

It therefore means, Sir, that since it was greed that there was a fiscal deficit of the magnitude of \$72 million net amortization that when I add the amortisation which is \$95 million for that quarter to \$72 million that the total financing requirement for the Government was \$162 million in the fourth quarter of 1999. This is where the difficulty came for the Government such that the danger of which I spoke that is the danger of the limit – the overdraft facility at the Central Bank being exceeded was quite eminent and this is what happened. An authority entered the debate and rather than deny anything I said, the authority introduced new information dealing with net credit.

Sir, net credit is simply this – you take all the outstanding deposits for the Government that the Central Bank has for the Government and you minus off the overdraft, minus off the securities, treasury bills and debentures and that gives you a net position. It is as if an individual had an overdraft facility at a commercial bank and yet had deposits, the net position will be the deposits minus the overdraft. So that when you now come into the debate and you do not deal with the issues that I raised but you put new information and talk about net credit, it becomes one mess of a situation for the average Barbadian to understand.

So as to appear to make Senator Mascoll appear to be untrue, you confuse and obfuscate whatever information there is, when in actual fact, Senator Mascoll ensures that whenever he comes to the public with any statement that his credibility cannot be questioned by anyone in the arena. Say Amen to that. It cannot be questioned because he ensures by way of preparation such that when Senator Mascoll prepared a document on the issues of the day, he made available to the Press, copies of the Estimates debate for 1999–2000. He copied page 2 of the Estimates to demonstrate his argument. He copied Table 2A(2) of the Central Bank Report, November edition. He copied page 5 of the Estimates and he copied the Central Bank's Economic Report for December at page 9. He was never known to be a liar and he will never be a liar because his only intention is to make an honest contribution to the affairs of Barbados, honourable as there are. That is his only intention to ensure that the truth is told and to ensure that the people of Barbados are kept abreast of the realities of life in Barbados. It takes me about two or three months after the fact to know, because I am not privy to the information provided by the Central Bank on a daily basis but because I worked there for 15 years, anytime there is an opening, a sniff, I am able to take advantage of it.

In a similar vein, I would explain why in fact the overdraft facility limit was not exceeded. It is precisely

because when the Government borrowed \$150 million from Trinidad, it increased the foreign assets of the Central Bank. But to every action there is a reaction and to every asset there is a liability. It meant that the liability was a special deposit that the Central Bank held or the Government so this is what happened. Recognizing that the ways and means account, which is equal to the printing of money, which is equal to the advances, which is equal to the overdraft are all the same – and no matter how you confuse it they are all the same – recognizing that it had reached \$101.1 million and recognizing that there were so many amortisation payments to be made in the fourth quarter of 1999, the Government made sure that it transferred money from the special deposit to the overdraft facility to reduce the outstanding balance. This therefore explains why the special deposits at the Central Bank in October moved from \$236 million to a mere \$88.7 million as at December which is a decline of \$148 million in one quarter.

Mr. President, if you are working on a monthly basis, being paid such and at the end of the month, you still have to resort to your overdraft facility, you are in a little cash problem. If it reaches the stage that you have to withdraw your deposits, you are in more than a cash problem and that is for the individual. So when the Government of the day has to reduce its special deposits of the Central Bank by a magnitude of \$148 million in one given quarter, it tells me that there must have been a serious problem for the Government.

I do not have to know whether the limit was broken sometime in the week leading up to the end of the month in December of 1999. I do not have to know that. What I do know is that the Government experienced severe difficulties and that unfortunately the Prime Minister was not present and therefore the person acting had to advise and authorize the Central Bank to draw down on the special deposit. There was some degree of panic in that regard because the individual could have waited until it goes up and then pull it down but being highly cautious, they pulled it down and then it went back up. It would not have exceeded the limit.

There are several things that come out of this debate but even when you take the time as a politician to explain issues of the day that you are not given the right to come and clarify and even when you have demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are correct, you then have to fight with the media of Barbados – such that only yesterday, I experienced the pain and suffering of the pen of an editorial in the *Advocate* which did not seek at any stage to address the issues and the facts, but pursued an *ad hominem* line to pull me into the gutter.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Well, it pulled my physical but not my spiritual part.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, why am I saying all of this about the savings bonds? Because, the savings bonds represent an alternative source of financing for the Government by the way the deficit can be financed from foreign sources and the Government has had severe difficulty in getting foreign financing apart from Trinidad. Or it can be financed from domestic sources through institutions like the NIS or commercial banks or perhaps even individuals but certainly the Central Bank is a major player in the financing of the Government's deficits.
5.55 p.m.

The reason why this amendment is before us to the extent that it is in terms of the increase, has little to do with the capacity of this amendment to encourage any savings on the part of the average Barbadian, but more to do with the hope that we can find alternative sources for financing Government's deficit in the coming month, so as to avoid the use of the overdraft facility at the Central Bank of Barbados. That is an extremely laudable approach.

This is the same Government that had only recently been encouraging the civil servants to take up savings bonds. This debate did not just start today. It was known about four or five months ago that the Government was going to use savings bonds as an alternative to the repayment of the 8 per cent. So why, when those pronouncements were being made and when it became apparent to all that the Government preferred the route of savings bonds did the Government not recognise that the limit on savings bonds had almost been exhausted? That is, fellow Senators, the limit had almost been exhausted and there were only \$4 million in savings bonds left in the system; but they were encouraging all the civil servants to take up savings bonds. I find this one remarkable.

However, what happens is this; under Article IV "Consultancies with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) August 1999", the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommended that Government repay the 8 per cent in at least three tranches. In fact, it is now over a four-year period and this is information that was recently carried. This further complicates the matter because I cannot see how an individual – and the average income of a civil servant had to be around \$2 000 per month back then – who is entitled to no more than \$2 000 as repayment could be encouraged now to take savings bonds in tranches of \$500. That is foolishness. A \$500 tranche in savings bonds! When I get back the little \$500, I will only be too glad to see it because it is nothing at all to save. As I have said in this Chamber already, that March deadline cannot be met because the repayment of the 8 per cent has nothing to do with gross income.

The Government, in order to tax, must know the taxable income of the individual, and since Government did not know the taxable income of the civil servants back in 1991, Government could not and should not impose a tax; so that case is dead. They could not know and therefore I am saying to Government that they cannot repay the first tranche of the 8 per cent by March 31, 2000, and I mean that. I am telling the civil servants not to expect any first tranche or first repayment by March 31, 2000. It is a waste of time because they were supposed to get it by December 1999. In fact, it has turned out to be a case that they are no longer going to get a full amount, they are going to get four pieces of the pie over a four-year period.

This makes it clear and even clarifies it further that there would have been a cash flow problem in Government that could have caused Government to revisit this whole question of the repayment of the 8 per cent, because that was a major plank to encourage and invite the civil servants to look the other way for an even longer period of time, because they were going to be very generous in the repayment of the 8 per cent and they were going to give them the full tranche. You have a situation in which the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who, after consultation with the Government had, in fact, encouraged Government to repay the 8 per cent over a three-year period and that has to do with the fact that Government is in a cash flow predicament as I speak.

One of the reasons for this is that contrary to all the talk that the economy is expanding, the evidence is showing that there is contraction. We can speak to this issue from now until whenever. I do not intend to speak to it at this stage at all because it does not make sense.

The way in which we measure output or value-added in tourism is through 'bed nights' or 'length of stay' in which you could get all kinds of increases in output, but the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) is now saying that expenditure by tourists is down. I do not see why that should be something miraculous because we have had a shift in our market from the United States of America (USA) to United Kingdom (UK) visitors. It is well-known that a United Kingdom (UK) visitor is no longer spending two weeks in Barbados as he did in the early 1980s and 1990s. He comes down on the Virgin Atlantic and goes back up the following week. He is now a seven-day visitor just like the United States of America's visitor and he has always been the cheaper tourist. Therefore, the shift towards the United Kingdom (UK) market has in fact impacted on tourist expenditure in Barbados. There is substantial evidence of that.

We have had the most miraculous thing to have happened in Barbados in quite a while, that in spite of all the talk, personal income tax collections in Barbados have declined and no one can explain why they have declined. Well, you first of all have to believe the employment levels

in Barbados. I know that in the third quarter of 1996 the employment levels declined in tourism, in manufacturing and miraculously in other services. In one quarter, the employment level with other services went up by 7 000 between September and June 1996. I cannot see that happening in an economy like Barbados where other services can in the space of a three-month period increase by 7 000 workers. The other thing is, as at June 1994 employment in the Public Service was 20 000, and it is now hovering around 27 000. While I can understand and I will never criticise the provision of a job, there is the other side of the coin, the whole question of permanent expenditure. This becomes permanent expenditure for Government, and whereas the Value Added Tax (VAT) was a windfall one-off situation, when you have to meet that sort of recurring cost as a Government you are under a certain degree of pressure.
6.05 p.m.

I understand the Leader of the Senate might appreciate such difficulties that would be attending Government at this stage, because he well understands that the whole reason for the reforms in the 1990s had to do with a restructuring of Government. The Prime Minister is on record as saying that we should have a foreign exchange led economy. All that has happened since 1994 has gone contrary to that where the public sector has been the major provider of jobs between 1994 and 1999. The public sector between June of 1994, twenty thousand people and, as I speak almost 27 000, has been the major provider of jobs of any sector in the Barbados economy.

In the last three years the Central Bank in its Press release has indicated that rather than the foreign exchange sector leading the growth, we have had a situation in which the non tradeable sectors have led the growth in Barbados. That is against the express wish of the Prime Minister of Barbados.

Construction has been the major engine of growth in Barbados, and that is not a sustainable path of economic growth. In fact, it is a very dangerous path to be pursuing. If you were to check the amended Press Release of the Central Bank it says here:

"It was however the third successive year that growth in the non-trading sectors surpassed that of the trading sectors."

We cannot be proud of that. That has implications for Government revenue. It has implications for our foreign reserves and it certainly has serious implications for the sustainability of the present path that we are on.

Mr. President, the increase in the Savings Bonds is an alternative source of financing, yes, but we must understand that it does not stand alone. It has to be explained, and it has not been explained to the people of Barbados. Why all

of a sudden, three months before the end of the fiscal year, is there a rush to push the Savings Bonds limit from \$100 million to \$250 million? Why all of a sudden have we had to draw down and print money to the magnitude that we have printed?

The Governor of the Central Bank did not dispute anything. The Governor confirmed in her Press Release that between April 1999 and December the Government printed \$63.1 million. It did not dispute and cannot dispute that as of October that figure was \$101.1 million. What it did not say here to the average public is that the reason for the reduction in the overdraft facility was a transfer of special deposits to the overdraft. That is what brought down that outstanding balance.

I am saying that given the present situation with Government finances, this increase in the Savings Bonds represents an alternative source because of the discomfort that was obviously felt by the Government in December of 1999.

Mr. President, I hope that I have been able to clarify a few things in the fiscal affairs of Barbados. I hope that I have been able to demonstrate that Government has printed money between April and December. I hope that I have been able to clarify that Government has run the highest fiscal deficit for the October to December period of any year in the financial history of Barbados. I hope that I have been able to clarify that Government reduced its special account by \$148 million between October and December 1999. I hope that I have been able to demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that contrary to all we are hearing, the present situation is a very precarious one for Government.

An individual can have assets but have no cash. An individual can have a Mercedes and a five-bedroom house, but does not have cash to buy gasoline to put in his Mercedes. It represents the cash flow problem of which I spoke. This is quite evident to me that Government's position is not what it would like it to be.

We have had all kinds of boasts, and even when they seek to confuse this debate by not talking of the printing of money, which cannot be denied, but utilising net credit, even when they seek to do that, it does not make for any comfort on the part of Government.

In fact, let me quote Prime Minister Arthur in the 1995 debate on the amendment to the Financial Administration and Audit Act at page 1500. I am not quoting in any facetious way; I am quoting for support. I just said that you cannot deny that there has been printing of money but what I want to introduce here is the definition of Prime Minister Arthur at page 1500:

...“net credit by the Central Bank to the public sector, that is, total lending by the Central Bank in the form of

overdrafts and securities less Government deposits to the Central Bank -”

That is just the reverse way of looking at it. He took it the reverse way in that, if it is an asset for the Central Bank, it is a liability for the Government, but it is the same thing. The only difference would be that I would get a minus figure and he would get a positive figure, or the other way around. But listen to it: “net credit is total lending by the Central Bank in the form of overdraft, which is the same as printing of money or advances, that and securities less deposits.” It could be put the other way that net credit is Government deposits at the Central Bank less overdraft facility, less securities. It would not make a difference.

I am saying to you that even when the authority entered the debate and said they are going to confuse this issue by speaking to the issue of net credit, this is what happened. The net credit at the Central Bank moved from about \$85 million when you take into consideration all of this as at October to \$6.4 million at the end of December. That constitutes a decline of over \$70 million. It does not matter how you state it. You cannot confuse this issue.

It is clear to me that there has been a significant decline in the finances of Government due to some contraction on the revenue side and some continued excess expenditure on the expenditure side, and that is why Government's overdraft facility or the printing of money at the Central Bank has been utilised to the tune that it has been utilised.
6.15 p.m.

I therefore am going to be as gracious as I can be, to the other Senators – and I hope that I have sought in my own way to clarify some of the issues in this debate – to demonstrate beyond the shadow of a doubt that there is a problem in Government's finances. If I were trying to be difficult I would prolong the agony.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have 10 minutes, Senator.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I have the ability to go on forever on this issue. I am saying, Mr. President, that certainly there cannot longer, for the benefit of the Senators and the lone reporter present, be any confusion in this debate. It is pellucid, not pellucidly clear, as misused by many, that there are difficulties and I am saying that one of the major problems I had in this discussion surrounding the finances of Government was the intervention of that pristine institution called the Central Bank.

You should know that the response of the Central Bank of Barbados would have had to be prepared on Sunday. On Sunday it was released. The preparation did not take place on the Monday. There was some degree

of urgency to respond to the impressive account and analysis on the financial affairs of Barbados. It was prepared on the Sunday when the Central Bank was closed for business. The intervention, I must tell you, is a very dangerous one because in all fairness it was an issue that was in the political domain, and should have remained in the political domain.

I end on this note that as a self-confident young politician I entered politics with the challenge to lock horns with the Prime Minister of Barbados. If the Prime Minister of Barbados was in a position to behead me on this issue he would have done it with joy and glee.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not like the word you used. It seems to suggest improper motives by a Member of the Other Place.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I will withdraw it but I use it in the context that I hope that whatever little I have resides somewhere here above the neck. Therefore, I am saying that he would have used the opportunity as in his approach to discredit the Other Side because every opportunity is taken in Barbados to ensure that the credibility of the Other Side is mashed to the ground. There is no way that he would have introduced a third party in this debate if, indeed, it were possible to deny or challenge any of the facts put to the public on the question of financing of Government's affairs.

On that score, Mr. President, I am saying that I look forward to the next couple of months in Barbados because it is not easy to sit and see Government's finances almost overnight being put under such pressure with the excessive expenditure, the contraction of the revenue, the excessive use of the Central Bank facility and reduction in all the special deposits that were only there because of the \$150 million borrowed from the Central Bank. To sit and watch it under pressure and for there to be all kinds of attempts to cover up and to deny the public a full appreciation and understanding is to delay the hour of reckoning. Time is my biggest friend in politics and only time will indicate the true state of affairs in the Barbados economy, in the Government's finances and the overall economic and social health of Barbados.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, Sir, we are no wiser after the intervention of the last Senator. We are still in the dark as to what passes for economic thinking on the Other Side. I am sure that the Honourable Member heard of something called logic. If you start with a false premise you must have a false conclusion.

The point is this. He is making a fundamental mistake when he is saying that having an overdraft necessarily implies that it is the same as printing money. It is utter

rubbish. Having an overdraft facility allows Government to marry income and expenditure.

We all know that Government's income and expenditure is not always known. A certain month you might get a lot of income coming in, but in another month you might have a large amount of payments, so the overdraft facility allows you a mechanism where you do not have to rush to borrow, where you can allow expenditure and revenue to mesh.

Every time the overdraft goes up, it does not mean you are printing money. What is printing money is when the overdraft goes up for a sustained period and you make no attempt to bring it down but you use that facility. If it goes up for a month or a week or whatever, then that must be seen as the normal use of the overdraft facility to allow income and expenditure to mesh.

The prolonged use of the overdraft leads to printing of money, not as it happened in the case where you had one month or a few weeks. The overdraft was nowhere near the legal limit. The limit is \$103 million. It did not go past \$101 million as far as I know. If the Senator has other information he can tell the Chamber. The limit is \$103 million and the highest we have on record is \$101 million. That was only for a short period of time. If that is printing money, the Honourable Member then must tell us when the overdraft came up to \$101 million, and as it is now, whether that money got torn up then. If you say that the increase to \$100 million means that you printed \$100 million, now that it has declined, does it mean you just tore up the money or put it through the shredder? He does not understand the difference between the overdraft facility and printing of money.

It is when you use the overdraft facility to finance expenditure that that is the printing of money. The Honourable Member must not mislead this Honourable Chamber. The printing of money is a very serious economic crime that leads, as happened in 1988-1989, to depletion of foreign reserves. It is a serious economic crime that must not be tolerated.

When the Honourable Member is laying the charge that we are printing money, it must be taken with all seriousness. Up to now he has shown us no evidence that there was printing of money in the last few months, in the period October to December. The overdraft went up and immediately the Government took steps to ensure that it came down. It went nowhere near the legal limit.

We still felt that it was too high and if it remained up there that it could lead to problems, so we sought other ways of financing the Government's operations.
6.25 p.m.

The Honourable Member mentioned the Estimates, Table 10 but he forget to mention one essential ingredient that at the beginning of the year, as is going to happen next month when we debate the Estimates, Government not only set out expenditure and revenue but it sets out how it is going to finance the deficit. It always sets out that. This financial year, we told this Honourable Chamber and by extension the people of Barbados that we intend to go to foreign commercial sources for non-project financing of \$105.6 million. That, Sir, is in the Estimates. We said we are going to go there for \$105.6 million in non-project financing. What did we do, Sir? We went early in April and we borrowed \$150 million which is more than we had said that we would borrow from commercial sources. But it made sense because the Estimates are Estimates. They are Estimates and they represent your best judgement as to what is going to happen in the year. None of us have 20/20 vision nor none of us have the foresight. We knew that it may happen that you may run a little bit short so if the money is there....

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: If the money is there, you will say, the money is there at good terms, let us borrow it. This is the fundamental point that the money from that \$150 million went into a special account. Senator Mascoll should have told the Chamber this. The money went into a special account and we used the foreign exchange component of it and the money stayed in the Central Bank in a special account because we knew that in December of this financial year which is last December gone, that we would have a bunching of foreign payments as the Honourable Member said. We knew from the start that we would have to put a few dollars down because in December we are going to have a large amount of payments to meet and we have to ensure that there is money there in order to meet that commitment. We started with the knowledge that, yes, we are going to have these payments in December therefore let us prepare for them, not in November or December to go butting about but early o'clock let us prepare for them by borrowing the money and by putting the money in a special account.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise on a point of order. Senator Barker is misleading the Senate. When we went to Trinidad to borrow the \$150 million it was never stated that that money would be used to finance deficits. It was never stated so I am very surprised to hear that the money was put aside waiting to help pay for amortisation.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Honourable Member does not know what he is saying. I just said in here and I pointed to the fact that at the beginning of the year, we said that we were going to borrow from foreign commercial sources. We said that at the beginning of the year, so to say

that we did say what it was for is not true. We said from the start that we were going to borrow \$150 million from foreign commercial non-project sources. We said that. We said that clearly from the start.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please move on Senator Barker.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The point is that this Government has demonstrated economic management of the type hardly ever seen before. Certainly not seen when the Honourable Member was advising the Democratic Labour Party between 1986 and 1994. It shows vision. It shows a Minister who saw down the road and made preparation before hand. Do not forget, Sir, we also saw that tourism might have a little contraction because he said deliberately that Sandy Lane is out and the Barbados Hilton is out therefore we might have a little bit of problem, therefore let us prepare for it. The borrowing of the extra money was in case we had terrible shortfalls we would know exactly where to go. It was being proactive in case something happened that you could not account for. If we are going to be castigated for that, I am willing to be castigated. It shows that the Prime Minister was on the ball. He recognised, yes, I have payment to make in the last quarter of the year, let me prepare the economy.

What has happened is that when the dividends were due, we knew where the money was coming from because it was there in a special account at the Central Bank waiting to be used in the way that we said that we would use it from the start. All this talk about the economy in decline and all this sort of thing is obviously foolishness. It does not stand the light of the evidence. The evidence is clear and unequivocal. The Prime Minister saw before hand and he made preparations to prepare the country for the bunching of amortisation payments that would have come later in the year. I do not know what the fuss is about. It shows that the Honourable Member who just spoke was not reading the Estimates. He was not keeping in touch with reality. In the desire to get headlines...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I do not think you should say that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: In the desire to make it look as though he understands what is going on, he rushes into print and makes himself look foolish.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise on a point of order. Again, Senator Barker is misleading the Senate. If you have a deficit of \$138 million and you borrowed \$150 million there is no need for any other source of financing. He has to be misleading the House because I am saying that the Prime Minister said that the deficit is only \$138 million without considering the amortisation payments to be made. It therefore means that the \$150 million was appropriate and adequate enough to cover the deficit so

what are we debating then if you do not understand the facts.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order. I think this is a technical argument.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point is that whether or not we take into account amortisation, it has to be paid. Whether it is in or not is besides the point because it has to be paid. I do not know what the fuss is about. If you put it in, you have to pay it. If you do not put it in, you still have to pay it, so you have to be proactive and make sure that you have the funds there to pay it when it falls due.

We knew from the start that the deficit was \$346 million of which amortisation was \$282 million. We knew that from the start. We knew that we were going to have a large amortisation payment. We know for the next three or four years what our amortisation payments are going to be. We know that, it is all on the computer so these numbers did not come out of the blue. We know that and we planned for it.

Sir, the savings bonds is a good way to finance the deficit for lots of reasons. (1) it gives the Barbadian public a chance to earn a little bit more for the money than if they put the money in a bank. In a bank you may get 4% or 5% but with these bonds you get 7% with no risk because the bonds are guaranteed by Treasury and there is no risk to you and there is not the great temptation to go and touch them. If you have the money in the bank the temptation is that you may go and nibble at it, but if it is in a bond the temptation is not as great.

6.35 p.m.

Sir, it is a good thing for the Barbadians whom we want to save and whom we want to encourage to save. Also, the Government gets money reasonably cheap because the government is borrowing at 7%. There is no middle man to take his stake. Normally, if government goes to commercial banks or even to foreign sources, they would have to pay 10% or so. The government is borrowing at a few percentage points cheaper. The public will be getting a few percentage points more without any risks so it makes good sense. That is why I am not surprised that it is the BLP Government in 1978 that first introduced them because most of the revolutionary things that show initiative come from this Side; they come from the BLP. It is our natural way of doing things. We look for innovative ways of financing.

Sir, it is a good thing, and I must comment on the point that when the last Administration was in Government they used the ways and means and went past the limit without even seeking to have the legal authority to do it. That is systematic of the way they do things; they issued more bonds

than they were legally entitled to. We are going the other way. We are making sure that we have the legal authority first before we go to introduce the bonds.

Sir, something I forgot to mention, and it is very important. The Honourable Senator said there is a haste about using savings bonds, but if he looks at the Estimates, we told the people of this country that we were going to have savings bonds of \$10 million. That was from the start. Last March we did that in here, so it is nothing new. We told them that we wanted to put a savings bonds issue on the market because that was one of the ways we were going to finance the deficit. We said that from the start, so he should be castigating us for taking so long to bring it, not for the haste, because we said from the start that we were going to issue more savings bonds, so here we are almost at the end of the financial year and he is telling us that there is haste when we said from the start that one of the ways in which we were going to finance the deficit was by putting savings bonds on the market.

The Honourable Member did not read the Estimates. If he had, he would have seen that this was the Government doing what it said it would do 11 months ago, last March, when the Estimates were debated in the Houses of Parliament. We said we were going to have a \$10 million dollar savings bond and here we are now.

Sir, I do not want Honourable members to confuse the fact that the limit is going from \$100 million to \$250 million and that we are going to put \$150 million in savings bonds on the market. That is not true because that would be foolishness. There is not that amount of liquidity out there. I think there was a report which asked, why the Government wanted so much money? We are just putting a limit there and occasionally we would have an issue. It does not mean that you are going to put the whole amount of money on the market tomorrow.

We will make judicious use of the facility but what we do not want is that every time you want to make an issue you have to come to Parliament to get the Act change. You have legal authority to have it changed. Then, as the economy dictates and as you see how your financing is going, you will decide to come to the public with an issue as is dictated by the circumstances.

Sir, the fact that they are increasing it by \$150 million must never be taken to mean that the Government is going to go out there tomorrow and put an issue of \$150 million on the market. This Government has shown that it knows how to manage. You put things in place in order that you can move without too many encumbrances, so the savings bonds is a very good way to go. It does not increase your foreign indebtedness.

Another thing too, and Senator Mascoll will appreciate this fact, is that it will not have an adverse effect on your foreign reserves. It is money that you had taken out of the public for the Government to use. All it means is that if you are borrowing it from overseas, then the Government has more money and the public would have the money that they had previously. But in this way, you are taking money from the public so that they cannot spend it. The Government is going to spend it so there is only one spending, therefore borrowing would have a different effect and of course, printing money. This way you would not have the pressure on the foreign reserves because you are taking money from the public so that they cannot spend that money on consumption. It is a win-win situation for everybody.

Sir, I want to talk about something relating to the economy where it was said by the Honourable Senator that construction is leading the way, all the other sectors are in decline and it is only construction that is showing any sort of growth. Not only is that untrue but it fails to understand the importance of the construction industry, both as an indicator of economic activity and a precursor to economic activity for the following reason.

When you build a hotel, you are showing that you have faith in the economy and you are willing to put whatever it costs in the economy. Construction is hardly an activity by itself. You erect an office building because you suspect that the economy is going to grow and there is going to be need for an office building in the future. You build a hotel for the same reason. The increased construction activity shows an increased faith in the economy and that the investor is willing to put his money in the economy, because he knows that he is not getting back the money until another three to four years. If he is building a hotel, it might take two years to build. You are saying, you believe that in four to five years' time the economy is going to be at such a level that you are going to make back your investment.

Sir, the construction activity that people sort of denigrates in fact reflects the health of the economy. If you have low construction activity, then that can be taken as an indicator that nobody has faith in the economy and are not going to invest in the economy. The current construction is showing that people do not fully understand the importance of the construction sector and the part it plays in the whole scheme of the economy.

We cannot have more tourists here unless we have somewhere to put them, and somewhere to put them means that you have to have construction activity in the provision of more beds. Similarly, if your offshore sector is growing, it means that you have to have office space to house the businesses, so we must always see construction in that light. Do not forget, Sir, that most of the money for construction – rather, a lot of it – comes from foreign inflows. Yes,

construction takes up foreign exchange but at the same time in many cases, foreign exchange comes in to finance the construction.

I do not see construction as being this damaging thing to the economy. If there was no construction activity I would be worried.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: It depends on what you are building. If you are building things for conspicuous display or as monuments to folly, then you have a problem, but if you are constructing buildings which are going to add to the productive capacity in the medium to long-term, then you are doing a good thing. Please, let us get away from that faulty economics.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Another point the Senator made that I must comment on is that the impressive increase in employment was a result of the Government sector. What are the facts?

Sir, the facts are that in 1994 when total employment was 105.5 thousand, 21.9 persons were employed in the Government services out of 105.5. In 1998 we had 119.6 thousand people employed, an increase of 14 000. 6.45 p.m.

Of the 14 000 increase in employment in Barbados between 1994–1998, the public sector accounted for just over 2 000. If we are going to say then that Government is the only source of employment, it is not supported by evidence, because the evidence shows that a smaller percentage of workers in Barbados at this point in time, work for the Government than was the case in 1994. If that means that Government is providing all the jobs for us, I do not know, and if so, then my sense of arithmetic has let me down. I know, and I am not boasting, but that is the last thing that will go from me. I am not flying in the face of God, but it is just the way I feel about numbers and figures. All of my other powers may go but my power to appreciate numerical figures would remain intact.

So let us disavow ourselves of this notion that Government is providing all the jobs in Barbados. It is not true. It is unsupported by evidence and for the Honourable Senator to be making that error shows that he has not been doing his research, and he should check on the figures to see if what he is saying is really so. I cannot go on any other information than that provided by the Barbados Statistical Service. I do not have any other information. I do not know if he has any other information and if he has, he has a right to tell us so that we can agree or disagree with his statement.

The fact is, Government is not the main provider of jobs. The increase in jobs was throughout the economy. All the sectors grew correspondingly and if anything the Public Sector did not grow as fast as the other sectors. I hope that we would never hear the Senator making that statement again because he always puts his neck out only to get it chopped off.

He also made the statement that the decline in personal income tax is an indicator that there is no growth in the economy. He forgot that last year the Government introduced something called a 'Reverse Tax Credit' where every person working below what you call the poverty line was given \$500 out of the income tax revenue.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: On a point of order. Mr. President, I just rise to suggest that Senator Barker is once again misleading the Senate. I have in my hand, an *Annual Statistical Digest* from the Central Bank of Barbados. I am quoting from page 213 of the year 1998 Table I – 15 'Employed Labour Force By Industry Group'. As at the second quarter of 1994 the figure here is 20.6 thousand persons employed in the public service.

The most recent available data in this document, as at the end of 1997 fourth quarter, the figure quoted is 25.4 thousand people. It therefore means that between the second quarter of 1994 and the last quarter of 1997 that employment in the public sector rose by 5 200 people. I do not have the document for more recent data but I am telling you that employment in the public sector has not declined, and therefore, information for 1999 would show that the level of employment in the Public Service is higher than 27 000 people. It therefore means, according to the data provided at page 213 'Employed Labour Force By Industry Group', that between June 1994 and the year 1999 that almost 7 000 persons would have been employed in the Public Service of Barbados.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I thank the Honourable Senator for that intervention but he ignored two fundamental points. You can never compare a second quarter with a fourth quarter, neither can you compare a second quarter with any other quarter other than a second quarter. He has been taught better than that.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: On a point of order. Again, the Senator is misleading the Senate. There is no seasonal variation in employment in the Public Service and even if there is, it is minor. However, Mr. President, at the second quarter of 1997, the employment level is in fact higher than the fourth quarter of 1997. As I speak to you, Mr. President, the figure for the second quarter of 1997 as compared with the second quarter of 1994 is 25 700 persons. In the second quarter of 1994, it was 20.6 thousand persons.

I am therefore saying that even as I compare the quarters that employment in the Public Service has increased substantially since 1994.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have permitted some latitude in this debate mainly because it is a money Bill and it has been so certified, but I think the scope of the debate is being unnecessarily expanded and I am not going to permit it. We are dealing here with an amendment to the Savings Bonds Act, which is a three-line amendment. That is the totality of what is before us. Senator Barker, please deal with your debate the way it should be, that is, on the Savings Bonds (Amendment) Act.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I do not want to appear to be blind on the ruling, but the Honourable Senator has made a serious accusation against me and with your permission, Sir, I must respond to it.

First of all, you must never compare a second quarter with any other quarter other than a second quarter. Everybody knows that.

Secondly, he is picking out a quarter when everybody knows that if you are looking at annual data, you never go and pick out a quarter like that. You always go for the year and take the average of the quarters. He must understand that this is sampling. This is fundamental and I know that he knows better than this. You never go for a quarter, you go for the figure for the year and you take the average of that figure for the year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Okay, you have made your point Senator, and you have two minutes in which to wind up.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point I want to make is that we have a lot of misinformation about the economy. It reminds me of a famous quotation I came across which I will share with the Senate. One politician was talking to another one and he told him that he was using statistics as a drunken man uses a lamp post; for support rather than illumination.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hope you are not referring to Honourable Members in this Senate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I made a quote which may or may not suit anyone in here.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: People will go for gymnastics but the point is that the Government has shown in the past five years that its economic management cannot

be faulted. We have managed the economy so well that in spite of the fact that we had a lot of bunch payments on amortisation, we came out of it without printing money because everyone in here is clear that there was no printing of money, except Senator Mascoll, who still sits with that notion. There was no printing of money; there was no fall in the foreign exchange reserves, because the foreign exchange reserves are healthier today than they were a year ago. That is a fact because I was checking and we have 14.18 weeks of import cover today while last year at this time it was 12.16 weeks.

6.55 p.m.

We are doing better in the foreign reserve position today than we were a year ago, in spite of the fact that we had these large payments to make a couple of months ago.

The prophets of doom and gloom will never be silent but the performance of the economy is giving a lie to their prophetic and I also must say pathetic statements. Sir, they are both prophetic and pathetic because the more they are talking, the better the economy is being positioned, and the better the people of this country are appreciating the fact that the driver of this economy is steering well. He is avoiding the potholes but is still being proactive. He is seeing the hurdles as they come and is taking action.

Today, the people of this country are more impressed because if the management that we see now was evident in 1988, 1989 and 1990, we would not have been in the position we found ourselves in and that is clear because we had a bunching of payments then as we have now.

Sir, I want to commend this Bill to this Honourable Senate with the assurance that the country is in good hands. Thank you.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, I want to assure you, Sir, that I have no intention of getting involved in the technical aspect of this debate. I think we have heard all that needs to be said from the two economists who are with us in the Senate.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Perhaps, we should say the two experts.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Thank you, Sir. I want to confine my remarks to the phrase "printing of money". Now, Senator Mascoll has said it is the same thing as overdraft, advances from the Central Bank, or use of the Ways and Means Account. Sir, in my layman's mind, in a very narrow technical sense, he may be correct. I do not know, but, in the public's mind, they are not the same, far from being the same.

The printing of money means that the Government has borrowed excessively from the Central Bank and that a large amount of borrowing is being sustained. It has the connotation that the macro-economic management of the economy has been reckless, has been irresponsible. I think it sends the wrong message, a very negative message, not only to the local community but to the financial community abroad.

I am not suggesting, Sir, that there was any ulterior motive, far from that. I just think it was an unfortunate choice of phrase in view of what the connotations are. I am particularly concerned, Sir, because in the Review of 1999 from the Central Bank on page 8 where they are dealing with the outlook for the year 2000, it states and I quote, Sir:

"It is expected that Government will seek external financing and Barbados' recent A minus rating for sovereign debt should be helpful in this regard."

As far as I am aware, Sir, that is the highest rating we have ever had. It is something we should be very proud of. It is something we should not try to discount or take lightly, but should try to sustain. Therefore, I think while this maybe printing of money, I repeat, in a narrow technical sense, maybe appropriate, communication is not so much what we say, but we are more concerned with what the listeners understand by what we are saying. I think when one talks about the printing of money one has to ask what has gone wrong. It raises all types of fears and concerns in the public's mind.

Sir, I just hope that in the future that phrase will only be used, if ever used again, when the circumstances truly justify it, when the borrowing has been excessive, has been sustained, and it is as a result of bad macro-economic management of the economy.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill. I am not going to get involved in the technical aspects although I know \$103 million is less than \$150 million. If you are estimating, the estimate is way out. My common sense tells me that.

What I would like to speak briefly to is the Savings Bonds as a good way to finance the deficit and also to encourage the public to save. I agree with encouraging both really. I agree that we need to encourage the public to save more, but in order for the public that you are trying to encourage to save more, you are going to have to do quite a lot of education.

Mr. President, we can go to the ATM machine and check to see that our \$500 or \$5 000 are still in there. When

you start telling people about Savings Bonds, they cannot go anywhere and check to see if the money is still there, so it needs to be explained more fully. This is my opinion, Mr. President. Many people have asked me what are they talking about Savings Bonds? How do we know that the money is safe?

It needs to be explained to the public. It is a new way to try to get the masses to involve themselves in a form of saving. They know about meeting turns, *et cetera*, so one would have to embark on a national education to let them know that the Government will guarantee that their money is there and they cannot go back in about two, three, four weeks or a month to start to beg back for some of it. Once it is there it is there until maturity. These are very important points that we need to get over to the masses of the country. With that, I support the Bill.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD the Bill was certified as a money Bill, read a third time, passed and cited as the Savings Bonds (Amendment) Act, 2000.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO AUTHORISE THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE TO RAISE BY THE ISSUE
OF SAVINGS BONDS IN BARBADOS UP TO
\$250 MILLION FOR FINANCING SUCH
EXPENDITURE AS THE MINISTER
MAY DETERMINE

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, this Resolution is consequent on the previous Bill that we have just passed. Whereas by Section 3 of the Savings Bonds Act, Cap. 104A it is provided that the Minister of Finance may have the authority by a resolution

of Parliament to raise by the issue of Savings Bonds in Barbados money up to a limit of \$250 million for financing such capital or other expenditure as he may determine.
7.05 p.m.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Minister raise by the issue of Savings Bonds in Barbados money up to a limit of \$250 000 000 for financing such capital or other expenditure as he may determine:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Parliament authorise the Minister to raise by the issue of Savings Bonds in Barbados money up to a limit of \$250 000 000 for financing such capital or other expenditure as the Minister may determine.”

I move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR Miss P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I support this and I want to say a few words about financing such expenditure as the Minister may determine. I would like to see included in that, subventions to non-governmental organisations like NEAB that applied for it and could not get it to assist the Government in their education programme. I would also like to see part of that expenditure devoted to the payment of the pharmacists who are virtually going bankrupt.

I support this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: I move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. C. GODDARD: I beg to move that this Honourable Senate adjourn *sine die*.

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

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Mr. President announced that he had received from the Ombudsman the following:

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2. Message from the House of Assembly inviting the Honourable the Senate to nominate three Senators to serve on a Joint Select Committee on Law and Order.

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