
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 1999 – 2003

THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is in Session. Senator

Murray. Senator Murray has given way to Senator Bolden.

Bolden.

His Honour SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Murray.

Mr. President, the Estimates that are presented to us guardian as a full set of proposals, that is the carrying forward of Barbados at this particular time. We all know the difficulties in the financial and development aspect of the country within the last year but I think it is time that we look carefully at more than just what is financial happenings in New York, Tokyo, Germany, or elsewhere. I believe it is time we take a very serious look at our own position.

I heard yesterday Senator Mascoll criticising the Government about its building programme at the NHC in which the NHC is building two properties and where there are overruns. He also criticised a former Minister of Government about his overruns and other things. Sir, I want it recorded, that the present Government and other Governments in Barbados have taken note of the small businessman or the small contractor and in some way or other have tried to bring those persons along. One of the biggest problems in this country today has always been how the functionaries of Government react to small business people in this country. It is time that the Government finds a method to deal with that.

I can testify that I have lost an entire business in St. Philip after supplying chickens to the Barbados Marketing Corporation where I was paid drip-bits, drip-bits, and where I never saw the money because I was never paid on time. But then one would hear our very politicians come out and criticise small businessmen for not finishing jobs on time. They will never come out and say that the civil servants who control the money, who write the cheques, will never respond in time.

Yesterday I heard somebody say something and I think it was Senator Collymore. We have to look at every Government department throughout. Why is it that the big operator goes in, gets his business done and comes back out within a reasonable time but the small businessman finds every obstacle there is in the way. Then we have to look at our work ethics in this country. I think both the Prime Minister and the trade union leaders, and now recently an officer of the Barbados Hotel Association, have remarked about the number of sick days that are being recorded. I do not believe we should keep on this way. I have been in Government before and international organisations have constantly spoken about productivity in Barbados. Our productivity must be affected if our people do not intend to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, if we keep on believing that every morning you can call the doctor, get a medical certificate and say you are ill.

Sir, this morning I was making the remark; these very people will go to the United States or Britain and will turn out for work every day, through sun, snow, hail, storm, but in Barbados they will not work.

I have had the cruel experience of representing a man in a court case and he was in arrears with his maintenance order. He said he was not working so the magistrate rightfully called in the Probation Department to do an analysis of his wages. We found out that he went to the United States to cut canes. When we analyzed the figures and compared them with that of a cane cutter in Barbados, he worked for approximately \$120 more. I asked

him why go to the United States to cut canes when he can work in Barbados. He said that he does not intend to cut canes in Barbados, that he does not intend to work in Barbados.

Mr. President, I think it is about time that the tripartite committee sits down and comes up with a policy as to how we are going to treat our workers in the very future and what we expect of them because we just cannot go on in this way.

Sir, I now move to the tourism industry and we have heard so much about the fall in the tourism industry in Barbados. For years I have said that the all-inclusive hotel practice is not beneficial to Barbados. What I am seeing is the predatory nature that now exhibits itself in the tourism industry. Small hoteliers are complaining that the large groups are now preying on them and they too, are beginning to feel the pressures in tourism.

Mr. President, another point we have to look at, and I have recently raised it in this Senate, is the question of licencing of tour guides in this country. If one takes a census of the number of tour guides operating in this country, according to my information, there are less than 10 per cent Barbadians employed. Sir, some of the tour guides have been making very derogatory remarks about Barbadians and Barbadian institutions. Sir, I have first hand information where one tour guide went so far as to be criticising the Prime Minister saying, "that is where the Prime Minister's office is but he is never in Barbados, I wonder how he is running the country."

Sir, it is time that Government decides to look at tourism and the total benefits that it can bring to Barbados. I know for years now, there has been a certain hotel that had an office in New York that ran an all-inclusive system but the New York office only sent enough money to Barbados to pay the necessary bills, which means that Barbados did not get much of it. This office went so far as to apply to Government for buses after the visitors complained that when they go into the hotels they are locked in a little place, no different from whence they came.

Sir, about six months ago, I heard a report on the radio where there is now an organisation in the United States that is going around the world warning countries that all-inclusive hotels are the ruination to the tourism business in their country because visitors are saying they leave their country, come to a hotel, are locked in on a beach, and are only shown where the hoteliers want to take them and no more.

Sir, I have first hand information on that. One evening last year I went to my home. There were about six people in the restaurant but we were not opened for lunch

or dinner. The taxi driver met me downstairs and informed me that he had asked the cook to prepare lunch for them and that now they were requesting dinner. These visitors were staying at a prestigious hotel on the west coast. Sir, one of the visitors said he had told his family about Barbados and what he had heard about it. From the time he arrived in the hotel, the management told him only to go where they were taking them, not outside because Barbadians are vicious people and the food is not good.

Mr. President, that is why I constantly say that if the Government does not look carefully and see what is happening in tourism, then we will always have falling numbers. Then we will be critical of someone else rather than being critical of our own behaviour and our own performance.

Mr. President, Senator Collymore raised the issue yesterday about Government buildings. I will not touch on Government buildings as such but there have been numerous complaints about the roads in Barbados and the method of construction that is going on. I agree that the management of how we repair our roads leaves a lot to be desired. It could have been better planned.

10.10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I would say, on the other hand, that the Barbados Labour Party has always had the difficult task of repairing roads and buildings in the country. The Democratic Labour Party cannot show any record where they have repaired Government buildings or roads.

When I was a Member of the Other Place we raised the issue of road repairs and the late Errol Barrow said that he repaired roads from the airport to Bay Street because those are the roads that tourists drive on. I was born in Massiah Street and I can tell you that the parish of St. John had the worst roads. I can also tell you that I do not ever remember the roads from Roebuck Street to Bridgetown being repaired in 70 years. Mr. President, it has always fallen to the task of the Barbados Labour Party to repair Government buildings and reconstruct road in Barbados and the roads in Barbados are in serious need of reconstruction.

When I was a little boy living in Massiah Street, canes used to be carried by oxen, horses and small trucks. Today I see big sixteen wheeler trucks carrying

20 or 25 tons driving on our roads. I know there is a report which says that the type of stone which our roads are made of are too soft for the weight of these 20 or 25 tons vehicles.

It has also been recommended that we bring granite stone from other Caribbean countries to repair our roads. Some of our Governments will have to determine, at a suitable time, whether we will import granite stone for road repairs or limit the weight of vehicles on certain roads.

When I was Minister of Transport and Works I banned the use of heavy duty vehicles on Pine Road because one heavy duty truck used the road and it started to sink at the bottom by Erdiston School and Government House.

We need to look at these roads but I can say that the Barbados Labour Party has always had the task of repairing the road.

Senator Collymore spoke about gambling in Barbados and I think it is a problem but I must confess that I do not know to deal with it. I was a member of Tom Adams' Cabinet when one-arm bandits were legalised. I remember when we started casinos in this country the church and other interest groups cried out about casinos in Barbados, the Act was amended and the casinos were closed.

Sir, I would like to ask a question. Is it true that Barbadians do not want casinos? I have said before that we have a society which speaks with forked tongue. At one time they will jump on one bandwagon, another time they will jump on another bandwagon and it is the same thing with gambling.

I have done a lot of traveling. I mentioned this story to Senator Collymore yesterday after the Senate finished. I have a client who is involved in gambling. He has interest in casinos in St. Vincent and I went there to draw up some contracts for him and when I went into the casinos I was amazed at the number of Barbadians in the casinos and the type of people that were there.

He also has interest in Antigua and I went there to work. When I went into the casinos at nights I was surprised at who I saw in those casinos. I went to Puerto Rico and I saw Bajans there gambling as well.

I used to represent the company that brought one-arm bandits to Barbados and they took me to Las Vegas and I saw Bajans there gambling and then they come back here and say that casinos should not be opened in Barbados. Mr. President, this is why I say that we speak with forked tongues.

I hear people say that they should have casinos but that Bajans should be banned from going into them yet these same people will catch a plane, go to St. Vincent, Antigua and Puerto Rico, spend the weekend gambling

there and then come back to tell you that there should be no casinos in Barbados.

There is no use having a referendum on gambling because the people who frequent the one-arm bandits will tell you that there should be no gambling. One of them told me he buys a lottery ticket but he does not call it gambling. Mr. President, as I said, we speak with forked tongues.

Mr. President, Senator Collymore was very interesting yesterday. He raised the issue of a desk for the aged somewhere. I want to raise another aspect of that. For the last few months, the television, newspapers and the entire media has been bombarded about the National Insurance Scheme and the need to change the National Insurance Scheme and how they pay pensions. Sir, this is not new.

When I was a Cabinet Minister in 1976, there was an actuarial study and the then Prime Minister told the Cabinet that according to the study there will not be enough people working in Barbados in the year 2010 to maintain the elderly and the retired. As far as I recall, when the scheme started the average age of Barbadians was either 80 or 90. Our health sector has operated so well and the Family Association has been so effective that the average family has not more than two children and the lifespan of Barbadians is reaching in the 90s comfortably. As the Leader of the Senate said yesterday, we have a great percentage of octogenarians.

I hear talk about raising the age of retirement. I am subject to correction but Senator Collymore who was a Permanent Secretary would know what I am talking about. During the 1976 to 1981 period there was the talk about raising the age of retirement and we were advised that we had to get the consent of every civil servant as to the age of retirement. As far as I recall the Memo that was sent asked if you wanted to retire at 50, 60 or 65 because talking about raising the age of retirement cannot be effective for at least another 40 years. As soon as a person enters into a contract of work there is the presumption that he will retire at age 60.

A Government changed the statutory authority of people who used to retire at 65 and brought them within the 60 year retirement band. When they talk about changing the age of retirement. I do not see how it can be done overnight. I do not think they will change the Constitution to abridge anybody's rights in this area.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Mr. President, on a point of explanation.

10.20 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: On a point of explanation. Mr. President, since June 1, 1984, anybody entering the public service at that stage had a compulsory age of 65 years but at age 60 optional.

SENATOR His Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, that is what I was saying. It is going to be difficult to talk about a sudden change in the age of people's retirement because you entered the service on a contract.

I believe that there can be a solution and it should start with Government recognising that those who reached age 60 would have contributed a lot to this society. Therefore, if you want people to continue working and you want to reduce the demand on the National Insurance Scheme, why can we not create a special tax regime for those who continue to work after the age of 60, whereby they pay less taxes and in so doing they cannot claim National Insurance until they have finished work? The Government would not be losing anything.

In the United States of America they have returned to what they called the 'baby boomers' who are retiring now and inviting them to come back to work or to continue working. I believe that the Government should be able to devise a scheme whereby those who reached the age of 60 can continue to work but under a different tax rate so that they do not have to claim National Insurance until they stop working. I hope this suggestion will be looked at.

Yesterday, Senator Mascoll went through the Estimates and he talked about what he saw as Election Estimates. He was highly critical of the Government and the Prime Minister. He said that when the Prime Minister made a presentation in August, 2001, he never spoke about the decline in the economy. I say repeatedly that the Opposition in the Senate, unfortunately, does not know the history of their own political Party. I always tell people that I am glad that I served under the late Tom Adams. He used to always say, never say anything that will come back to haunt you.

Sir, politicians have a habit of opening their mouths without thinking about what they are saying. The late Tom Adams said that always try to think about what you are going to say, particularly in Parliament, because it will come back to haunt you. Sir, I think that Senator Mascoll should read Tom Adams speeches and he would be better informed if he is going to lead the Democratic Labour Party, which is now in Opposition.

In 1991, his then Leader Erskine Sandiford called Elections. I would not forget the speech that he made in Brittons Hill when he said that everything was nice and good in the country and when they return to Government they were going to do a lot of things. Within ten days of

their return to power, the IMF was in Barbados. I lost another business because of that situation.

I sat with two people, an Indian from Hong Kong and an American, and put together a data base of every travel agent in the world except those in the Arab countries and Russia. The gentleman was about to purchase two 747 planes. I settled an agreement with IATA in Barbados for aircraft to fly into Barbados, different from the back-to-back system that we had in Barbados, where an aircraft will come from the United States and off load those persons, then go to Canada and return to Barbados and start the route again.

The then Prime Minister went around the world trying to borrow \$60 million and nobody would lend Barbados. This gentleman called me and said that he wanted to have a meeting with me and I flew to the United States for this meeting. He said that his accountant advised him not to deal with anybody in Barbados or any place called Barbados because your Prime Minister is flying around the world trying to borrow \$60 million and nobody would lend him. He said that the Prime Minister could have come to him or his uncle to borrow the \$60 million because that is a fraction of what we borrowed out of Hong Kong.

Sir, when I hear Senator Mascoll talking about this present Prime Minister I wonder if he knows the history of his political Party. Sir, that is what makes politicians the laughing stock of the country. We talk so much foolishness against each other that the general public has no respect for us. It is about time that we look at ourselves and ask if we are doing ourselves any good when we make these derogatory statements against each other, which can be proved right or wrong within a very short time. I am saying this for the benefit of young politicians.

In 1971, I was at a political meeting in St. Joseph and a colleague of mine was on the platform speaking. There was an old man in the crowd sitting with his hand folded and said, "You hear my boy, you hear my boy, you hear the big words he using". I know that the poor man did not understand what the politician was saying but it sounded sweet.

In 1986, I was in Orange Hill, St. James, and another colleague of mine was speaking and he said that when we win this Election we are going to wipe out all of the outstanding rent from everyone in the housing estates and we are going to build more houses. An old man who was in the crowd said, "Not true. It can't work". My son goes to Combermere School and he said that the international organisation would not let that happen.

I told my Party that the days are long past when you can talk foolishness about politics. Even the old people who did not go to secondary school and who did not know

anything about politics, their children are advising them about what is happening in the country.

It is time that we look and see what is happening rather than criticise and tear down each other. We should try to see how best we can move this country forward because when it fails, we Bajans cannot run anywhere, no matter what our colour is.

Mr. President, I will support the Estimates. I think that it is time that we look more at what we are doing. I want to say one thing about Government business. We have been shifting our position since 1978 about constructing a proper court building in Barbados and again it comes back to the cut-throat nature of political Parties.

10.30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN: When I was Minister of Transport and Works, we allocated two architects to design a Supreme Court Building to take in part of James Street, part of the Muslim Mosque in that area. As soon as we left office, the Democratic Labour Party acquired a piece of land from one of their friends in White Park and designed another Supreme Court Building. I understand the Barbados Labour Party in a previous session may have designed another Supreme Court Building, but all the time the judges and attorneys who practice in court are subject to the worst conditions that you can think of, because the Supreme Court Buildings were standing there from 1964 when I came home.

I am worried about the sector which is occupied by the judges, because it looks like a rabbit warren, little cubby holes and pigeon holes and you wind around corners et cetera. I think they are entitled to far better conditions than now exist. The Registry had to be closed for nearly a year and a half because everybody there was getting sick.

I think, why don't we build a new public library somewhere else like in the Pine which could accommodate the existing books that we have and at the same time make provision for the electronic age and use the building that now accommodates the library for proper extension and go down the street at the back there and have a proper Supreme Court Building rather than running all about to build a new one, because we are getting nowhere. I think it is time we give the judges proper accommodation. I think the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Public Works should come together and look at how they are going to accommodate our judges because I believe we are going to have to employ more judges and more magistrates.

Another point I would like to raise, Mr. President, is something which bothers not only lawyers but everybody

in Barbados and that is the application of the custom rules in the electronic age. I could order a set of law books from England. Sweet and Maxwell would send them to me in five or six boxes through the Post Office. The Post Office would send a van to my door and two men would lift them upstairs and put them wherever I say. Not a cent in duty paid! But if I order the same books on a CD, the Customs will ask me what is the value of this CD and I have to pay duty on it. Now, how could that be right, the application of rules?

I go further. We talk about the advancement of agriculture in this age and since September 11th we are hearing a lot more about agriculture, and I know Senator Laurie is going to have a lot to say. How can we advance agriculture when if I bring in some plants for propagation - I just brought in 3000 orchid plants in bottles that have to be propagated and I am saddled with \$1800 in duty. Yet, one end of the Ministry of Agriculture says to grow orchids for the tourist industry. When you bring in the plants you are saddled with duty. So where are we going? What is the answer? Where is the coordination between what the politicians are saying and what others are doing?

Politicians make policy. I am not blaming the politicians. I am asking where the fault lies.

Remember when I was Minister of Transport and Works we had an issue about buses and a member of the Board said, "Mr. Minister, I want to tell you that you make the policy but the Board and the members execute it how they want to do it."

We have to look at agriculture in the electronic age and not only the question of paying duty. I know that Senator Laurie would agree with me and I saw a report somewhere that we have to look for new ideas in tourism to get people to come to Barbados and stay a little bit longer. A few weeks ago I went to the vet lab to apply to bring in some pigeons. The conditions placed on the import permit were such that three people in the United States said they are not dealing with that - "I do not know what your country is asking". I tried to bring in some bulbs from England and a company in England said, "I do not deal with Barbados. You all have too much red tape down there to deal with."

Now how can you create anything that will attract visitors to Barbados? I have a daughter who lives in New York and she says that Americans love gardens. They fly all over the world to look at gardens. You cannot create one in Barbados. I am trying to create one and every morning I have the greatest obstacle placed by civil servants in the way to bring anything into this country. Ask Senator Laurie! I see statements about the Zoo Bill and I am warning the Government now to analyse what is happening about this Zoo Bill. You can come from over and away and

get all your accommodation but as you are a local Barbadian wanting to do anything every obstacle is put in your way.

As much as the politicians are saying that we must create other excitements for visitors to come to Barbados, we must develop Barbados, I wonder how far will we get under the present conditions that exist. Senator Laurie will tell you there was a time when you applied for a duty free vehicle and you would meet all the criteria and eighteen months, two years would go by and you still could not get it but certain people got theirs. When they moved a chap who used to deal with these reports they found something like 186 files in the room he was working in. Somebody said, "That is not all, Mr. Minister, ask him for the others at the back of his car." I am told you only had to go and say there is a good domino game down the road - and gone.

I ask myself what is the good of trying. I heard a few months ago a report of a larceny of snakes and birds from the Wild Life Preserve in St. Peter and the man there said it is heart-breaking and heart-rending after the amount of red tape you have to go through to get an animal into this country which is perfectly true. The Government must decide how we are going to get over these problems. These are no more than frustrations. It is time to do something.

Mr. President, I do not want to go on any longer otherwise it means that a lot of people would have to come back tomorrow but those small points are only the beginning of the problems that I see we have to face. I think it is time that we decide to make the playing field a bit more level so that we can all play the yorkers when they come with the same bat and in the same way. I thank you.

Senator C. K. LAURIE: On a point of elucidation. The same gentleman that the Senator was referring to has been promoted. So he is no longer in the position of driving around with those files.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of elucidation. It is part of your speech.

Senator C. K. LAURIE: Just in case you did not understand, Mr. President, I was just telling you what was actually happening in that funny place.

I would like to start off by saying that in the Lower House one of the Honourable Gentlemen there made a statement about the National Trust and as the Vice President of the National Trust I would not stand by and see something made public like that which was highly erroneous.

10.40 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: He stated that the Barbados National Trust only repairs and renews houses belonging to white people. The Barbados National Trust has properties at Gun Hill, that is not a residence; Welchman Hall, the only people resident there are monkeys; a Sugar Museum, which is an old sugar factory; Morgan Lewis, which is an old sugar mill - actually it is the birth place of our present Governor General; Andromeda Botanical Gardens, which is a botanical garden; a nature trail in Speightstown, which was opened by the Prime Minister and is a new part of eco tourism for Speightstown and Tyrol Cot.

Tyrol Cot is the one residence of the Barbados National Trust that I think most people know was the home of Sir Grantley Adams, and the same Tyrol Cot which we at great expense - it loses \$60 000 a year - is a millstone around the neck of the Trust. I am hoping that somehow, the Government would help us. I believe it has been promised that the Government will help us with it, maybe, instead of some political party having a place in Roebuck Street, they could move up to Tyrol Cot or something like that but I just wanted to correct that error.

I would like to start by just touching on some of the other ministries. I noticed the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has reduced the amount to be spent on roads from \$58 million to \$33 million. This sounds really crazy to me, because if it is one thing that everybody is talking about, is the problem of getting to work with the huge traffic jams that we have on our roads. What is the cost of these delays to the country?

I actually talked with a road engineer the other day and he got some figures from the Government, which showed that there are ten thousand people who go in and out of Bridgetown every day, who lose at least 30 minutes in the way in and the way out of Bridgetown. If one costs what is the average salary of somebody driving a motor car, one would come up with a figure for the year of \$37 million, which would be lost in productivity. Sir, that is just productivity of each person, who would not actually be getting into their offices to do their work. When they get in the office, they are sometimes so stressed that they are not able to give 100 per cent of their time. I know, because I got here late this morning after leaving home at 9.15 a.m. and arrived here after 10.00 a.m., which is normally a 20 minute commute. It is a crazy system, and we have to do something about it because we do not seem to be addressing the problem.

Many times in the past, I heard some talk in the Senate about a road that would be put in the Constitution River bed and through the gully, that goes up, passes the prison and comes out by the Norman Niles Roundabout on one side, and then, there is a branch of the gully that takes you over by Pommarine, onto Highway 7. This could be a

four-lane highway inside to take traffic in and out of Bridgetown, one way in the morning going into Bridgetown and one way in the evening out of Bridgetown. We need to have another road because that road by Pine Hill Dairy and CBC is a nightmare. There have massive traffic jams in that area, and we need to have somewhere to divert some of that traffic.

They have just built a beautiful road at Dash Valley. Unfortunately, it is mostly taken up by sidewalks. They have nearly as much room on the sidewalks, where there is nobody walking, as they have on the road where everybody, hopefully, will drive in the future. Sir, if that road going across the St. George Valley was taken up the hillside, where it is virtually rab land, spilling out just above the village of Hanson, connecting with the road going towards St. Davids and then that connecting with the road going towards Ballantine, you could peel off a lot of that traffic, and bypass it coming down the main Highway, which has got very crowded.

I cannot think what Barbados would have been like, if we had not built that ABC Highway. We would have been just in one total traffic jam.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would like to touch now on the National Council for Science and Technology. I was mentioning this to somebody last night who had never heard of it. I think that most Barbadians have never heard of it and this is a disgrace. In this day and age, if there is something that we need, it is a National Council for Science and Technology and we just cut their Estimates by one-third. Maybe, they have not been performing in the past. I do not know if it is a priority with the Government. The Director retired a year ago and up to now, no one has been appointed. This seems very crazy to me.

Sir, if I was the Government, I would have the people at the National Council for Science and Technology, just sitting on the Internet, taking down information, trying to acquire as much technology as possible and not just sitting there with it, but going out and finding entrepreneurs, people in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, who can use this knowledge.

It seems a terrible waste that we have this Council and we had it for many years and I actually sat in that Council ten or twelve years ago which was relatively active at that time. They were actually giving out contracts for people to do something. In fact, I actually built a solar cooker for a women's group, under the auspices of the National Council for Science and Technology. It is a resource that we have there and we are spending still \$672 000 on it, so we should make it do something. We should

make it the responsibility of some minister who can make sure that it is doing something for us.

I saw something called the Renewable Energy Sector. I have been very interested in renewable energy. I have said in here that Barbados has a unique place in this world, as the only country in the world that taxes the importation of renewable energy equipment, such as solar cells or windmills and so on. I have asked for the removal of these taxes, because I do not think it is something of which we should be proud. We have this renewable energy centre and we are giving them \$1 000, which cannot buy one solar cell. A panel cost a minimum of about \$800 plus the other equipment that goes with it and you are talking about \$1 000.

In fact, under the National Council for Science and Technology, I do not know why, but they have a photovoltaic system to be put in, and in the Estimate there is \$120 000, and we are giving this Renewable Energy Centre \$1 000. I do not know what we can do with that sum.

There is something that has bothered me for a while and I have not really spoken out about it. It comes under the heading of Foreign Affairs. There is a section called, protocol. This is the protocol that started that some years ago, where anybody who had been Knighted or had a Dame put on them and they died, you cannot use that anymore. I think this is disgraceful. I went to them and said I think this is sick and wrong. If a person is a Knight, he should be referred to as a Knight and he should never ever be just plain so and so.

Sir, do you know the reason that was given to me? "I have a book that I can show you. This is what they do in Britain." Hello, could someone have told this person that we are independent. Why are we going ahead just honouring something...

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: This is the last vestige of the colonial history that we should stick to and I think this is wrong. Furthermore, I really feel strongly that Members of Parliament who are no longer Members of Parliament should not just be nothing. We have Ministers of Government who are retired and they just go back to nothing. In the American system, they carry their titles for life and I think that is only fair. They have given up part of their lives to work for this country, and what do we say? You are nothing, you are gone, because of some stupid little thing in the British book? I mean, come on, that is really beyond...

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would like the importance of the BNSI explained to me. We must have standards, because we would never get into the export industry, particularly in foods, without those standards. Sir, not only exports but it covers imports, where we say to somebody who is trying to import substandard foods, that our standards are so and so, if you cannot meet those standards, you cannot bring in that food.

I remember a case where we imported some chicken wings from the U.K. They were disgusting, and it was only by going to BNSI...

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: It had been passed by the Ministry of Health as fit for human consumption, but when we took it to BNSI, and paid to get them analysed, to see if they fit our standards, we then found they did not, and then it was subsequently shipped to Hong Kong, where maybe, they do not have any standards.

10.50 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I see they have not made any adjustment to the amount of money given to the Telecommunications Unit but we just passed a Telecommunications Act that if implemented would require the quadrupling of this department. So I do not know whether or not we are not going to implement those aspects of the Act.

I want to look now at intellectual property. We are told that if you have a pattern, an idea or a black belly sheep that you should get it registered as intellectual property. That department has to be proactive. It cannot sit there and expect citizens who are not accustomed to doing this to do so. Years ago, I questioned why we ever signed the Geneva Convention on patterns since 99.9 per cent of all patterns that were used in Barbados came from outside so there was a one-way traffic of money going out on patterns and hardly anything coming in. So we need a proactive department dealing with that.

I come now to agriculture. This Government has shown a great interest in agriculture because 1.86 per cent of the total recurrent revenue is being spent on agriculture but the police gets twice as much. That is saying that crime is more important than food. Maybe we have to live to eat the food.

If you look at the gross domestic product of the various sectors of agriculture, you will see that livestock production consists of about two-thirds of the gross domestic product. The livestock sector is three times the

size of the sugar industry but crop production measure system and late crop production is given over \$2 million. The measure system is cotton production. Cotton production is very essential and it is an opportunity for us to do something but it is getting nearly \$2 million and livestock production is getting \$1.7 million.

I see for the first time in the history of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development that we will be getting a sugarcane desk. We are going to spend one-third of one per cent of the agriculture vote on this desk. It will be one man, one vehicle and one computer. This poor guy has got to develop benchmarks for the sugar industry and conduct research for viable alternatives of sugar cane and its derivatives. He then has to set up a national sugarcane forum. I have no idea what that is. The first time I ever heard of it was when I saw it in the Estimates. Can one man, one desk and one computer do that? It is totally mind-boggling. Interestingly enough, in the Explanatory notes, he has been given an irrigation system. This must be to cool off his brain or something because I do not know what the hell he is going to do with an irrigation system in an office with a computer and a desk.

I turn next to fisheries. The last time I know the Barbados National Union of Fisher Folk Organisation (BARNUFO) tried to have a demonstration out there to push the fact that we have no agreement on fisheries with Trinidad and Tobago, they were prevented from doing that but they managed to swim up the Careenage. What is Government doing about these agreements? They are having a meeting in Trinidad and Tobago tomorrow but the Fisheries Department was asked yesterday to prepare a body of information for the Minister who is going there to negotiate. This really indicates inefficiency.

SENATOR the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of order. The Honourable Senator is unwittingly misleading the Chamber. He is saying that this is reliable information that has been given to him. I am certain that there was a brief presented to Cabinet last Thursday outlining aspects of the negotiation before this meeting tomorrow. So the Honourable Senator is wrong once more.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please!

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The Trinidad and Tobago delegation will have four representatives from the fisheries organisation on these talks tomorrow. BARNUFO, the overall umbrella group here, was asked to send one representative and was told that they have to pay their way. They were also told that they are not allowed to speak and can only answer questions put by the leader of the Government delegation but the four people from

Trinidad and Tobago are to sit at the table as members of the committee with freedom of speech.

SENATOR the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of order. I would like to point out that the BARNUFO people were asked to pay their way for their representation because that is a standard practice by Government where members of the private sector, and BARNUFO is a private sector organisation, are made to pay their way.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That, Senator Murray is not a point of order. Please proceed, Senator Laurie.

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I know that Government has plans for improving the fish landings and markets. Of all the agricultural exports we have right now, the one with a future is fish but we have to get up to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) standards in all of our markets and we are not there yet. There have been improvements in the fish landings. Consett Bay is an example of an upscale modern landing facility. Skeete's Bay is an outstanding example. Solar ice is made there and it has a beautiful parking lot but, unfortunately, it has a jetty which is totally useless because right now you can only fish off the end of it if you are lucky and if the sea is not very high.

I am going to go to my hobby horse here, statistics on agriculture. I cannot see how a Government can sit and plan for tourism and flights only. What is the role of agriculture in the economy? The statistics that they are using are not just out a little bit but they are wrong by 100 per cent and I have been saying this for years. When I first said it five years ago, soon after the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development went into the Lower House and beat his chest and said he had just increased non-sugar agriculture by 50 per cent. Officials from the Central Bank Statistical Department called me and said; Senator Laurie, can you explain this 50 per cent increase in non-sugar agriculture? I said well if you want to check something, check to see whether prices have fallen or not.

11.00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: They are saying that food production at the farm level is \$130 million. If one takes the imports and adds to that and divides it among the 265,000 people for 365 days per year, we end up with just about \$3.00 per day. The average for Barbadian, excluding tourists who consume \$50.00 is \$3.00 per day.

Systems Caribbean Limited carried out a survey on behalf of one of the consulting groups on that agricultural

processing plant and came up with a total of \$80.80 for locals only. Even if this figure is taken as a model, it will soon be realized that the local production figure is about double what is being reported by the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and I do not know why. Surely, they can put a model and realize that their figure has to be wrong. I have heard Senators say I am complaining about acquiring agricultural land for housing; that most of the food we eat is brought into the island. That is not true. 67 per cent of the food that is consumed is produced locally but why does the Ministry of Agriculture have no intention or does not have the facility to go out there and find out how much food is produced by small farmers. I am farming 11 acres, they never come to me. I know farmers with 25 acres, they never go to them and there are lots of people, even excluding those who produce in their backyards. I am sure Senator Bolden has produced some food up there and they never asked him how much ostrich eggs he eats every day.

In his Budget speech, our Prime Minister spoke about incentives and subsidies. It is something that is badly needed. The morale among the farmers was very low. People were upset, they were not making money and he injected \$1.78 million into the Agricultural Fund. Of course, out of that \$1.78 million, about 20 per cent of it goes into the bureaucracy to handle it. The last figure I saw from the Accountant General laid in Parliament showed that for the first six months of the financial year, they had disbursed just more than \$300,000. We have \$1.4 million to disburse in this last six months. I am sure what is going to happen is that we are going to go to bed with \$1 million out of the \$1.78 million. I publicly said this Budget by the Prime Minister was the best Budget agriculture has seen in many years. I was sure from the first time and from my conversations with the Prime Minister that he has shown every intention of helping in the production of food in Barbados. Mr. President, but then we run up against that bureaucracy in the Ministry of Agriculture which totally thwarts everything else. There was a grant of \$250,000 to the BAS for institutional strengthening. Why? Because the Prime Minister has asked the BAS to bring together all of the outside people: sugar industry, cotton industry, under the BAS. To do that, we need institutional strengthening. We have one officer in the BAS to serve all of the other groups in the BAS and right now that cannot do.

Mr. President, a senior member of that organisation told me the Prime Minister should not have said it and if he has said it, it means that he does not mean it. A bureaucrat is telling me what I see in black and white is wrong and this is totally disgusting.

Within the last few weeks, the Ministry has put together something called the National Union of Farmers and this is totally opposite to what the Prime Minister is saying. He wants one group but they have now created

another group that nobody seems to want to know much about. I was asked by a leader of an international funding agency if I had ever heard of this group. I said I had never heard of it. He said they came with the Ministry and wanted money. These people are in a kingdom by themselves and do not know what the Government wishes to go on.

They have increased the extension services. There are approximately 40,000 farmers and approximately eight inspection officers. Therefore, each inspection officer has about 5,000 farmers to look after. That allows him to spend 20 minutes per year with each farmer - absolute madness. Sir, it is the small farmer who is the backbone of food production in this country, not the big estates. They are the people who need the technology. The big estates can afford to buy the technology but it is the small farmers who need a helping hand. We should have a TV programme which visits and highlights the best examples of small farmers in Barbados and show people what can be done.

Sir, we desperately need to be able to get some analysis on feed because we have different kinds. We have imported feeds, livestock feeds and fertilizers. I remember years ago, the sugar industry was using something called 22-0-22. I do not know much about that side of things but this formula 20-0-22 struck me as being funny. I went on the Internet and tried to find another source of 22-0-22 and found that nobody makes

22-0-22 anymore. Why are we still buying 22-0-22? I then got a sample to find out what it was. It was just put there. Nobody manufactures such a stupid fertilizer so these people were sending conventional fertilizer instead. Sir, there is need for analyses to be done on these inputs into agriculture so that we can be sure that we are getting what we are supposed to get.

Sir, the Meteorological Office comes under the Ministry of Agriculture but it might as well not. That office is geared for aeronautical meteorology. They are only interested in what affects aeroplanes. In fact, they have screening devices that come between the sensor of the radar and computers which screen out all the agricultural data.

Sir, sugar is very tolerant to weather and it does not matter whether it is harvested today or months from today. There is no need for an accurate daily forecast for sugar but tomato is another issue. These are crops that are very sensitive to harvest time and to the best applications of sprays and fertilizers, therefore, the importance of accurate and medium-term forecasting is extremely important to present day agriculture in Barbados and unfortunately, we are not getting it out of the Meteorological Office. I think we should have an agro-meteorologist putting out agricultural information for farmers every morning. I think

we have people qualified in agro-meteorology in Barbados and are probably working for the Caribbean Meteorological Institute.

Sir, last year we had voted \$15.500 million. This year they are only given \$13 million. In fact, last year they spent \$8.5 million which was mainly spent on roads, et cetera. Sir, they are supposed to put in roads but they are also supposed to create sustainable development in agriculture. They are also supposed to increase the agricultural output of agricultural produce. I have not been able to find any indication that they are doing any of these two things. They primarily seem to be building roads and putting up lights which, of course, is a good political move but it is a very minimal aspect of things. I think they must do better than that.

The Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation - bad m.c. I am very pleased to report that signs are it is changing from a bad m.c. to a good m.c. In most recent times since the taking over by Mr. Richard Knight as CEO and Ms. Marion Hart, both have done some very impressive work in terms of the processing.

11.10 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: We went through areas with the late Carmeta Fraser, ADC and BMC which merged to form the BADMC and did work in processing and we set up a processing plant. This was big step forward for us but, unfortunately, it fell through. We put up a plant in Fairy Valley and that failed for many reasons including problems with management.

BADMC must be given every encouragement because we need to be in the position to process all the gluts we get so that farmers do not have to dump produce like they are doing at the moment.

Sir, the Land for the Landless programme. I have some concerns about this land. The particular land is the Bawden River area in St. Andrew. This area was privately owned, went bankrupt and the Government bought it. The private sector could not make money with this land and they gave it to the ADC and expected them to make a profit. They did not make any profit and now it is being given to farmers.

Are these people super farmers who are going to reverse the trend that has occurred on this land. I do not think so because they do not have the right kind of connections.

In 1992 I was the President of the BAS and we were into bad financial times usually referred to by my friend across the table....

SENATOR the Hon. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, on a point of order. Senator Laurie imputed improper motives in the distribution of this land for the landless. It is very clear that those people who will be assigned this land will be done so on the basis of qualifications and ability and not who they may be politically connected to.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I cannot remember saying anything about political connection.

Sir, in 1992 we started a project called Idle Land for Idle Hands which was similar to Land for the Landless. We went ahead and located these idle lands all over the island where land could be found that was not being used and offered it to people. Then the Ministry of Agriculture told us that the project could not continue because it was not politically acceptable.

Sir, the Agricultural Census. An agricultural census was due in 1999. By international agreement it should be done every ten years but the last was done in 1989. We are still to see the census done and we call on the powers to be to see that it is completed as soon as possible.

The Agricultural Development Fund. About three years ago the Prime Minister announced in Parliament that he was setting up the Agricultural Development Trust. There was the Agricultural Credit Trust already in existence and they changed it to Agricultural Development Fund. This passed through the Senate on June 13, 2001 which was nine months ago. Everybody knew that it was coming for ten years and that there would be a management committee which should have terms of reference. One would have thought that when it passed through the Senate that all those things would be in place but nine months later not one single applicant has been dealt with.

Mr. President, I saw that monies were taken out of the Agricultural Development Trust recently to solve the sugar industry's labour problems. I do not know what the Agricultural Development Trust is and I have not been able to find out. I tried to find out from various people but I cannot imagine that the money would be taken out of the Agricultural Development Trust because the law governs that Trust.

Interestingly, the sugar industry is getting money from this Fund even though the sugar industry puts nothing into this Fund. There is no tax on imported sugar going into this Fund neither do profits made on imported sugar go into this Fund but the consumers of this island put \$3.5 million

a year into this Fund through the lamb industry and that industry has not got one cent from this Fund so far.

I want to talk about something that is close to my heart. This is the Sheep Feed Bond that we have set up at Mangrove in St. Philip. Over the years we looked at the sheep industry and asked what was the major problem for the development of this industry. The major problem was marketing and people trying to market from their own small operations. If you are grazing a sheep, it takes about 18 months to market. The meat being produced in mutton, not lamb and we had difficulty getting into the better markets but we knew that if you raised a lamb and you could get it to market within eight months, it would be the best quality lamb in the world. This lamb is excellent in flavour, it is tender and it has very little fat. It is a unique product but it can only be done in feed lots.

We went to the BAMC and told them our plan. We asked the IADB for help but in the meantime there are a lot of things you need to know about a feed lot. They set up a sheep feed lot to hold about 400 sheep at Edgumbe at the main Diversification Unit. We learn from this unit that this super quality lamb can be produced and it would form the market for lamb for the small farmers and rather than they getting into the fattening process they would go into the new lamb operation. They will get \$70 or \$90 for a lamb but the Diversification Unit at Edgumbe showed that the overheads had to be spread.

11.20 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Even at 400 sheep they were losing money and it was clear that, from all the financial projections done, you need a minimum of 1000 animals for the feed lot.

It is also clear that if we want to be profitable we have to go to the upper market with quality cuts. There are certain cuts that the hotel and restaurant sector will buy as long as there is a continuity of supply, quality and price. We went to the IADB and got a grant from them. This grant took eight years of negotiation. I refused to give up trying because everybody was telling me that I am wasting my time but I kept going. Thanks to the then representative of the IADB, we got this grant.

We then went to the Peterburg Foundation and they gave us a grant of \$20 000 and we put our \$20 000, all of the money that we owned into this project. We also got some money from the private sector. We eventually hope to own all of the shares. The Sheep Farmers Association is not a private sector organisation. It is not a non profit organisation owned by the sheep farmers in Barbados. It is a Non Governmental Organisation.

I heard the Minister of Agriculture on television saying that Senator Laurie should know that he cannot get any money from the Ministry of Agriculture to help with this feed lot because it is a private sector organisation. I found this amazing. Sir, BAMDC lost \$32 million last year and what about all the money that is poured into the sugar industry. Is that a government organisation. How can the Minister say that they are not going to help the private sector? Sir, the point that he missed entirely was that it was not the feed lot that was asking him for the money but the sheep farmers, the

14 000 sheep farmers in the country.

I have the impression that the Prime Minister sees that if we can get into the production of high quality lamb that we would save some part of the \$8 million a year that we spend on imported lamb. The Prime Minister himself said that this sounds like a good project. It goes to the Ministry of Agriculture and it sits there.

We need to further invest in feed lot and that can only come from the sheep farmers and from the Government to the sheep farmers. We need to finish the road going into the feed lot. We have to install water in that area. We have temporary connection of water at this time. We need to collect the water off the roof because that is part of the original plan. We need to put in chill rooms, cuttings and packaging so that we can deliver.

Sir, we have not yet received a refund of VAT on the building that we built fourteen months ago. We applied for a vehicle and I cannot think about a project in Barbados that is more desiring of a duty-free vehicle. We have been waiting fourteen months for the Ministry of Agriculture to assist us in getting this vehicle. It took six weeks to get from the Minister's desk to the Ministry of Finance. I am hearing a rumour that the system is going to be put on hold again.

Sir, we have spent \$10 000 to rent a vehicle in order for the feed lot to survive. Sir, IADB's money is going to be used to purchase this vehicle, BDS\$30 000 and IADB is not going to pay VAT so we have to get a duty-free vehicle otherwise we are going to lose the \$30 000.

We have been begging the IADB to put off the closing date and they have been cooperating. The approval is going to come through and we will be able to take the \$30 000 and buy the vehicle to help the poor farmers. I am begging the Government. Would this Government please help the sheep farmers?

Thank you.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, it is a privilege to be in the Chamber and listen to Independent

Senators. Many of their contributions speak to a certain level of objectivity which takes us out of the sometimes overly partisan furore into which, from time to time, I observed is elevating. I say this in all candour. I do not intend to be in anyway fractious today.

I spoke at length yesterday with the President of the Democratic Labour Party, Senator Mascoll, and he would attest to this. In spite of himself and too much of the furore to which he did subscribe, there were, indeed, some provocative points for thought which came out of his presentation.

I want to say that one of the things that I think that we need to hold onto about these Estimates, is that, in a nutshell, effectively, at least from where I stand, Government has sought to reinvest in the social capital of this country. I think that getting away from how things could be done differently, at the end of the day it is very difficult not to be congratulatory of Government about what is a clear-cut commitment to reinvest in this nation's social capital at a time when it is particularly urgent and critical that we do so. Not only for the purpose of continuing good work and good social investment that has happened throughout Barbados' history as an Independent country, but more importantly as we seek to retool and reposition ourselves to be more competitive in the face of the Free Trade Areas of Americas' arrangements and other international commitments which we have to honour.

Sir, if we have accepted, for argument sake, that one critical sector is the sector of health, and as Senator Walcott indicated yesterday that the health of the nation is the wealth of the nation, equally so, I believe that we must also accept that the skeletal framework that makes all interaction possible, in legal terms, must be the administration of the legal system of this country. It concerns me not only from a professional perspective but also from a political perspective that Barbados has in a real sense remained fixed and stagnant when it comes to the legal system since 1850.

11.30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator K. D. SYMMONDS: I say that in all seriousness. We can go back as far as the 1850s. I think that one thing that comes out of these Estimates is a clear-cut commitment on the part of Government. The Attorney-General is to be complimented and congratulated for working to retool, refurbish and retrofit certain critical agencies of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and, by extension, the Ministry of Home Affairs as they pertain to and impact upon the system of law and order in Barbados.

Let me give one or two examples, Sir. We speak in these Estimates about \$2.5 million being allocated to the computerisation of the Registries in Barbados. Sir, there are a number of reasons why that becomes exceptionally critical. In my professional capacity and I am not going to speak from any hearsay, I want to speak very sincerely from experience. There are cases where Barbadian attorneys are working almost hand in hand with attorneys in the United States of America and Canada. When they file a document today it is capable of being done electronically. An order may be given in a court in Canada today and electronically that draft of the order can be approved by the judicial officer today and then the approved draft finally filed within the space of 24 hours. We are working in the same transaction but, from our end, it may take a day before we can get the document back to the judicial officer whereupon it may sit on his or her desk or on a clerk's desk, pass back through the registry system and you may with some luck and an abundance of urgency and energy driving the process physically be able to get that document out of the registry system back to you within two days. Sir, to get it back in for that final order to be filed on the court's registry you end up spending three or four days to do that which can be done electronically in the United States and in Canada and England in the space of 24 hours.

If I had been minded, Sir, to speak or were invited - and they would be the first to tell me that it may never happen and I would accept that, because I said that I am not going to be fractious - but if I had been invited to speak in the capacity of one who would hold himself out as an alternative leader of Government I would not choose to go down the road of standing ten feet tall and making spurious allegations. I would want to speak, Sir, to the integrity of the economic system of Barbados and the way in which that economic system is affected by shortcomings and how we can constructively seek to improve upon those shortcomings. That is if I had been and, as I said, I will concede, Sir, I perhaps will never be asked to speak in that capacity and he would be quick to say that I do not have that ability but he would determine these things.

Sir, one of the concerns facing the legal system is because of the impact and effect it has for the systemic integrity of that very legal system and the economic implications. Sir, I will make a very simple analogy. If you have a man who is fined today at a court in Barbados, a record is created and the criminal penalty is attached. He may be given a week or a month to pay a fine, but he can leave that court and become lost to follow up and lost to the judicial system and, very often, unless he is re-arrested for something else or stumbles back into the court system inadvertently, the opportunity for that fine to be collected never exists, the opportunity for the State to benefit, as rightly it should, from that fine being paid into the public coffers for the purpose of being used for the public interest

is never met and the whole system is subverted. Again, Sir, it has been happening this way. I came to the legal profession seven years ago and found it that way and I honestly feel that the Government of the day has to be congratulated for recognising the urgency of preserving the integrity of our justice system in Barbados insofar as that aspect is concerned.

Sir, when I say that the stagnation in this system goes back as far as the 1850s it is not a partisan point. Prior to a Democratic Labour Party and prior to a Barbados Labour Party a judge would sit in a court in town and take notes in long hand in a big book. It happens today, Sir. Having done that, he would then go home and come back to work and be faced with another case and in 1850 he would have told litigants, "I will give you a decision". He would have three to six cases back to back and somewhere along the line human frailty overtakes him he may become unwell and the litigant is delayed. Justice delayed is justice denied. Justice is not manifestly and speedily seen to be done and delivered. Persons' lives are held back. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in transactions and in this day and age it is more realistic in terms of millions are delayed. Estates are not closed and the reason why is because the judicial system depends upon the same man with the pen writing in long hand then having to research all the cases and submissions put before him, to come up with a decision and present that decision.

Sir, the elementary solution takes place in Canada, in North America and the UK. There are a lot of young people who come into the legal profession and when I went into the legal profession I was anxious to see the best of attorneys practising in court and I would sit down in court because in those days I did not have very much to do and listen to the Queen's Counsel arguing. In the same way you can do that just for the education and experience of it there are some jurisdictions which present young people with that opportunity and pay them as clerks to judges who would then research cases on behalf of the judge on the basis of all that has been taken down, then having researched the case and put together the findings of law, the judge only acts in a supervisory capacity. At the Federal level of the United States of America, the highest court in the United States of America, every judge has his clerks and that is how the system works tier after tier, back down in the State structure of the Judicial Bench there, it functions in precisely the same way and it functions that way in the United Kingdom, where even the lay magistrates have their clerks. The reality is that what we are doing in Barbados is asking people who come to the court, and I will get to the magistrates in a little while, to tolerate and accept a very delayed and unnecessarily slow and halting process which at the end of the day impacts very negatively not only on the way in which we do business but the way in which people who will ultimately

be invited into Barbados to do business with us see us as practitioners.

I would hear sotto voce remarks how in spite of all this I cannot find a solution. The fact of the matter is that it is that picky, picayune and jejune attitude to politics in Barbados that will cause them to have this problem. I will say for Hansard that I am young enough and I think sufficiently humble to recognise that I have a lot of time to try to make a contribution to this country in whatever capacity, unlike Senator Mascoll who is hurrying on past forty and looking at contributing to the games on Saturday, senior citizen games, Sir. I am not going to pursue him in that.

Sir, I want to go back seriously to the question of what is happening with the legal system. If I am asked to speak about the question of the magistracy in Barbados and its effectiveness, I would have to express a real concern and that concern stems from the fact...

11.40 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: I am choosing my words carefully, in spite of this country's best efforts, and again, I speak in a bi partisan way because this is not a question of partisan politics.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, since 1960 Governments have contributed continuously, to expanding on the magistracy in this country, in a number of pieces of legislation. For example, the Prevention of Floods Act, the Domestic Violence Act, the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act and the Wrongful Dismissal.

I could be in a place of business in Barbados today, and irrespective of what I was earning, I can go before the magistrate's court. The jurisdiction is in the magistrate's court. I may be earning \$7 000, \$8 000 or whatever and, if I make my claim for wrongful dismissal, the magistrate has an unlimited capacity to make an award. The burden on the magistracy is expanding.

As we expand the burden on the magistracy, we forget, Sir, that in 1977, in a case against Hinds and the Queen...

Asides.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: In that case, Sir, the Privy Council said that magistrates are not judicial officers, but they are civil servants and they are subject to the same forms of discipline which are exercised over the rest of the civil service, even when sitting in their capacity as magistrates.

Sir, when we talk about the free trade areas of the Americas and CARICOM, we are speaking essentially about an economic trade arrangement which will encourage persons to come into Barbados to do business here, who will subscribe to the laws of this country, and do business under the laws of this country.

While in the 1960s and early 1970s, in a post colonial under developed state, there was an abundance of beliefs that you can rely on the administrative system of Government, because the politician was seen as a benefactor and a patron and the world has become a lot more critical and discerning.

You cannot, Sir, ask for argument sake, a Sheraton or Wyndham to come to Barbados and do business, and they will not ask themselves the question about our judicial system. This is along the line of, if a magistrate here is essentially a civil servant and not subjected to the same kind of constitutional protection and the level of recompense and so on that you will have as a higher care judicial officer. How then can I be certain, apart from the very confidence that I may have in the individual, or more certain about the dispensation of justice or about the independence of that tier of the judiciary.

Sir, we are speaking to the integrity of the system so we cannot just willy nilly speak about entering into these arrangements, without looking in my respectful view, at the implications. Again, I make the point, if I had been asked to speak in the capacity of an alternative leader of Government, as a younger person, I may have wanted to share some views and values on the implications of things like this.

I would not want to say, Sir, that I stand ten feet tall and I am a boss, prettier than anybody else and I can complain that I did not get in the Central Bank to give a speech. Sir, my respectful submission is that if you have value, you can stand up anywhere and speak.

The point is, Sir, the expanded workload and jurisdiction of the magistracy is something that if I could stand from this point and make a submission to the Honourable Senators to go back, I would ask, because I know that the Attorney General is both level headed and willing to hear useful comment. I would like to make a suggestion that the office of the Attorney General must take into consideration.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please ignore the distractions and address the chair.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, there is another aspect of it which concerns me and it is along the

lines of penal reform in Barbados. Now, it has often been said that there are no votes in penal reform. When I say, Sir, that in 1850 some aspects of Barbadian law and orders were as they are today, I am not joking.

If we go to Glendairy prison and look at the wall, we will see that the prison was constructed in 1855. This Attorney General and this Government for the first time that I can find - I have been trying to research it as far as possible and certainly, I know that it does not exist now - brought to the lower House, in the Estimates, a commitment on the part of Government to introduce water borne toilet and plumbing facilities into the cells at Her Majesty Prison at Glendairy.

Sir, that is not a question of muddy cuddling criminals but a question about understanding very clearly, that when you go to prison, you are asked to surrender your liberty. You are not being asked to surrender your soul or human dignity. A man may have committed a heinous crime. We accept that he is to be punished. That is not the issue but, Sir, it is an inhumane stupidity, in the year 2002, to ask an individual to sit in an overcrowded cell because, bear in mind, that the prison was constructed initially to hold 350 people. Now, the male section, on average, holds 750 daily. The cells are overcrowded, poorly lit, very small, dark and you defecate in a slot bucket. The two or three others inside the cell with you, do the same thing and it remains there uncovered. You do not wash your hands and cleanse yourself after. There is no facility for that in this year of 2002.

You, and your neighbour get up the next day and take your slot buckets down the stairs to the back of the prison for the contents to be burnt. We are not making an environment which is conducive to rehabilitation. We are not making an environment which is conducive to people feeling anything other than a significant embitterment about their conditions.

Sir, while it is true that many will point a finger and say that has nothing to do with me, and you had no right doing what you did to go up there, if someone is accused of something and they are held on remand, because the magistrate does not feel like giving them bail the same day, that is their lot. I caution the Senate to remember and that is why I embrace wholeheartedly what the Attorney General is doing.

There is none of us in this Chamber, who is above and beyond the finger of suspicion being pointed. It is not just a question of guilt and punishment but a question of public health on any given day. Priest, lawyers, family members and social workers, visit the prison and interact with the prisoners.

Sir, there is a book written by an economist named William Schultz, entitled, "In our best interest." This is not a ten-foot tall economist but is a normal human and humble man. He has written a human rights book, which looks at the quality of certain human rights situations and he speaks, particularly, to the overcrowded and the unhygienic prison cell and the rise of the drug trade, and of tuberculosis in Eastern Europe.

11.50 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, I am not going to suggest that Barbados is in any close proximity to having such a difficulty. But the reality of Glendairy Prisons is that it is in dire need of an overhaul and that cannot be challenged. It has been in that condition since 1855 when it was created, essentially, in a day and age when a cell was a dungeon.

Therefore, when the Attorney General of this country seeks to promote the kind of change and advancement that we are talking about, I believe that it is something which Government should lend its complete support to. This stands in complete contradistinction to the empty utterances which have come from the Other Side on matters such as these.

I want to go, Sir, to the question of the Police Complaints Authority. This Authority was created by Parliament a few months ago but life is given to it now via the injection of nearly \$200 000. Sir, I start on the premise that it is not for us as legislators or policymakers to get into whether or not it is true that people's right are abused by the police or whether it is correct to say that the police are being given a bad deal by the people out there.

What I can say, Sir, from a professional perspective, is that it is a common thing especially in matters of criminal investigations for poor persons in this country, and Senator Bolden has practised at the criminal bar for a particularly long period of time and eminently so and he would bear it out, to speak to an experience, whether rightly or wrongly, I do not know, about a door being broken down in the wee hours of the morning and people bombarding the house and being subjected to violent assault.

My position on this, Sir, is that if it does happen, it is a terrible assault on the rights of the Barbadian citizens and if it does not happen, it is an egregious assault on the reputation of the Royal Barbados Police Force. There are no winners in that equation. Government in its wisdom and its humane compassion intervened and created the Police Complaints Authority. The ten-foot tall economist once represented a working class district in Barbados, in their

wisdom they put an end that, and at the end of the day he should be more compassionate and sufficiently humane, instead he is going to talk about who get seats and who would not get seats. It boils my blood when I hear him stand in this Chamber to say that in spite of all the years of growth, you cannot see anything beneficial coming out of Government to assist the life and advance the well being of...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds, I do not know if you are referring to any Honourable Member but I think it would be against the rules to reflect on the humanity of any member.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: I am guided, Sir. The fact of the matter is, Sir, that there is something to be learnt from the objectivity that certain senators have brought to bear on this debate. We cannot hold ourselves out to be in a position where we make reckless and irresponsible charges because when that Police Complaints Authority was created, it was Government intervening...

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: On a point of order. I do not recall hearing any reckless accusations being made to anyone in this Chamber, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is no point of order. Please continue Senator Symmonds.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, the charges made did not collide with the reality of Barbados today. What hurt me, Sir, is that it did not collide with a reality that is experienced by people in this country who are not as well off as the Honourable Senator is. It is not everybody who wakes up in a household in the protective custody of a lawyer. Everybody does not have that facility. Some do not even know which lawyer to call when the police knock. So this is the responsibility of Government and when Government has risen to that responsibility, then a sense of decency and accountability would properly suggest that senators should not reduce the effort to that kind of... I would not describe, it, Sir.

Sir, there is an issue of penal reform I wish to speak to. I am very pleased to see the level of financial commitment that has been placed behind the expansion of judicial structures and judicial centres in Barbados. For a long time now, the judicial centres in Barbados were in dire need of refurbishment and repair. I think these Estimates indicate that that has been understood finally and that the effort to undergo the repairs, the refurbishment and the restructuring...

Aside:

Sir, I am one of those attorneys who left Oistins Magistrates' Court in protest and did not work. I have no

problem with saying that, Sir. The Chief Magistrate of Barbados up there has found it difficult to function because the air-conditioning units have not been working for a long period of time. This is not something that any party should feel proud about because the fact of the matter is that we are talking about a system that impacts on all including those who do not want anything to do with politicians. When they get in here and giggle and make sport at it, they only betray their lack of understanding of the importance of the issue.

Sir, in 1988 the English Parliament passed an Act called the Crime and Disorder Act. The thinking behind that Act was a recognition of the scourge of the illegal drug trade particularly the use of marijuana. You cannot realistically speak about rehabilitating a person who is an addict by fining him or imprisoning him because once the fine is paid and once he has been imprisoned, unless he has been treated, he is still addicted. Senator Mascoll would understand that.

Therefore, it follows when you hear coming out of the Democratic Labour Party political leadership, not presidential, that we in small Barbados with scarce resources and in spite of the scarcity of our resources, a recognition that we depend largely on a human resource product, that we should be seeking to legalise or contemplate the legalisation of marijuana is sending a particularly dangerous signal.

12:00 noon

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, my invitation to the presidential leader today is that I want the presidential leader to repudiate the position of the political leadership or stand condemned by it because a shrewder and wiser political institution would have recognized that the same way that a specialised court, dealing with not locking up people or beating them for addiction, but curing and treating the addiction, was created in England, but Sir, for his benefit, through you, I will teach him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will not be a conduit for that, Senator.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, when one is taken into custody and goes before a court, he is not just appearing in front of a magistrate as a legally trained person, he is preparing for a panel which includes medical professionals who then make a determination as to whether an order should be given for treatment. After that order there is a facility given whereby the person is working with the State so that person benefits from a job attachment and his sense of social responsibility is fostered. Thereafter, there is a further order whereby he is then subjected to an

out-of-court follow up, so that the person is less likely to be a backslider.

Sir, that is operating in England and also New York. It is now being experimented with in other States of America, but the solution being given to little Barbados which could be easily overrun by ne'er-do-wells that we could never control, where the human resource product of this country could be subjected to the worse possible lambasting, is that we should go down the road of legalizing marijuana. It is almost contemptuous.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: On point of order, Mr. President. I think that the Honourable Senator is misleading this Chamber. Sir, there has been no pronouncement of anyone legalising marijuana in this country. As a matter of fact, the Attorney General and the Leader of the Opposition - in fact, the words of the Attorney General - share the same view with respect to examining the issue of the use of marijuana in this country. I think it is misleading to say the Leader of the Democratic Labour Party has suggested the legalisation of marijuana.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, the fact of the matter is there is a question about some of the contributions that were made along the lines of tourism in this country. Sir, I took a careful note when the Senator was speaking and he premised his argument on the fact that room rates in Barbados, according to him, are too high. He said that was a deterrent to visitors coming to this island and that the United States visitor was a particularly more powerful spender, however, he was not coming and we were relying upon British visitors for our long stay arrivals.

Mr. President, if ever there was fuzzy maths, it would have to be that. If the British visitor is financially less powerful and is coming here ... that is the concession made by the Senator. According to him, it has been exhaustively written that the United States visitor is far more financially powerful but is not coming to Barbados because he is deterred by our high rates. The British visitor is staying in the same room, less disposable capital, but he is coming. Daffy Duck mathematics, Sir. Daffy Duck economics, not voodoo economics. Sir, that is the level to which this thing has been dragged down.

Sir, yesterday Senator Collymore made a comment which I think is very true and I will concede that. Sir, part of the problem in Barbados is that we do have a major dependency on the United Kingdom's market. Perhaps in some ways, we were very lucky that at September 11th, 2001, our dependency was not along the United States' line but that does not give us an excuse for not diversifying our product. Having said that, Sir, it may perhaps be a more discerning point if more of us were to accept that when Senator Collymore speaks to the discerning quality of the

United States' visitor and the fact that we do not have a big chain in Barbados.

Sir, let me give you a personal experience. I sat in a hotel room in Montreal in the Sheridan Hotel, Montreal, at a United Nations Conference on Development of the Sustainability of Small States. Sir, I was able to watch St. Lucia being advertised through a concept that they had called Starwood Preferred Guest Alliance, whereby Windham, Sheridan and the Four Seasons Hotels had all pooled together and across the world, wherever there was one of that grouping, the state country was being advertised as a destination and, of course, the hotel in the country.

The point is that transnational capital of its nature is so aggressive that it will create the advertising impetus, so that the St. Lucia Tourist Board had nothing to do with the advertisement, neither did the St. Lucian Government. Sir, the fact of the matter is that we have to embark on a programme whereby we can attract those entities. Having said that, the tone of what I heard yesterday has suggested to me that there is still the belief that it is up to Government to do everything. I do not think it can seriously be questioned that Government has created an enabling environment in so far as tourism is concerned. I do not think it can be seriously questioned that investors' confidence has been stimulated in this country. Therefore, what we need to do is to be encouraging some of our local people to come to understand that as attractive as Almond Beach Hotel or Sam Lords Castle may be, it is but a peanut and therefore if via the process of equity injection, we were able to form alliances with such international chains, we may be doing far better.

Sir, the tourism product in Barbados, in my view, at the end of the day, has to ensure that it includes rather than excludes. If I had to make a criticism, I would want that this Chamber sends a signal back to the highest level of Government that when once we have a set of persons who are entrepreneurs in the taxi business then Government ought not to find it necessary to compete against those entrepreneurs. Having created the environment, having tried to level the playing field, the Government...

Asides.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Yes, that is precisely the point. I do not believe that the transfer from the Airport to the Seaport should be done by Transport Board buses. I think it may well be seen to be hurting, in a very negative way, some of the taxi people and in particular the small taxi drivers in this country. Sir, that is my belief and if I can send a signal of that concern, that is the concern I want to send.

Sir, having said all that, I do not believe that it is fair to look at the Estimates of Expenditure which have been

laid and are being debated and to say they should be taken and thrown away; that one cannot distill any philosophy, any direction, et cetera. Sir, that is not the Estimates I am seeing. As one goes through these Estimates, I am seeing Ministry by Ministry having a clear-cut financial commitment by Government to maintain and to reinvest in. It is my first time in the Chamber and the first time I am hearing a presentation from the Opposition. I would like to think that suppose I am fortunate enough to be around the next time, that it would be a far more lucid and useful contribution. I thank you, Sir.

12.10 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill to establish appropriate funds for the year 2002 to 2003 for figures in excess of \$1 billion.

Mr. President, as we discuss an issue such as this we ask what does the lay person take from this. Senator Mascoll alluded to it in a negative way but I believe the former speaker dealt adequately with that matter. Sir, I would like to use an example which one Senator on this side shared with me early in my tenure in this Senate. He said that when you are considering the budget of a country you could almost link it simply to the way one manages a household and that the affairs of Government were similar.

Sir, you cannot run a household unless you plan projects in advance and then see how the revenue stream will pay for it. It is similar with the Government but the Government is doing it on a larger scale and Government, by necessity, must be forward-looking when allocating money to be spent in the different areas.

Sir, if we are to lift people up in Barbados and by extent lift the society up, projects and programme must be justified, created and maintained. I am satisfied that the Minister of Finance, in seeking this appropriation, has scrutinized the respective agencies and ministries thoroughly in order to advance to this stage.

Anyone who has been in an Estimates meeting although it would be tedious, would appreciate the thoroughness of the exercise that brings this document for discussion today and we must respect this process even though it may appear to be tedious.

I want to suggest that our Chancellor of the Exchequer is not above going out himself with the technocrats to review, check and ensure that the requests presented are satisfactory. This was evidenced two weeks ago when the Prime Minister went on a tour with the Urban Development Commission since this Commission has a substantial amount voted in this year's Estimates. The team

did a full study of the work completed last year and were able to justify the resources required for this coming year. Sir, I hope that we can approve these funds and others resoundingly because these funds are necessary for the continued upliftment of Barbados and the Urban Development Commission is only one of these agencies.

Senator Mascoll made the point yesterday that the document was useless and a waste of time and I cannot agree with that. Sir, if everything was written in this document it could not fit in this room and those of us who have motorcars would not be able to carry it home to review it. This debate brings life and gives sense to the figures. You can translate these numbers into action as this debate is doing in this Chamber, as it did in the Other Place and will do on the call-in programmes.

Sir, this is why there is a Parliament. If there were no Parliament the executive would decide how they want to spend this money without any scrutiny. The Lower Chamber is where people who are representatives put the case for their constituents to understand. It is brought to the Senate for review and we are able to make our input as well and, at the end of the day, the document is held up to full scrutiny before ratification.

Mr. President, Government has the responsibility to uplift people. At this point I will speak to the need for Government, under the Ministry of Social Transformation, to consider the way we uplift people. Under this Ministry are many different Heads. It embraces the Gender Bureau, the Child Care Board, Urban Development Commission, the Disability Unit et cetera and I would like to touch on a few of these agencies to leave some food for thought.

I want to start with the Bureau of Gender Affairs. Sir, whenever I speak in this Chamber I get asides from comrades on both sides that I am putting a case for women and that I am bashing men. Sir, nothing could be further from the truth because I am privileged to come from a family which saw man and woman respecting each other. There was no bashing but a lot of love all around. Sir, this is the service I bring to this Chamber and to any level in Barbados. We must recognise that there are perceptions and misunderstandings that can take place as Barbados continues to develop and advance in all different areas.

Sir, the Bureau of Gender Affairs was established to monitor, evaluate, advise, inform, educate and coordinate areas of policy development, make plans and programme as well as to participate in gender sensitization. I am happy to note that The National Organisation of Women (NOW), which I am happy to serve as 1st Vice President, lobbied for issues to be considered at the level of the bureau. One such issue was relative to gender but this is not the forum to go into a debate on the impact of gender.

We are well aware of the discussions that go on constantly in Barbados on the issue of man versus woman. The Bureau of Gender Affairs has been allocated a significant amount of funds this year. Last year that was not the case. Even though the bureau was established there was no significant vote to run its affairs and this year I am pleased to see have been allocated in excess of \$1 million for the Bureau of Gender Affairs.

Sir, the bureau started on a good foot this year. We set up a symposium that looked at a number of issues. Out of this, individuals trained in gender issues in the respective ministries will have a responsibility to flow information from the respective ministries to the bureau to continue to broaden the understanding of gender and the relationship between the success or failure of projects in Barbados as far as the relationship between men and women in Barbados is concerned.

Sir, gender sensitive training for young adults will be conducted in at least three secondary schools. We also propose to conduct two self awareness programmes in collaboration with MESA, the men's organisation in Barbados and the Business and Professional Women Club to assist both sectors in developing their self esteem to help them respect each other.

On the note of self esteem, I think that each and every one of us would recall at puberty some of the challenges and inadequacies we felt for all kinds of different reasons usually because of how you were perceived by your peers in the classroom. If you were too tall, too short, dark, or white it was an issue and so self esteem took a bludgeoning then.

12.20 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: So, as you look at man and woman, boy and girl, we need to focus on how we can continue to lift people up by ensuring that their self esteem is to a level so that they feel that they can contribute meaningfully to the landscape of Barbados.

The Bureau will also be called upon to look at the changing roles of women and the gender effect on gender relations. We hear every day about the marginalisation of men. Sir, that is a discourse that is far and far-reaching and needs to be embraced as a concern. If men genuinely feel that if women are advancing and they are being marginalised by it, then we need to sit down and see how we can address this in a meaningful way without either sex bashing the other.

Sir, I will take note as well that while the bureau has changed focus from that of women to that of gender, there

is still a need to continue to do work with respect to women's projects in particular. We note that unemployment is higher among women than men and that approximately 40 per cent of our households are headed by females. We look forward to further discussions in this regard and most importantly to ensure that the relationship between the sexes in Barbados continues in a meaningful way because this is not a time in our lives which we should be breaking down but where we need to be building up in Barbados.

Sir, the Child Care Board is an agency which has a large responsibility for maintaining the care of children in Barbados, particularly children who may be less advantaged. The Board's facility is based on the premise that children are to be nurtured, loved and given continuity and consistency of care. These are concepts which are outlined in the Articles for the Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 44 and Barbados has been a signatory since 1990.

There are 42 Conventions, too many to mention in this forum. I want to point out specifically that part of the Child Care Board's responsibility is for the implementation to ensure the Conventions of the Rights of the Child are organised and operational.

Sir, I am going to read from a little document because there is a lot of information in Barbados that is available through PAREDOS, this is a document from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and if it is not part of the document of this House, I would be happy to make it available.

It is entitled "Know Your Rights." It targets children. Sir, very often we think that children, human beings though they are, are stupid and may not be aware of what their rights are.

Article 1 which says that "Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this convention."

Very often in Barbados at age 16 you can do some things, at age 18 you can do something else and at age 21 you can also do something else. I have made the point that we must conform to a number or age when we are allowing rights. It is not okay to be able to drive a potential weapon, as a weapon, at age 16 but you cannot execute your right to choose and vote until you reach the age of 18. The use of alcohol is another issue.

I have always been an advocate for consistency. In the Rights of the Child, the convention speaks to the age of 18 and anyone under the age of 18 is a child. Therefore, anyone over the age of 18 must be an adult. I would want to see one day when we can tidy up our act and conform to one age.

I know my nephew may read of this or hear comment of it and will want to confront me for that. He is now approaching the age of sixteen and is very anxious for the driver's licence. Sir, we have to be balanced in our thinking. We have to make sure that we are not sending mixed signals.

Article 9 says that “ You should not be separated from your parents unless it is for your own good. For instance, your parents may be hurting you or not taking care of you. Also, if your parents decide to live apart, you will have to live with or the other of them, but you have the right to contact both parents easily.”

Sir, there is much discussion when there is a separation, in particular the withholding of children from one spouse or the other whether it is for maintenance or otherwise. Adults need to be more responsible than that. As long as the individuals are not hurting those children in any negative way, they have the right to have access to the children and children must have the right to have access to their parents.

Article 19 says “ No one should hurt you in any way. Adults should make sure that you are protected from abuse, violence and neglect. Even your parents have no right to hurt you.”

Sir, this is where the Child Care Board comes in and has a large responsibility because the number continues

to rise of children who have to be in the care of the Child Care Board whether it is residential care, day care or fostering and they must be commended for that. The money that is voted for the Child Care Board in the amount of \$14 million is just scratching the surface but, Sir, it is a start.

Article 20 says “ If you do not have any parents, or if it is not safe for you to live with your parents, you have the right to special protection and help.”

Again, the Child Care Board is poised and ready to take on that responsibility and does it so ably throughout the number of agencies under its ambit. There are private day care services, foster care and children homes to ensure the protection of these children.

Article 23 is one that we should focus on very seriously because more and more there are people with disabilities in Barbados and children are no exception, either mentally or physically.

Article 23 says that “ If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education to help you grow up in the same way as other children.”

This Government has, as a policy, the intent and plan, and they do carry out assistance to all types of organisations. The disabilities unit is there specifically to assist persons with disabilities, adults as well as children and to register those individuals.

Sir, it is unfortunate that in this day and age the registration for that is still on the low side and I am aware that they are parents who feel embarrassed that they may have a child with a disability.

12.30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE: Those children, do not have the opportunity to benefit in some form of education and from some form of interaction which would help to inform them as far as they are able, depending upon their disability, to be meaningful participants in Barbados' landscape. The Child Care Board must continue to put pressure if necessary on those families so that they do not shut those children away but allow them, as far as the Convention of the Rights of the Child is concerned, to have access to education and care.

Article 29 says: “The purpose of your education is to develop your personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest. Education should also prepare you to live responsibly and peacefully, in a free society, understanding the rights of other people, and respecting the environment.”

Sir, that speaks to volumes because we recognise that more and more young people are having children and more and more adults are reneging from their responsibility of caring for their children. Sir, in Barbadian vernacular we refer to breeding. We know it usually refers to animals and livestock but sometimes you have to wonder and I must say it is perhaps an offensive term but Barbadians use it all the time - “I breed she and gwine breed she”. That is part of Barbadian language, and if the truth be known, sometimes when you see young individuals, not yet twenty, and they have five and six children you have to ask yourself what consideration has gone into procreation of this life, giving life to another.

The responsibility or lack thereof must be considered before this act. That kind of thing is high risk for this society in terms of health risks. We all know as it has already been spoken to in this Chamber by the Honourable Minister of Health who spoke extensively on HIV/AIDS but there was a time when young women would only worry about getting pregnant because of what somebody else might say. Nowadays, when you expose yourself to sexual intercourse without some form of protection you will have children but you could also leave yourself highly exposed

to sexually transmitted diseases. HIV/AIDS in particular is one that we have to be wary of and continually educate our young people about morals and values in terms of relationships and what you are getting into and not just using your body as a receptacle. These risks, Sir, loom large not only for the mother but for the child as well. There are serious economic risks. If you are unable to provide for yourself, how can you hope to provide for your children? It may rest with the State to take care of your offspring. I am not suggesting that the State would not do what it is able, but the truth of the matter is that I am preaching here responsibility of adults and young adults in particular in terms of how you use your body.

Sir, I have been concerned now for a number of years with regard to provisions made for young adults who by virtue of their advancing years are no longer able to live in the institutions run by the Child Care Board. The non-governmental organisations, the service clubs and so on in Barbados have for a long time been assisting Government in different ways. I am pleased that the Child Care Board has embarked on a project with the Optimist Club of Barbados called Steps to the Future.

Steps to the Future, Sir, is an arrangement that makes provision for starter homes and the first three have been established at the Sterling Children's Home in St. Philip. These will be used as a transition for adolescents in institutional shelters to life on their own. They will be supervised for a period of 12 months to assist in equipping them for independent living.

This project came about because members of the Optimist Club, after reading in the paper about a young man who was too old to live in a child care institution had nowhere to live and was living on the streets. That was the impetus that caused the organisation to want to see how they could in a meaningful way impact on the lives of young people in this regard. The Optimist's Club theme and motto is Friend of Youth.

The Steps to the Future programme, Sir, is one that I would want to laud and encourage other service entities to give some consideration to and also to call on the commercial sector in Barbados who have to date supported the Steps to the Future to continue to do so. If we have young people who have nowhere to reside and are looking for shelter, eking out a living by whatever means, we can expect that some deviant behaviour will take place and we know what implications that has, and Senator Symmonds spoke at length about the judicial system so that we would not want that to become a scourge on our very beautiful landscape.

Sir, to continue in terms of collaboration, there is an agency in Barbados relatively new to Barbados, some three or four years old now in terms of the organisational

element of it, which has finally started to assist in a creative programme called Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Barbados. This is an agency which has at its centre a mentoring programme which matches young adults between the age of 6 and 16 - maybe we should put it at 6 to 18 if we talk about continuity - who might not have a significant big brother or big sister or who may come from a single parent family where there are no other siblings or other siblings and that parent has her hands full to mentor and give that child support. It is not financial support but giving of your time to help with homework, to be a willing ear. That is what big brothers and big sisters are about. Statistics and research show that sports and guidance from adults are a critical part of the process that allow you to grow into responsible adults. Institutions we have historically relied on to provide our young children have changed in such a dramatic way to reduce their capacity to deliver such support. There are fewer adults in families today and I spoke to that earlier about younger and younger people having children. The extended family unit is shrinking and there are more single parent households.

Statistics also show that boys whose fathers are absent face a higher probability of growing up unemployed, incarcerated and uninvolved in their own children. That is a wide brush stroke and I am aware of young individuals who would have been in such a position and who are success stories in this Barbados. The point must be made that there are instances where a large number of statistics show that this can be a problem.

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters' belief is that supportive relationships with caring adults can promote youth's healthy development and mitigate any negative effects that might arise from growing up in a single parent home. Sir, I would laud the work of Big Brothers and Big Sisters and encourage them to continue this charge. It is an organisation that runs on covenants and this is supposed to be a call for whoever is within earshot to seek out this organisation with a view perhaps of making some contribution, recognising that in Barbados if you are supporting a not for profit organisation your tax is adjusted accordingly.

I believe that this organisation requires almost \$150 000 a year to operate so maybe Government will give some thought to offer a subvention to this and other organisations which have as an essential purpose and as their *raison d'être* the lives and care of young adults in this country if we are to be beneficiaries then as a nation which has all of its citizens participate in all facets of its being.

I want to touch briefly since I am speaking to young people and I touched on the Disability Unit earlier. I am aware that the Disability Unit has a programme under the Ministry of Social Transformation where they are able to improve by way of ramps access to homes of disabled

persons and to assist with bathroom and toilet facilities of a water-borne nature.

My concern, and I raise it at this juncture, is that there are instances and I cannot say if they are 5, 10, 50 or 100 individuals with whom I have come into contact Sir, who live in Government housing.

12.40 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR MISS J. C. ODLE: We are well aware that the Town Planning, and I support this, must be instrumental where extensions are required. However, Sir, there are instances where there is no possibility of extension in Government units. There are individuals living with disabilities in Government units, and I am ashamed to say that in one of the instances, in particular, there is no easy access to the bathroom facility. This is a young lady, wheelchair bound, over thirty years of age, and there is great challenge on the part of her mother and who ever males are in the environment at the time when a bath is required, to help get her to a state of cleanliness.

Sir, women are different from men in many ways and it is not always convenient or desirable for people to be involved in your life that closely, in certain times of life. I do not want to be graphic but that is the reality. In this instance, Sir, that mother has to manage on her own, and this is quite a substantial sized person and it is not the ideal thing.

Sir, there is a situation where she has been given a bathtub but there is nowhere to put it. There is room at the back of the unit where she lives that would be ideal to extend for a bathroom facility, so that the wheelchair can get out to it, to avoid having to be lifted. I would hope and wish and this is a plea perhaps for the Disabilities Unit, in collaboration with the Town Planning Department, to see what concessions can be made or even to make an exception. I know at sometimes it is said, that it may be a problem, but we are talking about dignity of life.

I would like to see the time come when the Disabilities Unit, as the unit responsible for taking care of persons with disabilities in Barbados, and the Town Planning Department which has the right to determine who may extend, and build, et cetera, come together and find some way that persons who are living under these less than satisfactory conditions can have access to extensions to make provision for their sanitation. Similarly, with houses where there are persons with disabilities and there is no access to wheelchair.

As a matter of fact, Sir, there are some instances in Barbados where, less than having access to a wheelchair,

they do not have steps in this urban Barbados. I raise this under the Ministry of Social Transformation, because it is the Ministry under which urban development and uplifting of people comes, in different kinds of ways.

I would want to lobby again, Sir, but I know that people do not like to use that word, but I do. I would also advocate for the Ministry of Social Transformation to give priority to individuals with disabilities, in terms of refurbishment of their homes and ensuring that they have free access to get in and out of their homes and comfortable and dignified conditions for their sanitation needs.

Sir, speaking about the Urban Development Commission, in my view, this is one of the most significant agencies to have been created in recent history in Barbados. One makes the assumption that because urban suggest comfort, this is not always so. Those of us who walk or drive around Barbados, know that what is in the front, is not always what is in the back, and the Urban Development Commission, which was established in 1997 has, as its mandate, to fast track delivery of services to the greater Bridgetown area, and it provides for a number of things: the renewal of the physical environment in those city districts that have suffered the greatest degradation, to encourage restoration of buildings of architectural interest, construct roads and drainage in tenancies and to require landlords to obtain a certificate of habitation for the premises they wish to rent.

As you know, Sir, there are people who rent facilities in Barbados which are less than satisfactory. I am not talking about Government housing now, I am talking about private residences where people are charging rent to people for accommodation, and the facility is less than habitable. For example, floor boards are no good, and so the Urban Development Commission has the responsibility and authority to ensure that landlords obtain a certificate to ensure that they are operating in a proper manner. They also have provision to enforce the Town Planning regulations for tenancies, including a clear definition of boundaries and space being rented, to ensure that houses are properly sited.

Sir, over the years, the Urban Development Commission has been across the length and breadth of Barbados making improvements to the tenancy road by asphalt, or as part of the new concrete road project that this Government has initiated. I must laud them on that, because we know that the concrete will last much longer than the asphalt. The Urban Development Commission has been utilising this, both in terms of road works such as are evident in Plantain Walk in Christ Church, and walkways in certain parts of Barbados.

Sir, as you drive around and notice these walkways, it makes you feel good because very often, many tenancy

areas did not have access to roads. If somebody took ill and an ambulance had to come to them, night or day, they would have to be meandering through rocks, sludge and slush. Now, with the introduction of these paved walkway areas, it makes it more comfortable for those living where it is not a possibility to have something as wide as a road, because the landmass is too small, and the question of who owns the land, abutting and bounding.

Aside.

SENATOR MISS J. C. ODLE: The Senator makes the point that it is easier to canvass, Sir, but if we really have the care of Barbadians at heart, it is not ease we are looking for, but accessibility, with or without roads. I would want to say that when we establish these walkways, we take into consideration that very often, it may come up higher than the person's gateway or doorway and that may have an implication for water flow back and we want to be very cautious that whilst we are aiming to assist in that particular regard, that we do not disenfranchise those who may live abutting and bounding.

Sir, some would say that the persons should be grateful that they got the walkway, but you are not helping somebody, if you are helping them down. We want to do things to lift up people and continue to improve the quality of their lives.

Sir, during this financial year, there will be further provisions for road extensions and the construction of more concrete roads. I note with interest in the brief that they have given that there will be a similar road built in the Worthing View area in Christ Church. The social impact of this programme really will benefit persons across urban Barbados, and it has been resounding to date. I look forward to continued expansion, and I laud the Urban Development Commission for their work in this regard. Obviously, the economic outlay is massive and intensive, and though it is expensive, it has already begun to see returns one year later, since the programme started.

It is a fact that several communities throughout Barbados still do not have access to the paved road, and some households do not have access to water and other essential services. However, the concrete roads project which complements the traditional asphalt paving, is opening up avenues of self improvement for many Barbadians.

Sir, this is at the centre of all the projects and programmes that this Barbados Labour Party seeks to do, to continue to live the mandate that has been established nearly over 64 years ago, when the Barbados Labour Party was established to continue to create a better life for our people. I laud them and continue to encourage them to continue the work in an equitable and fair manner and to

ensure that some people do not come before others and get attention. Also, that we continue to put always on the top burner the priority of those, particularly with disabilities and special needs, to ensure that their needs are met.

Sir, I would like to speak on two agencies that, perhaps, have gone unnoticed in debating and discussion but are very central to the quality of life in Barbados and to the protection of Barbados and its citizens. I want to look first at the Fire Service. The Fire Service in Barbados is an extremely busy department. They have responsibilities in areas where I do not know if many Barbadians realise because we think of them only as Firemen and Firewomen, people who out fires.

It was interesting to find out that their role is even much broader than that and I would like to share some of their other duties with you. The Fire Service may do something as simple as filling a swimming pool, simply because they have a vehicle with the capacity to do so. I had no idea that they would ever be involved in something such as that. The fire Service as well, has responsibility for tracking, and a legislative framework is expected, in this financial year, to ensure that all of the hazardous materials are registered somewhere. If you think about it, if a fire takes place or if there is an accident and the Fire Service is called out to assist, and they do not know what they are confronted with, there could be great problems.

12.50 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: So a legislative framework will be put in place this year to regulate the storage of hazardous materials. This would include making it mandatory for persons and businesses to submit information on all hazardous materials to the Barbados Fire Service. Last year, the United States of America had the Anthrax problem. We did not have any in Barbados although there was at least one hoax, but the Barbados Fire Service will be the frontliners who are going to have to deal with issues such as that. So the acquisition of protective gear and clothing is expected this financial year.

The Barbados Fire Service recently had a number of new vehicles which is just a continuation of the upgrade of the Barbados Fire Service. There are discussions at this time for the attachment of the Ambulance Service to the Barbados Fire Service. Sir, based on statistics, there were 18 vehicular accidents so far this year where the Fire Service has been called out to assist. So if an ambulance is attached to the Barbados Fire Service it would certainly save time and perhaps give those involved in the accident a better shot at living through that accident.

Sir, to date, the Barbados Fire Service has had a tremendous amount of call outs. From January to March this year there were 634 call outs. Of these there were 18 vehicular accidents, 75 non-emergencies; I mentioned the pool fills already and putting up banners is another one, I guess those are the ones with the 100 foot ladders, 13 other emergencies, 30 house fires, 56 cane fires, a whopping 227 fires usually starting with bush and one false alarm. Clearly the Barbados Fire Service has more to do than what the average Barbadian believes which is just to put out all sorts of fires.

Sir, as we speak, the Barbados Fire Service is going to look at succession planning in this financial year. At the moment it has a role of 211 officers where there is provision for 214. Of these, 15 are women.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: My colleague says, there I go again.

Sir, I will never rest when I am able to show that Barbados is becoming more and more embrative, not abrasive, in drawing more and more women into all walks of life including the Barbados Fire Service. So my colleague must not 'stupse' and must not wear himself thin because these are facts of life and the sooner we begin to realise that women will continue to make their mark on this landscape the better it will be for all.

I understand that the Barbados Fire Service received good interest from young people leaving school who wish to join the service. I understand they go through 14 weeks of training. I would have thought there would have been a need for a longer period of training but I am advised that that seems to be sufficient. Fifty-two new officers have been enrolled in the service in 2002. This shows that it is still a profession for young people coming out of school.

I want to suggest that while we seem not to make specialist provision for any of the government department, I believe that the Barbados Fire Service is the frontliners and that certain measures of protection need to be put in place for them with respect to insurance because an officer going to a fire is certainly going to be at risk.

The argument is made that there are other elements of the public service which are equally at risk and I do not want to pick out any one in particular but I certainly want to make the point that fire officers need to be embraced as a speciality because they die on the job and if they are injured in the line of duty they have to sue Government in order to get money.

Recently, in the United States of America many firemen lost their life. I do not know what provision is

made in the United States of America but if we ever had any such condition in Barbados I would want to think that there is adequate provision in place for ensuring that they have some measure of continuity if they are disabled from the job and that their families will be able to maintain them in a decent and humane manner.

Sir, the Barbados Fire Service is also engaged in community education programmes. They go out to the schools and give lectures on the fire service. I have seen them do this as well in other activities that took place in conference centres. They show you how to protect your home from fires and advise on the need for fire extinguishers and the type that you should acquire for the protection of your home. We have a responsibility to protect ourselves and not wait until disaster strikes to be hunting and 'scrunting' looking for a hose somewhere to wet down because water is not always the adequate material for outing fires. They also have a wonderful programme with the scouts and the guides to expand on their understanding on the work of the Barbados Fire Service.

Sir, like all other agencies they have as their principal role, physical activity. I believe that it would be important for fire officers, policemen, teachers and nurses to have access to physical education equipment. I do not necessarily want to call it a gym. I even believe that this Parliament should have some kind of physical education programme because when you sit in here for a long time with your feet hanging down it is good sometimes to go and exercise and keep the blood flowing to the brain to ensure that you do well. I am sure Senator Haynes would agree with me on that because we have got to warm up for these debates so we might do even better.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have about seven minutes, Senator.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: The Barbados Fire Service must be commended for their work to date and I encourage young people to continue to think of this as an avenue for employment.

Sir, I want to touch very quickly on the Immigration Department. Sir, citizenship of a country is exceedingly important. As a Barbadian, I am proud to live in Barbados. There are many people who reside in this region who want to come and live and work in Barbados. In the 1950s and 60s many Barbadians went to the United States of America and the United Kingdom for better opportunities for work and better wages.

Nowadays, Barbados is being seen as a desirable place for many CARICOM nationals. The statistics show that 3 523 short term work permits and 543 long term permits were issued for the year 2001 giving a grand total

of 4 066. So people want to come and live and work in Barbados. The greater amount is short-term and we know what that means. At the same time there are great challenges with people who come and overstay their time in Barbados. That is a problem which the Immigration Department is confronted with and very often they have to ask people to leave Barbados. Sir, I am all for embracing but you have to do it under the ambit of the law. We benefited from programmes in the past and I am sure that others in the region would benefit from programmes such as this in the future.

1.00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, where persons are overstaying their welcome this is totally undesirable. So far in the year 2002, 577 persons have been asked to leave. Sir, it works two ways. If a person overstays, hides away from the law and does anything illegal he can be deported. If he is caught he can be asked to leave and not deported, which will give him a further chance to return to Barbados at some point. The high incidences of people overstaying and being deported from Barbados is a major concern for the Department.

This Department has the mega responsibility, not only at the airport and seaport but at the administrative arm in Bridgetown dealing with the issuing of passports and work permits as well. This year we are going forward with an expanded educational programme of cross training and interdepartmental training so that officers, whether they work at the airport, seaport or Port St. Charles, are able to be multi-tasked. This is a very important factor in today's Barbados. No longer is one able to do just one job and be satisfied. One has to be able to flow through so that one is desirable and is able to fit into any organisation and the business continues to do well. This is no different with the Immigration Department.

Mr. President, I am happy to hear from persons on the street that at least they are able to get their passport more quickly. I understand statistics are up-to-date and there is a 24 and 48 hour response, depending on the type of project or programme being requested. Sir, they are going to continue upgrading their equipment to ensure that this feature continues.

Mr. President, for a long time the Immigration Department was accused of being less than friendly when people arrive in Barbados. To this extent the Ministry of Tourism, I believe in the vote for last year, had requested, and I am sure will expand the amount this year to the training for front-line officers in the tourism district so that when persons come to Barbados they do not feel as though they are not wanted. Therefore, the question of

interpersonal relationship and sensitivity of people's position, is not a new thing to the Immigration workers.

Sir, I must make reference to an instance where I understand many Guyanese are treated in a manner that is undesirable. Looking at the statistics there are a lot of Guyanese in particular who, for one reason or other, overstay their welcome. Mr. President, I wish we could continue to focus on this and to ensure that the due collaborative efforts of CARICOM, that nationals who flow through Barbados, is done the right way or it will lead to challenges or difficulties for all. Barbados is a place where we welcome all. We want to preserve our dignity and to ensure that our nation state is not just a stomping ground for whosoever will may come.

Sir, as time runs out on me, I want to wrap up at the point of saying that at the risk of being accused of singing in the how great thou art choir - and I really love to sing in that choir because I think that when work is done, kudos must be given. I am pleased that we have continued to hold the mandate of the Barbados Labour Party for over 65 years now; a better life for our people. We do not profess perfectionism. We understand the management of a country is a working process. I want to impress on all Barbadians the value of the exercise we are debating today. Looking at funds to be spent for your good and your benefit in the coming year is one where we inform ourselves. Do not turn off the radios. We need to listen to things that can inform and educate us. We need to express ourselves from all the various medium that exist. I want to suggest that is true democracy, where your opinion, even a dissenting view, can coexist in this Barbados.

Sir, I will not take my seat until I make the point that we in Barbados, as was identified by others yesterday, must become more a disciplined society and must remember the age-less values; respect for each other and the rule of law. Stop the shooting and looting and to be our brother's keeper. We must value our environment and in valuing our environment, the simple sorting of garbage and composting will be an absolute necessity. We need to desist from lustful relationships. We only have short term pleasure which could lead to long term repercussion. Let hope, faith and love prevail and if the vast benefit of the society is the benefit to our people we must continue to provide opportunities for all Barbadians, not only to improve the physical environment but the emotional also. We must continue to lift people up and I want to end on this note that, in all of this, spiritual awareness will guide the way. Sir, to end on Proverbs 21:2 which says:

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes but the

Lord pondereth the hearts."

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour, to resume at 2.15 pm.

The question that the Honourable Senate be suspended until 2.15 pm was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. President suspended the Senate accordingly.

1.10 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

RESUMPTION

MR. PRESIDENT: This Honourable Senate is resumed.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: Mr. President, it is now my pleasure to rise and give support to 2002/2003 Estimates as presented before this Chamber. This is an unusual circumstance for me, seeing that the majority of times, I have been allowed to open the batting and lead from the front. However, coming after lunch, I believe the wicket would be a lot easier as the bowler might be getting a little tired or might have had too much to eat I am hoping to get a few half volleys and not much heckling from the Opposition.

Asides.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: As you know in today's world of cricket there is something called 'sledging' and seeing that this is new territory to me, I realise that this is no different than the sledging you get on the cricket field.

Sir, it is not necessary for me to go into the economic and statistical discourse but I have noted some significant points, which I think are important enough to be repeated during the course of a debate of this nature.

Mr. President, I know how it feels to be faced with tribulations, hardship and to be victimised. I also know how it feels to have some small accomplishment in life. Accordingly, I intend to use this forum to remove the fear from the hearts of our young people by helping them to restore a sense of dignity and self esteem.

Mr. President, in my own quiet way I have been vocal on issues which affect young people and I have always tried to exert a positive influence on the lives of young people. This may appear to be a dichotomy in that I was quiet and yet vocal. However, if you consider my interactions on cricket fields around Barbados and in my environs at Holder Hill you will get the answer.

Mr. President, I take no personal or political satisfaction if after all the great achievements of this Government, the young sportsmen and women of this country are left unfulfilled. In this area of rapid economic changes and challenges, it seems necessary that we should equip our young people with tools and skills so that they could live respectable and rewarding lives.

We have in this island a number of institutions which cater to the needs of the youth and which fall under the auspices of the Division of Youth Affairs and Sports. These include the Barbados Youth Service, the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme, National Sports Council and all primary and secondary schools.

In examining the objectives of these groups, one will note that they provide opportunities for young persons to develop and express their creativity through a varied range of programmes and activities. While these institutions are playing a critical role, I am of the view that the role should be expanded, especially that of the National Sports Council.

If we are to equip young persons with the essential tools that would allow them to fulfill their greatest potential then I think it is my Government's responsibility to empower its young citizens so that they can become captains of industry and champions of their fate.

The dynamics of today's society dictate that education, culture and social policies must be developed to suit the diverse needs of young people. We must ensure that the foundation is well laid to allow our youth to make a contribution to the economy and become citizens who can ask what they can do for their country as opposed to looking for the Government to supply all their needs, making Barbados a welfare state.

Mr. President, a person's self image and attitude ought to reflect the desire to be true to self and country and to make positive contributions to the society, as we heard from Senator Odle. I will attempt to elaborate on some of the ways in which the existing institutions can expand their programmes to reach a wider audience and to have a more significant impact on our communities.

Sir, I want to deal with the role of the National Sports Council. Mr. President, the objectives of this institution as listed are:

To develop a healthy discipline, a united society through greater participation and better opportunity in sports by all levels of the society. To promote opportunities and facilities for the fulfilment of basic social, psychological, philosophical needs of the individual including physical and mental challenges. To develop and improve the knowledge and practise of sports in the interest

of the social welfare of the individual and the enjoyment and leisure among the public at large. To achieve excellence at the highest level in the true spirit of sportsmanship at the national, regional and international level of competition and also with a view towards enhancing the national image and goodwill. To promote and develop sports as a productive sector of the economy.

Mr. President, I think that these objectives should be expanded to include education of clubs and other sporting organisations on the critical role they can play in shaping our young people for the future.

I would like to see a programme which promotes a best club competition where set criteria may include upkeep of facilities, discipline of players, involvement in the community projects and the national impact.

Mr. President, the budget for the National Sports Council is \$13.5 million and the board of the Sports Council allocates funds to clubs based on each club submitting a sport and development plan for the board's consideration. This will create an excellent attitude among the leaders of many clubs around the island and this can only filter down to the many young persons attracted to them.

I wish now to deal with the coaches attached to the National Sports Council. I used to be a coach at the National Sports Council so I am fully aware of their contribution and the many sacrifices they have to make daily to help children across the length and breadth of this island.

Mr. President, today's society is a challenging one and young people today are faced with the rising problems of HIV/AIDS, drugs and the ever increasing situation of crime and violence. Accordingly, we as servants of the people must quickly come up with solutions to help our children combat this threat to the society. I pledge continued support to help assist with HIV/AIDS and I am appealing to other organisations and other sports personalities to follow suit.

I note with interest the contribution made yesterday by my colleague Dame Patricia Symmonds and her pronouncement of the plans which the National Sports Council has for the development of sports and young people. However, I wish to suggest that some additional activities must be undertaken. I am hoping that the National Sports Council will have more rounded courses. I am calling for an alliance between the Erdiston College and the National Sports Council so that the coaches can attend college for training in human resources development and communication techniques. In Australia all the coaches are computer literate and it should not be different in Barbados. Why should we have coaches teaching the rudiments to

young people and not being equipped to handle students from various levels of society?

Mr. President, I am a living example because I know we look at young people from certain background who go to certain schools and are quick to judge their sporting ability. We even go as far as to say that he might be a good sportsman but not a smart person.

Mr. President, I believe in order to be successful in any sport one must be versed in the knowledge of the game but the person must also be 'street smart'. This is why when you see the great basket ball players, footballers and golfers et cetera they usually come from an environment where they had to fight against the system.

I remember my grand mother saying not to go on the sea on Sundays but because I love cricket, I found myself on the beach and then I tried to explain to my grandmother that I did not go into the sea that I was on the beach but that did not satisfy my grandmother.

I now wish to discuss the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme and the Youth development programme and the role both of them can play in the fight against drugs, crime and in making our young people better citizens.

Mr. President, I want to concentrate on persons in circumstances similar to myself, the poor and the meek. Imagine if you were a single parent trying to keep a job in order to educate, feed, clothe and house a young child. This juggling act is sometimes achieved to the detriment of some children. I would like to propose that the community centres be used as after school centres and compensate or substitute for the lost of the extended family unit.

Mr. President, programmes can be established whereby children from single parent homes and underprivileged children can go straight from the schools to the community centres where they would be met by volunteers or paid workers to assist them with their homework, coaching in their choice of sport and other life skills.

2.25 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: I think that this would assist in reducing the number of persons who are graduating from schools to the street life, crime, prison and even to the grave yard.

It gladdens my heart to see that the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme is providing technical and financial business assistance as a part of its mandate. Again, I am suggesting that the community centres can be

utilised to spread this programme to a wider cross section of the society and to those who need it most, the boys on the block and the early school leavers.

I would like to see where the community centres can be used to invite persons who will be able to educate members of the communities on stocks, bond and shares. I think that would help ease some of the pressure off the politicians because they are some people who think that it is the politician's duty to pay school fees, bus fare and utility bills.

There is a lot of talk in Barbados about gambling. I believe that if we educate our people about stocks, shares and bonds, it might help us to get away from the get-rich-quick syndrome which currently exists in our society. This is the reason why a lot of people are buying lottery tickets, even though one might say that it is also to support Barbados cricket, I still think that we as people who lived in certain areas and watched people gambling under the street lights, would tend to think that it is the norm because we were never educated as to how to invest our money.

I was happy to have lived in Holders Hill where I was surrounded by many people who have shown an interest in making sure that I understood the way of life and how to invest and try to move forward. I believe that the get-rich-quick syndrome is something that is imbedded in us and I feel that we should be able to use the community centres to educate our people that the people who are very wealthy did not get rich as quickly as we are looking to get rich.

Asides.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: I want to go onto cricket. This is something that is dear to all West Indians and is a very sore topic for some people. I believe that we need to look at the great cricketers of the past. When you look at Barbados, Barbados has produced 50 per cent of all great West Indian players since the inception. I believe that the Rev. Wes Hall is trying to put a programme in place so that we can get our past greats to get involved in our cricket.

In 1985, when the West Indies were ruling the roost and we had the Australians on the back foot, the Australians took a similar approach and got Ron Marsh, Dennis Lillie, Ian Chapell and all the other great cricketers back into the game and now as one would say, the rest is history. The same way that Australia can look at its great cricketers and try to use them in developing the youngsters in Australia, I am saying that we can do the same thing here in Barbados.

Mr. President, I am a Barbadian and even though I have represented the West Indies with distinction, I still

feel that Barbados must lead. It saddens me to think we played our first One-Day International game under the lights nearly 30 years ago and yet we do not have facilities in the Caribbean where we can be helping our youngsters to become familiar with these kinds of conditions when they travel overseas. We as a people in Barbados mark very hard. When a young person like Ryan Hinds, who one might say lives in my constituency, goes out to play . . .

Asides.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: When one like Ryan Hinds goes out to play against the likes of Pakistan. Peggy you maybe in my constituency as well.

Asides.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: Sir, I am just looking at the boundaries.

Sir, I am saying that we do expect a young person like Ryan Hinds, who is 20 years old, to go out there and perform under lights like he was playing under lights all his life. I think that is too much to ask of our current players. Our young players are coming into a situation where we are not winning anything. I do not know how Senator Mascoll might relate to that. We are coming into an environment where we are losing.

Asides.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: Mr. President, it is difficult when you come into that kind of environment because it makes it a lot harder for you. Some people think that it would take you 15 years before you get back on top. It is a very hard and difficult situation which you have to come into. That is the reason why we should be thinking about indoor facilities in the Caribbean. Sir, playing under the lights in the Caribbean and trying to introduce people to night cricket, I think it will bring back the interest of the game and would make life easier for those who do the marketing of cricket in the Caribbean.

Sir, the horse racing community organisation is asking for lights at the Garrison Savannah. So one can see the importance of getting some sort of activity at night where we can be entertained.

Sir, the reason why I am so strong on the indoor facilities, is because I find, having lived in an area which is very close to Haynesville and I know of the Ghetto atmosphere, I think that we will be able to get those young men and women off the streets. They will be able to come into, let us say, the Courtney Browne Indoor Facility or Andrea Blackett Indoor Facility. These two people live in the Hoytes area, which might be considered as being in the proposed St. James Central Constituency.

Sir, you maybe under the street lights and someone might tell you to come and take a walk in the back behind the Housing Scheme and there are a few guys with you. When you get where you are going, one of the fellows might ask you if you have \$5 and if you say yes and he gives you a spiff, after that you become hooked. We all have heard stories where some people have said that they took one spiff and they were hooked on drugs.

Mr. President, I am all for an indoor facility in Barbados. I would also like to see indoor facilities in the Caribbean but I believe that Barbados should lead. I believe that Barbados should lead because Barbados produced 50 percent of the West Indies cricketers and it is very important that we continue to be in the forefront of West Indies cricket.

It is unfortunate that it comes at a time when we have so many youngsters who are under the age of 15 who are involved in cricket. It is sad to say that everyone is going to make it. It is very important that we prepare those men and tell them that there are times when you will try to be a cricketer and if you do not make it as a cricketer, we do not want you to get involved with drugs or turning to the bottle but we still want you to be respected citizens of Barbados.

I believe that we have the best Under 15 players in the world. I think that a programme must be put in place for all the young Under 15 players where we not only help them with their cricket but educate them where they will be able to manage disappointment and to handle change. They will also be able to handle the fact that in a cricket team we play with only 11 men and that means that two people are going to be left out or you are going to be left out of the side and you must be able to handle disappointments.

2.35 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator D. L. HAYNES: I feel that that is the way we can stop some of the comments we had from the media concerning the under 15 players who were left out of the side going to Trinidad. The parents and a lot of people were saying that the BCA acted in a way and that the selectors did not watch the cricket and they made all sorts of different arguments under the sun. I think that when we are realistic about it we realise that they were picking 15 players and only 15 can be selected. They are picking 15 and that is it. So we are going to have a lot of disappointment.

I think with that programme we will be able to educate some of the parents because a lot of the parents when they come to watch the kids do not see other kids. As a parent myself I know that when you go to watch your kid

at school sports you only look at your kid and only recognise that there is somebody else running against your kid when he or she passes your kid and then you realise that there were other people in the race.

We get that same problem when coaching the young men and young women in sports in Barbados because the parents are blinkered, only interested in their kids and then you get some very harsh comments about the coaches not liking the kids and all sorts of nonsense.

Mr. President, I would just like to go onto something which I think will be taken in the right light and that is a situation where we are talking about facilities. When you look from the Batts Rock area straight to Good Shepherd there is no sporting facility from the Good Shepherd area up to Trents playing field. The residents from the coastal road need some form of recreation and we must look at land in these areas for some form of recreation like a playing field or community centre.

We had the South Coast Sewerage Project which created a lot of controversy with the diverting of traffic and now we have the West Coast Sewerage Project which is coming on stream in the next couple of years. I understand that the Government is looking at roads to divert traffic from the coast road. As you know, if there was an accident at Jordan's Supermarket or just past Jordan's Supermarket coming up to Paynes Bay there is no road in which you can get off to get back on that road. I think that is a very serious issue and I understand that there are plans being put in place to cut roads if it is possible to cut one from the same Jordan's Supermarket right up to the top to get back to West Terrace or if you could find other ways of how we can link another road from off the coast road.

I also understand that Government at the moment is putting plans in place to talk to the residents and the businesses in that area. As you know, there was a lot of concern about the problem we had in Black Rock with Carlton A1 and the problem with all the property owners and restaurants on the South Coast. I believe that it is good to know that Government is now looking ahead and thinking of ways of how to talk to the business houses on the West Coast so that we would be able to ease some of the inconvenience which is caused. Mr. President, we realise that a lot of the inconvenience it causes means that we are developing. I believe that you must expect that with development you must have some sacrifice.

I am happy that Government has cleared the land in Hoytes and I understand that there will be a playing field at Hoytes. I would not like to go into details as to what it should be named or anything like that but from that area we have produced some great players such as Luther King, Courtney Brown and Vere Blackett. At least we have a

group of names which we can attach to the new Hoytes playing field.

Mr. President, I would like us to go a little further down the hill because as you know, in the Holders Hill area, we have been begging for some years to have some lights at the tennis courts and at the Desmond Haynes Sports Complex in Holders Hill and we would dearly love to see it looking very bright at night. The ground is an ideal size for tape ball cricket, for coaching and, as you know, we have a neighbourhood like Haynesville in the back. It will be able to help get some of our young people involved in sports and get their minds on something else apart from negatives.

I would just like to move a bit out of the Holders Hill area and go to the Arch Hall area. In Arch Hall there are some plots that are allocated for the residents there with a lovely view of the new Sandy Lane Golf Course. There is also a provision for land for another sports pavilion in Arch Hall for the residents. I think that the land is in agreement with Sandy Lane so I am hoping that the National Sports Council will be able to get things rolling just as quickly as they got things rolling for the people of Hoytes to look after the Arch Hall residents so that we can get a playing field there. Also just to alert the Arch Hall residents that the new fire station there has facilities where you can play netball and basketball and other things.

Mr. President, I would like to touch on golf. I know that it is perceived as something that only the rich can play but I believe that is a myth because right now a set of golf clubs actually cost less than a cricket bat. You can get a set of golf clubs for \$300 to \$400 and I will tell you something that a good cricket bat would cost you very close to £200, and you do not have to pay duty on sporting goods. This Government has done that.

Last week Barbados opened at the Royal Westmoreland and I had the privilege of winning the tournament, which I thought was a great achievement. It showed me that sports and tourism do go hand in hand. It also helped a lot of my friends from the area to benefit from the tournament financially. There are a lot of guys in my area who are caddies and they did very well last week. I was also told that over 80 million people watched that golf tournament. I do not believe that the Barbados Tourist Authority would be able to pay for such an ad because it was shown worldwide and it was a situation where you had a lot of people seeing Barbados and they would have realised that Barbados could be a golfing destination and now we have another two or three golf courses coming on stream. I am sure that with the other three golf courses coming on stream I believe that one day we could see Barbados as a golfing destination.

At this point, Barbados has not yet scratched the surface to enter this lucrative market segment in tourism. As a matter of fact, if we look at places like Malta, Ireland, Scotland and closer to home, the Bahamas and Bermuda they are proven destinations in the area of golf travel. I am sure that the tourism planners can now look at including golf in the overall sports tourism programme.

From a local standpoint, Barbadians are natural sports persons and I believe that with the improved facilities and access to them that we can produce many golf professionals who probably could enhance public relations for our destination, as has been done in cricket, athletics, swimming and so on.

2.45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: I would suggest to the golf course developers that they seriously consider implementation of programmes that link them with the community and a partnership with the Barbados Golf Association and the National Sports Council when building golf courses in Barbados.

I know that there are plans for the Barbados Golf Association to link with places like Sandy Lane and Royal Westmoreland to involve young people in golf. Also, in trying to do that, I believe it would help to get golf scholarships for some young players.

We have some young golfers in Barbados and it would be good for them to go to golf schools in America, England, Australia or wherever possible to learn the game and to get into the right discipline. I am sure that if these youngsters go abroad, and come back to Barbados and pass on the knowledge which they have learnt from the golf schools that would go a long way for golf in Barbados.

Mr. President, I know of some of the people who have been involved with property ownership on the golf courses such as Sandy Lane and the Royal Westmoreland. I also know that several of them have made and continue to make generous donations and contributions to charities, community and sports development. I endeavour to encourage this kind of generosity. I know there are some who are trying to run these people. They are looking at the negative side of it, but these people are making a fantastic contribution to Barbados on the lines of charity and sports.

Mr. President, with that, I thank you.

SENATOR Mr. L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am indeed honoured to have the opportunity to speak to the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue for this country. The Prime Minister described the Estimates as the real

budget and I believe the Estimates is supposed to set the framework for the Government's programmes over the next year.

Sir, firstly, I would like to refer to the broad economic policy of the Government. It seems as though the Government's attitude is one in which, having determined that Barbados has a good credit rating, you are now in a position to borrow your way through life and embark on an extensive borrowing, to the extent that we are told that out of the \$1 billion in foreign reserves, probably about half of that, are the proceeds from borrowing.

We have already established, Sir, that if we are not in a position to earn our way, soon we will have to deal with the problem of having to meet the repayment for these loans, and when you consider that some of these loans are so structured that, for one of them, you will be paying interest only for the next 20 years. After 20 years, then you would be looking to pay the principle in full.

I think, Sir, this is a burden which we are putting on our future generation and I do not think that we should be saddling them with a debt of this magnitude, particularly when we do not know what state the economy of this country, and the world economy as a whole, may be in at that point in time. Certainly, we do not want to leave a situation where our children will have to deal with, or some kind of difficulties that they are unable to cope with.

In addition, Sir, we have the position of high taxation. This debate continues to go on about the Government basically not admitting that this is the period of the highest taxation that we have ever seen in this country. They would take credit for everything else but they do not want to take credit for the fact that this is the highest level of taxation that we have ever seen.

Sir, I would like to compare some figures. If you look at the Government's revenue and you compare the following three fiscal periods, 1991-1992, 1995-1996 and 2000-2001, you will see that the Government's total revenue for the year 1991-1992 was approximately \$989 million and in 1995-1996, \$1.1 billion and in 2000-2001, \$1.7 billion. The revenue at this time, the difference between 1991-1992 and 2000-2001, is about \$711 million. The difference between the 1995-1996 and 2000-2001 is some \$600 million.

If you look at specific areas of taxation, in 1991-1992 the Government collected \$47 million in property tax. In 2000-2001, \$98 million. In 1991-1992 the tax on goods and services \$328 million. For 2000-2001 \$727 million. The tax on international trade in 1991-1992 was \$87 million and for 2000-2001, \$134 million.

Sir, this means that there have been significant increases in revenue collected by the Government from taxation when compared with these periods. Therefore, one must look at this in the context that we should then be able to provide services for the community at a much higher level. The point is often made by this Government that they are carrying out magnificent projects and they have money to allocate to all kinds of things.

The fact of the matter is there is money because the people of this country are being taxed extremely high and there is excessive taxation which makes the funds available. Yet, we find that even though taxation is at an all time high, many of our social services continue to decline. Sir, by his own admission, the Minister of Health indicated that after seven and one half years of Barbados Labour Party administration, the hospital is in a deplorable state. In fact, he gave the impression that it is a national disgrace, while the Government is collecting over \$711 million in revenue.

The reason why I am comparing this period is that Government workers continue to talk about the woes of 1991-1992. I was just showing you that in 1991-1992, you were collecting \$989 million in revenue from the people of Barbados and in 2000-2001 you are collecting \$1.7 billion. Yet, the complaints that we are hearing now with respect to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital we were not hearing in 1991-1992. Even though, as one of the members said, the levels of complaints for the social services were no where near the complaints that you are getting now.

2.55 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: We have never had a case in 1991-92 where people in Barbados had to carry their own toilet paper to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and we never had a case where the hospital did not have linen but it is happening now.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please! I only wish to hear the Senator on his feet.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: It is, as I said, by the admission of the Minister of Health that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital after seven and a half years continues to be a national disgrace.

Mr. President, the Minister of Health in his contribution made reference to the measures which are being taken to improve the security at the hospital. One may recall that there was an earlier attempt by us to have this issue debated before it had reached crisis proportion.

We were told then that there was no problem with security at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital although the nurses were being attacked in the car park and now we are hearing that security at the hospital is such a big problem that you have to spend hundreds and thousands of dollars to deal with it. We can only deal with a problem if a problem is identified by any persons or any agencies other than the Government. It only becomes a problem when Government determines that it is a problem and it is seen as something to be dealt with.

We have also seen a decline in the delivery of education in this country because only two days ago the Minister of Education reiterated the point made by the previous Minister of Education that 70 per cent of the students in our secondary schools are leaving school without certification. If that is not a crisis, I do not know what is.

Barbadians feel that they are less secure in this country now than they have ever been at anytime in the past because of the level of crime and violence that exists. The Government is admitting that crime and violence, which was not a problem in the past because it was identified by somebody else, is now a problem in this country.

In the face of the highest level of taxation ever in this country, we have a situation where the social services are in a steady decline. There is still a shortage of drugs in the health service and all kinds of problems associated with the delivery of social services in this country.

I would like to go on to look at the area of agriculture. In the Estimates, agriculture has been allocated \$37 232 147. This is against the background where Government is claiming that a lot of emphasis is now being placed on agriculture and getting the productive sectors working. With this \$37 million, the Rural Development Commission is supposed to do all kinds of things. In fact, the programme statement for the Rural Development Commission states that the thrust of this programme is to develop rural areas, to improve the livelihood of residents and to create sustainable development in agriculture as well as increase output of agricultural products in rural areas. Yet there has been a reduction in the allocation to the Rural Development Commission when you compare this year's Estimates with last year's.

In the 2001-2002 Estimates the revised Estimates was \$15 519 600 and this year's Estimates \$13 million. Yet Government is saying that this is one of the pillars on which they would build a more sound economy, but yet they are allocating less money to deal with it.

In addition to that, they are supposed to deal with crop production, fishery research and pilot the export of

agricultural products. They are required to do all of these things yet they allocated a mere \$37 million to this important sector which is supposed to be one of our planks for development.

Mr. President, decisions on agriculture in this country are not being made to develop the sector. We heard Senator Laurie this morning dealing quite extensively with many of the problems associated with this sector, therefore, I do not need to reiterate those. Suffice it to say, the Government is embarking on a policy which seems more to be one of public relations and gimmicks than a programme which would do anything to help the farming community in this country.

In addition to that, we have agencies like the National Council for Science and Technology which even though they come under the Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development are supposed to provide for development and research in the areas of technology in this country. But what do we have in this important area? Sir, you hear a lot of talk. Every time people make speeches, there are a lot of cliches and you hear about how we are in the technological age and technology is doing this and doing that, yet the National Council for Science and Technology has been allocated \$672 168 in the Estimates.

3.05 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, \$672 168 has been allocated for the National Council of Science and Technology and out of that, \$219 000 is going to salaries and salary related matters. Sir, if one is going to be dealing with a serious organisation, one would believe that it would be adequately staffed. I think there are four officers associated with that Council: a director, two senior technical officers and one stenographer/typist. That is the extent of the staff that is supposed to lead the way in the development of technology in this country.

Sir, this means that hardly anything is left to do the work of the Council. In fact, \$11,950 is allocated for supplies and materials for the National Council of Science and Technology and we are hearing all the fancy talk about what this Government is doing with respect to science and technology. Therefore, it seems as though it is mere public relations that is being embarked on by the Government. Sir, I would like to suggest that if we could link these two areas; the National Council of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture, if we are going to make an impact with respect to export agriculture, we know we will not ever get back to the level of sugar production or sugar exports which we once had in the better days. We know there are other non-sugar crops which are being worked on

and efforts are already being made. There was a time when we were exporting substantial quantities of non-sugar agricultural crops but in this age we need to place greater emphasis on the quality of the products that we are going to be producing. Sir, against this background, I know there are some persons present, who are trying to develop a service to provide quality assurance for agricultural products. What they want to develop is a protocol for the production of the handling of fresh food products from crops in the Caribbean generally but in Barbados in particular. This will be done through the combination of Government, the farming community, the University of the West Indies, and the distributors of the agricultural products. If we must have the things of the quality which we want on the shelves in this country and of the quality which those who pay thousands of dollars to come to our shores expect, I think we need to pay greater attention to the quality of the things that we are producing. Many of the vegetables we consume are vegetables that are raw and therefore we need to ensure there are no problems with microbiological contamination of these products. Also, it is important that we examine the matter of pesticide residue. Therefore, it is necessary to have systems in place so that we can look at our agricultural production to monitor what goes into the production of our food and when the crops have been harvested, to be able to determine what necessary residues are there. If there is any bacterial residue, how are we going to handle them, et cetera. Sir, I therefore hope that there are some persons, for example, Professor Adamson at the University and others, who are willing to get this going. I would hope that when they reach a stage they can put forward a sound proposal that would gain the support of the Government and those persons concerned.

I would also like to link agriculture to another problem which they are having in this country and this is a matter that comes under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Development. Before going to the problem, Sir, I would like to get one small point out of the way. The Ministry is supposed to be responsible for managing our eco-system and I notice in the Estimates they have allocated \$651 000 for consultancy to deal with managing the gully eco-systems. Compare that, Sir, with what the National Council of Science and Technology has to operate on.

Again, Sir, we have a situation where people are doing things they either clearly do not understand or merely doing things because they want to make impressions. Sir, there is a gentleman called Herman Lowe - I have not spoken to Mr. Lowe so I hope he would not be offended by my mentioning his name - but I know that for years, Mr. Lowe and others have been traversing the gullies of this country and can tell you anything you want to know about the gullies of this country. Mr. Lowe was very concerned about the impact of the dumping of garbage on our water system. He has a whole library of slides and can

be spoken to about any thing relating to the gullies in this country. In fact, he has pioneered the cleaning up of several gullies but now we want to go further and make this a commercial venture where tourist would want to come and enjoy the scenes of the gullies and use them as nature trails, et cetera. We do not turn to the local expertise we have but are allocating this \$651 000 for consultancy.

Sir, if I know the mentality and the thinking of my fellow-man, chances are that they will look to somebody from outside of Barbados to pay this money to, who will just come in, get the information from some local persons, submit a report and go their way. Sir, that is what is happening with respect to the Belle. We have had a number of persons coming into Barbados and giving reports on what is happening in the Belle. This is where I link agriculture with another problem. We have a situation where the people who are living in the Belle are now seen as some kind of pariah and are being held up as the people responsible for the possible contamination of our water resources. There is a situation where I must say - lest anyone think I have any political interest in that area - the whole of Barbados is my constituency and as long as I am in this Chamber I have to represent the interest of all Barbadians. Sir, one of the most important resources we have would be our water resources. If there is any threat to our water resources, I think that is my business and the business of any well thinking Barbadian and this is why I want to spend sometime addressing this matter.

Sir, we have been told that the problem with the water is the presence of nitrates. From as far back as 1987, I remember sitting in the office of a former Chief Engineer of the Barbados Water Authority and discussing this matter of nitrates in the water. I made the point to him then that the people in the Belle cannot be responsible for the presence of nitrates in the water. When we look at the level of increase in the levels of nitrates within a four-year period, with no significant increase in population in that area, one has to ask, is there any real correlation between the two.

3.15 p.m.

Monday, March 19, 2002

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: Sir, nitrates are not present to a large extent in household waste. The chemical most likely to be found in household waste is phosphate. This is why in recent years they have moved away from using phosphates in detergents because of phosphate contamination of the water supplies. When phosphates get into the water, it depletes the oxygen and only certain organisms will thrive in that environment and we get serious problems arising. Sir, nitrates in the water system come from agricultural waste and not from household waste.

Asides.

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: For example, a few years ago a study in London showed that 200 000 tons of phosphates were entering the water system and out of that only 100 000 came directly from household waste. Nitrates come from agricultural fertilizers and this is the main source of nitrates. In Barbados the system of zones goes back to 1961 and it was not based on chemical contamination of the water, it was based on bacterial contamination of the water. This is why the whole system of zoning in Barbados has to be revamped. We have to take a different look at it altogether because it is based on the possibility of bacterial contamination of water but it does not address the matter of chemical contamination of the water.

Sir, the only way we can solve this problem is to get away from the primitive means of disposal of sewerage in this country where we dig a hole in the ground and run waste into it because when we put waste in a hole in Christ Church there is a possibility that it could end up in the Belle because we do not know where the fissures in the coral stone might go and it could end up anywhere.

Sir, rather than having another study to determine what to do with the people in the Belle, the study should now be based on how quickly we can move away from the present system of using suck-wells and getting sewerage systems in place across this island or where there is development use septic tanks. Sir, we must stop this system of putting sewerage in the ground.

Sir, many people believe that sewerage systems are expensive but many of the developments have at least 200 houses and on average it costs about \$1 400 to dig a suck-well. If 200 suck-wells cost \$1 400 each it means that over \$200 000 is being spent which could go towards putting in the infrastructure for a sewerage system to handle that area.

Sir, in Jamaica developments do not use suck-wells and not everywhere in the world has the kind of coral stone formation that allows them to dig suck-wells so they have to use sewerage systems. Whereas, it was a convenient way of sewerage disposal in the past it has now become outdated and it will continue to pose a threat to our underground water resources if nothing is done about it soon.

Sir, this is why the Government should look at putting in a sewerage system in the Belle and allow the people to stay there rather than spending money on another study which will tell them the exact thing that the previous study did. If we move the residents from the Belle, there will still be nitrate contamination and the problem would still not be solved.

Sir, I also want to remind this Chamber that some years ago when the extension of the Harbour was being done, Government allowed a massive quarry to be excavated in the Belle area on top of the Belle water resources. I do not know if people will recall that most of the boulders, which went to the area where the Flour Mill is built, came out of the Belle area.

Asides.

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: I do not remember the exact year but I know that Mr. Tom Adams was the Prime Minister at the time. A lot of the boulders came out of the Belle and there is a massive quarry in the Belle now and Town & Country Planning Department allowed the owners of that quarry to refill it using garbage from construction sites.

MR. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: The quarry in the Belle was refilled with waste from construction sites.

Asides.

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I would like to make the record clear. Maybe the boulders did not go from there to the Flour Mill site but I know that they were used in a major project. Sir, the point I am making is that the quarry was excavated in the Belle when it should not have been allowed. Then it was refilled and old cars, galvanise sheets, paint skillets and pieces of asbestos went into that quarry on top of our water resources. Anyone who wants to challenge that point can do so but I can show people where it was actually done.

3.25 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, it is unfair for the poor people living in the Belle, most of whom do not have waterborne facilities, to be accused of being responsible for the water going into the aquifer and contaminating the water supply. It is not true. It is an injustice when the people in the Belle are being held as the villains and that they are endangering the lives of the people of Barbados. I am sure that the people who are putting out this kind of information are only compromising their integrity because they know that if we have such a problem, we should not only be looking at one possible source of contamination.

Sir, the water in the belle comes from St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. George, Christ Church and St. Philip. When there is the nitrate in the water, the source of nitrate comes from agricultural fertiliser or the decay of the products of

agriculture, and you are blaming the residents of the Belle for it.

I heard a lot hysteria about this matter of nitrate contamination. One journalist has published an article where he gave a lot of information from the internet on the links of nitrates to cancer that is true. They continue to quote figures from Iowa and other areas in the USA and in every area that they have quoted is an area in the agricultural belt. They failed to make the connection and take the information without proper analysis and blame one set of people in Barbados for what is happening. I hope that we can deal with this matter because I know that they are people in the Belle who believe that they are being singled out for special treatment. It is unfortunate that they should be made to feel that way, Sir.

Mr. President, while I am on this point I will like to make reference to Senator Bolden's contribution. He used a lot of anecdotal history and he did not necessarily bring empirical evidence to demonstrate some of the things that he talked about. For example he said that the Democratic Labour Party never built roads in Barbados and I find this amazing. Sir, there is a quotation that a friend of mine likes to use and it says that scientists do not know everything but they know when you are talking foolishness. Sir, I am not reflecting on the Honourable Member. I am not saying that the Honourable spoke foolishness. What I am saying is that I may not know everything but I can recognise when a person's contribution is not necessarily of the highest standard. Therefore, he must not allow his clouded political vision to always get the better of him. We admire his longstanding tenure in politics in Barbados and that he has a sound knowledge of the history of the politics in Barbados. Therefore, when he speaks, we would expect him to give us all the facts and not some of them.

Asides.

SENATOR His Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. I have never known the Honourable Member to be a scientist. Therefore, the statement which he made is about scientists knowing when someone is talking foolishness. He cannot benefit by that. He said that I made a statement that the Democratic Labour Party has never built ten roads in Barbados. If he knows better than that, I am very willing to learn because it draws to my knowledge to the history of this country. If a neophyte like the Honourable Member can help me, I will be happy to admit this. I will put it in the records up here so that the next time I speak, I will be able to say that the Barbados Labour Party built 99.9 per cent of the roads in Barbados and the Democratic Labour party built .01 per cent of the roads.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not sure that was a point of order. Senator McClean will please proceed.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: It is necessary to stimulate the Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is a long debate so we give a certain amount of latitude.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, culture is another area that has recently been identified as an area that the Government will be paying particular interest to. It is seen as to be so important that the Prime Minister has taken on the responsibility for that Ministry. I believe that our culture is not only about Crop Over and the Visual Arts. Our culture also extends to our buildings and the preservation of our buildings.

Earlier Senator Laurie made reference to the work of the Barbados National Trust. I find it amazing that the Government could spend, I think, \$3.4 million to purchase George Washington House because they think that it is an important landmark in Barbados. The fact that you can identify a house where George Washington once slept may be a way of drawing American tourists to this country. I would have preferred if the Government had spent the \$3.4 million on the National Science of Technology or building some houses for the lower income people and spend the \$600 000 on George Washington House.

I understand it would cost about \$4 million to get the West Wing of Parliament completed and we are seeing no progress whatsoever in that area. That too is a national disgrace. This is the Seat of your Government, people from all over the world, particularly when English visitors come to Barbados they go to take pictures of the Nelsons' statue and they also know of the historical links between and Great Britain.

3.35 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: Then at least if we can get those records many of us would be able at least to identify the part of the world that the vast majority of the people of this region came from. You would at least be able to identify where you came from because we would never know what our names were. At least we would be able to have some connection because one of the major problems that we have as a people is a lack of a clear identity. Whether we believe it or not those West Indian people of African descent suffer an identity crisis.

If you told a man somewhere in Eastern Europe that you were bringing a West Indian to meet him I wonder what image of a West Indian that person would have in

mind. I always wonder about this. Someone who knows nothing about us and just heard the name West Indian what kind of person would they be looking for. It is something which I believe we as a people have to resolve, this identity crisis. This is one of the reasons why we get so much difficulty with our own development in this country, not only in Barbados but across the region. You find that there are people from different ethnic groups who identify with a religion or certain aspects of their culture and they can say they are such and such a person and originated from that place and got here through this process.

In fact, one Barbadian gentleman told me that he bought a 50 per cent share in a small plantation some years ago and the plantation was owned by two white Barbadians and one of them decided that he would sell his share and when this black Barbadian went to buy it the fellow said to him you would have to buy the whole plantation. He said, "Why? The gentleman only wants to sell half." He said, "I'm not going into anything with you. I can trace my ancestry back to Great Britain."

It is unfortunate that we should have to deal with situations like this, but it is a fact and it has nothing to do with one's attitude towards race, because what I am saying has nothing to do with how I feel about anybody of any race. What I am concerned about is how my people as a people feel about themselves. We still hear stories which tell us that we as black people are our own worst enemies. Even in Barbados, we are the ones who hold political power. We are the majority. We have the accumulated largest spending power but yet we have seen research recently which has shown that as a people we are not moving up in terms of our social standing but we are having other ethnic groups who have come into this country since us who are continuing to rise to the top and the vast majority of Barbadians rather than rise to the top, we are finding more and more of our people being lost, particularly our young people to drugs, HIV/AIDS and all kinds of deviance, victims to crime, habits of gambling, all kinds of things we are having to deal with at this point in time.

Sir, I believe that one of the reasons why we have this problem, not only in Barbados but across the Caribbean and the United States of America, is because those persons of African descent have a serious problem of identity crisis. To many persons it might seem as though it is remote but the psychologists will always tell you that if you do not have a clear perspective of who you are and what is your worth you will always have problems in terms of your own progress and your own development. I believe that one of the things that we have to do as a people is to get some of those artefacts of our history repatriated so that we can have them in museums in Barbados rather than having them in Britain so that our people can go there and see and trace their history and understand where they came

from, how they got here and what is their position in life and how to move from the state they are in now to a higher state. I believe that we need to deal with that as soon as possible.

Sir, around 1996, the Prime Minister of this country discovered poverty in Barbados and again this is by his own words. During the by-election in St. Michael North West the Prime Minister said he never knew there was such poverty in Barbados. To his credit, Sir, he embarked on a programme to deal with poverty and he set up a poverty alleviation programme. All of this came under the Ministry of Social Transformation. I have no problem whatsoever with the concept. I think it is admirable that at least having discovered, he sought to do something about it. They say a child or a person very often in their adult life do things which reflect experiences as a child and I think the Prime Minister having come up in a good Democratic Labour Party household every now and then he still flashes back to those days of being a Dem so he sees some programmes which are of benefit to the people and he would attempt to do them.

However, Sir, he finds himself in an environment where he does not have the will to proceed along the path of the Dems as he would have done had he remained but I think that he may be a little better than Comrade Symmonds. Sorry, Senator Symmonds.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There are no comrades in here.

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: Sorry, Sir, Senator Symmonds. He is not a comrade, could never be. Like Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus, the scales fell from his eyes and he became Paul. I do not know if the scales have fallen from Senator Symmonds' eyes as yet but he apparently has gone through several conversions and reconversions and we do not know where exactly he is at this point of time.

On a more serious note, the Prime Minister sought to deal with this matter of poverty alleviation and he set up the Ministry of Social Transformation, a Ministry which has a budget now of more than twice that of the Ministry of Agriculture. I think it is about \$300 000, more than double the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture, with all the programmes that Ministry has. This Ministry of Social Transformation, I would put the best interpretation on it and say that it was well intentioned. In that regard, I support it, but when I look at the way that it is being used it is clear that it has become an instrument for political patronage. Something happened a couple of weeks ago which I think is opening a door to something which we do not want to see in this country. It is unfortunate that any Minister of Government should be seen handing over a cheque to any person of Government funds. It is unheard of that a Minister is handing over a cheque to somebody like

that. Certainly, I do not recall and perhaps if Senator Bolden were here he would tell me if it has happened before.

In addition to that, Sir, we were hearing reports in the press that the project for which the money was being allocated, cost \$106 000 but after the cheque was released we heard that it is not \$106 000 but \$100 000. Again, Sir, I think this is a deliberate attempt to get around the financial rules.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If you are imputing improper motives to a member of either House you are in breach of the rules, and that is my interpretation of what you say.

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I will withdraw any words which would imply that I am imputing improper motives to the action of anybody. What I am saying is that we were given the impression that the Estimates for the project was \$106 000. We subsequently heard that it was \$100 000.

3.45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator L. H. McCLEAN: Sir, the original estimate was \$100 000 and not \$106 000 because we know that had the project been for \$106 000, then, there would have been need for a public tender. I could only hope that we do not have a situation, which sort of bent the rules. I am happy that the young men at Deacons have been able to pursue a project which will be to their benefit, and one which will contribute to that community having an enterprise, which could only be to the strengthening of the community. In that regard, I must compliment my colleague and party president for his contribution to making that project a success. I think Senator Mascoll needs to be praised for his efforts at getting those young men involved in a project which would be helpful for the community.

Mr. President, regarding the matter of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Sir, again we have to ask the question what is happening in this Ministry? About a year ago, we heard that Government had 600 acres of land in a land bank. We are now hearing that they have \$1 000 acres in a land bank, at the time when people are complaining that the price of land is too high in Barbados. I have always said that the only way we can get the price of land reduced, or stabilised in Barbados is if the Government will release a significant amount of that 1 000 acres of land which they are holding, so that Barbadians can have access to land to build houses.

Sir, rather than dealing with that matter, we heard that the National Housing Corporation has completed 48 per cent of the building after three years...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator you have one minute to continue.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: Thank you. Sir.

You are claiming that 48 per cent of the money was spent which is an absurdity. I believe, Sir, that the people of Barbados must call the Government to account for the wastage of funds in the project at Warrens, the NHC office at Country Road, the demolition of the Hilton Hotel, the demolition of Dover Convention Centre, the fiasco of Greenland and all of the millions of dollars which have been wasted by this Government.

Mr. President, I thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, these Estimates were laid, in the context of what they sought to do with the economy. Our economy stabilised, despite the international situation where unemployment was down, the last count was 9.8 per cent, the reserves were buoyant at \$1.5 billion. The Estimates themselves were meant to re-stimulate the economy and keep them poised for the recovery that was expected. It was a question of maintaining the social policies and programmes, while at the same time, not forgetting the physical infrastructural development of the country.

Sir, it seems as though we have gone on to a different set of Estimates, considering what has been said by the Opposition represented in this Chamber. Sir, my late mother who is departed had a very good saying to describe certain persons, 'a person is bright but not shining'. Sir, I think that is the essence of Barbadian wisdom. Senator Mascoll spent the whole time throughout the Estimates trying to prove that he is brighter than anybody else in the country. Senator Symmonds dealt with that very well and I really do not want to 'gild The Lily' in this respect. All I can say is that after his presentation, for one who is bright but not shining, I would have to say that I really got an intense appreciation as to why the Central Bank could not allow its premises, the Grand Salle, to be used for the purposes which were sought by that party.

Sir, what would have happened then, I am sure seeing that his presentation was basically along the same theme as what he meant to present at the Grand Salle of the Central Bank, we would have had, what would have boiled down to a Democratic Labour Party branch meeting, or an under the street light meeting.

Sir, Senator Mascoll spent a considerable amount of time proving that our foreign borrowing was excessive. He never sought to explain what the borrowing was used for, which I think is important because it is not that you borrow but the conditions under which you borrow, and what are the purposes to which that borrowing is put. He said that

the taxation was too high. He never said what the taxation was being used for, but that Barbados was overtaxed.

History will show that from 1976 onwards, this Barbados Labour Party has been progressively reducing taxes in Barbados. Sir, not many people will remember that in the year 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party came to office, people were paying income tax on \$96 a month and up, or twenty-four dollars a week. We progressively reduced it to some \$12 000 tax free.

The Democratic Labour Party sought to back raise the Barbados Labour Party by offering \$15 000 tax free and we know what that led to, that is, the economic chaos that laid the foundation for what Senator Mascoll quite rightly described as some of the hardest, most onerous taxation Barbados has ever seen. Sir, this Government has pledged, and the Prime Minister has gone on record for saying that there will be a review, towards reform of taxation and pensions.

Sir, our record is proud, clear and good, and history can bear out that we are the ones who have progressively and systematically, reduced taxation in this country. Apart from that, in looking at the cost, one has to find out for what this taxation is used. You cannot separate the taxation, because there are two things in life people do not like and one of them is dying and the other taxation.

Senator Mascoll dealt with that quite clearly, but we cannot gainsay the standard of living that we get from the taxes we pay. Barbados is described as a high cost destination, but that cannot be separated from the fact that, it is a quality destination. While people have been prophesying and talking from their hunches, and their personal reactions and experiences about tourism, Barbados is a high market destination which, I think, we should continue to be.

I can give some of the names of persons who came very quietly to Barbados for a few days, with little or no publicity. These people came over the last three weeks to one month. I know of them personally, because of my association with persons in the tourism industry: Tommy Hilfiger, Naomi Campbell, The Duchess of York and daughter, who left Barbados proudly wearing a '100 % Bajan Pin' - I know that for sure -, Versailles, the designer and, Mike Wallace.

3.55 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Right now top names from the Clinton administration are staying in Barbados. These are people who are prepared to come to a country because it is a high quality country.

Sir, I am going to look at the Barbados Economic and Social Report 2000 on page A-14 which deals with the question of foreign debt service as a percentage of the export of goods and services. In 1992, the figure stood at 17.8 per cent and the Barbados Labour Party brought that down to 7.3 per cent in 2000. The central government foreign debt as a percentage of GDP stood at 30.3 per cent in 1992 and the Barbados Labour Party brought it down to 13.1 per cent in 2000.

Sir, Senator Mascoll's and Senator McClean's usage of statistics triggers the memory of a quotation which goes something like this:

"They use statistics like drunken men use a lamp post for support rather than illumination".

Asides.

SENATOR the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: That is the context in which I will seek to put that, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would not have thought that the language is particularly parliamentary.

SENATOR the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: They use statistics like a man who has been highly inebriated using a lamppost for its support rather than illumination.

Senator Mascoll sought to establish that there was nothing in the Estimates for the average man. That is an old phrase. Right now, one will realise that they do not speak any more about the poor black man or the small black man. Having been beaten with that whip so many times, they dropped the small black man and the poor black man and have now gone to the average man. So we can substitute poor black man for average man. We know what they mean. They are now afraid to use the small black man and the poor black man phrase.

Let me turn to some of the major activities to which funds have been allocated for the year 2002-2003 and tell me, Mr. President, whether any of these would apply or be of benefit to the average man. Sir, the south coast sewerage project has been allocated \$43 million. There must be some average man who is going to benefit from that. The very popular Queen Elizabeth Hospital where the recapitalisation of it is beginning with \$6.5 million, certainly, the average can go and benefit from the services of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Grantley Adams International Airport expansion project at a cost of \$62.3 million, certainly, the average man uses the Grantley Adams International Airport either for himself

or his family when they travel to shop or to go on a vacation.

The Forensic Laboratory facility which is used toward the solution of crime is allocated \$10.3 million. The average man is the victim and perpetrator of crimes. The justice improvement project is allocated \$1.5 million. Surely the average man would benefit from that. The Coastal Management Programme is allocated \$4.4 million, certainly, the average man enjoys the beaches and the enhanced environment.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport road rehabilitation project is allocated \$7.8 million, certainly the average man uses the roads of Barbados. Sir, I could go on and on to show you the ridiculous nature of the claim made by Senator Mascoll that nothing is in the Estimates for the average man.

Sir, both Senator Mascoll and Senator McClean sought to show that this Government is a spendthrift Government and that it has been careless with the taxpayers money. Not being able systematically to find fault with the Estimates for the emphases they put on the social services and the physical and infrastructural development of Barbados, they are seeking now to show that there has been wastage.

We have made it clear that there are some projects in Barbados that we are not happy with the way they have gone. We have explained that to the public and we have said why we are not happy with them. This is a traditional Democratic Labour Party thing that goes right back to the formation of the Democratic Labour Party.

I remember growing up in 1956, and I can go back in history and teach young Senator Mascoll and Senator McClean some historical facts of Barbados. When Government Headquarters was being built, the Democratic Labour Party said it was a waste of money and called it Adams Castle. When the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, about which they are now so concerned, was being built, they said it was a waste of money, that it was too big and extravagant and there was nothing wrong with the old general hospital. In 1961, they said the Deep Water Harbour was too big.

Most of them refused to attend the official opening ceremony of the Central Bank Building now the Tom Adams Financial Services Centre and now they are breaking down the doors to hold so-called lectures and branch meetings in the Grand Salle of the Central Bank. It will not happen. History has a way of taking care of its own people. When the ABC Highway was being built, they called it the Tom Adams Highway. They criticised CARIFESTA and laughed at the money spent and said it was a waste. Now it is the Urban Development

Commission (UDC), the Rural Development Commission and the GEMS of Barbados Project that they are criticising. Sir, that is their history but we are accustomed to that.

I must compliment them, Sir, because anything that they know instinctively more so than intellectually that will benefit the Barbadian public or the Barbados Labour Party, they always find fault with it. I remember in the 1961 election when the Barbados Labour Party, the late Sir Mencea Cox and Theo Bryan were advocating for the redevelopment and renovation at Her Majesty Prisons the Democratic Labour Party at a political meeting, told Barbadians that we wanted to build more prisons to lock up more black people. I remember that very well. That was their attitude and now they are talking about the prison being overcrowded, people are suffering and their human rights are being trampled.

Way back in 1961 when the Barbados Labour Party had the foresight and said that we should begin to metre our water, the Democratic Labour Party said that the Barbados Labour Party wanted to impose metres on people to stop them from using pipe water.

Sir, they have the same attitude now about the GEMS of Barbados, the Urban Development Commission (UDC) and the Greenland Landfill. But we are not going to be thrown off target by their protestations because we know it is a knee-jerk reaction to the development in Barbados which the Barbados Labour Party is involved in.

Sir, my first few minutes would have to be spent in a kind of mopping up operation. Sir, if you want to build a house, you have to lay a foundation but before you do that you have to clear the land of the debris, bush, old tyres and the other junk that have been dumped on it in order to create a habitable situation to put your new structure.

4.05 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, Senator Mc Clean has made some issues about the Department of Science and Technology which was also spoken about by Senator Laurie. Sir, where that is concerned, they sought to show that Department has been neglected, it does not have a leader. Sir, I know for sure that the post has been advertised, persons were interviewed and presently there is a recommendation for a very experienced and established individual to fill that post. Sir, very soon the Science and Technology Department will be fully staffed and headed by a highly and properly qualified person. Sir, Senator McClean tried to decry the number of staff but never said how many there should be; he just said it was too small. In a country that is properly run we do not throw money on people to solve problems. We have to try and clear up

issues by properly analysing them and putting them into their proper context by seeking to give them the resources they deserve by studying the function they are performing.

Senator Collymore spoke about the need for proper management of personal emolument and a need to protect the public expenditure. He was fearful of the cost of the annual Government's Wage Bill. That is also a concern for all taxpayers and all persons who are intent on seeing the proper management of Government but this Government has introduced a policy where we seek to protect and monitor that Wages Bill very closely, whereas institutions that are directly financed by the taxpayers, for example, statutory boards, ministries or departments, if they want to increase their staff, have to present a case to the Ministry of the Civil Service justifying the creation of those posts. They also have to present a case to the Ministry of Finance showing how they will pay for those posts. Therefore, we just do not create posts willy-nilly. In other words, the Wages Bill does not rise by the whims and fancies of any particular head of department or Permanent Secretary; it has to go through a process whereby the creation and justification of that post has to be justified with both the Ministry of the Civil Service and the Ministry of Finance.

Sir, Senator Collymore also made reference to the need for the management of the QEH and I recall very well that this Government has appointed a Permanent Secretary who came out of the experience of the Central Purchasing Department, with a knowledge and training in supplies management, supplies training and acquisition, to look after the purchasing and supplies management of the QEH. Therefore, it cannot be said that this Government did not attempt to do something about it. Sir, we are sure that with the new dispensation coming to the Hospital in terms of a new Board, that area will be looked at as an area of special needs and will be taken care of.

I want to spend a few minutes to talk about Senator Laurie and Tyrol Cot. Senator Laurie described Tyrol Cot as a millstone around the neck of the Barbados National Trust. There is a history both to and about Tyrol Cot but there is also the question of the attitude of some persons in the Barbados National Trust to Tyrol Cot who, for some reason, sought to shut it down a few weeks ago. I am happy to announce - and I am sorry that Senator Laurie is not here now, but if he would look at a copy of the Estimates on page 117, Head 27, subprogram 345 - Barbados National Trust, it will show that Government has, in 2000 to 2003, allocated \$300 000 to the Barbados National Trust, up from \$150 000 last year. This is an interim step and there are meetings planned with the Ministry of Finance to look at how the future of the Barbados National Trust can be properly safeguarded in a more long term venture that will come after this allocation. Therefore, this is not the end-all and be-all, this is only a temporary measure and there is a long-term solution being sought. Certainly, Senator Laurie,

who was very integral to the discussion about Tyrol Cot, should know that subvention had been doubled to show Government's good intention of protecting the integrity and longevity of the Barbados National Trust. Therefore I think it is unfair...

Aside:

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am sorry I have to say that behind his back but if he were here I would have said it to him.

Sir, Senator McClean also dealt with his favourite theme again; accusing the BLP of indulging in public relations gimmicks. Sure we appreciate public relations because we see public relations as a mean of communicating to the general public, a means of sharing information as far as good governance and as part of the politics of including the public in your information process. Sir, what he does not say is that first of all our public relations is totally home grown. There is no Jennifer Lazzlo in this instant, this is 100 per cent Bajan and that is how we think. We appreciate how to get the good things across to the country. On the other hand, Senator McClean's Party prefers to indulge in public relations that rely on letting the public know every cuff, every blow, every kick; the infighting that goes on in the Party. Sir, that is how we have to part company where public relations are concerned.

Senator McClean also spoke about where Barbadians came from. First of all, we have to understand that Barbados, as it is today, can no longer be said to be a black country. Barbados is a multiracial, multicultural, multiethnic society but we, at the same time, have an appreciation for our history, whatever type of history it is. We talked about Barbadian artifacts and we have already begun that process. Anybody who has been viewing CBC over the last few months has been seeing those films, "The Way We Were." Those films were in London and we have brought them back. They are a very valuable and historical part of our national heritage that we have brought back and we therefore have an appreciation of the need for what we have to do and that is only the beginning of that.

Sir, they talked about the need for us to have a clear identity of ourselves. Sir, if you can recall, it was this Barbados Labour Party who had institutionalized, in a very meaningful way, a concept of National Heroes Day; of having an appreciation of a person's heritage and identity. A concept with which the DLP fought tooth and nail with persons like David Commissiong. We have made Emancipation Day a significant event; July 26 a significant event; we now have proper National Heroes Day. We did not seek to pay homage to one national hero, we have a pantheon of national heroes to which we pay homage, whose contribution to development of this society not only appreciate but seek to portray for all Barbados and the

world to see as a matter of historical record. Sir, in that respect, we do not have to apologize, we are quite clear about where we are going in that matter.

Again, Senator McClean talked about Ministers handing over cheques and made it seem as though it is a crime of some sort for a Minister to be handing over cheques; cheques which have gone through the process of being cleared by Smart Stream system. Presently, cheques are no longer handwritten, they go through the smart stream computerized process where there are several layers of satisfactory process needed before any cheque can reach the point of being printed and signed. They are now signed by computer and the Chief Personnel Officer is the person to do that, in the same way Ministers receive cheques. When Ministers receive cheques to go into the Consolidated Fund there is no outcry. It is not seen as a disgrace and some cynical political move. Tell me please, how a cheque that has to go through the proper channels can be seen to be unseemly for that same Minister to hand over a cheque? I do not see how that counts up and, therefore, I would dismiss it as a very poor attempt on the part of the DLP to try to regain some lost faith over the issue of the kiosk at Ferneihurst. 4.15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Some people say it was a waste when the original unauthorised, illegal kiosk was demolished but it was only a waste of time and effort of those persons who promoted the idea and financed it. Maybe Senator Mascoll has an idea of who those persons are that encouraged it but it was not a waste to the Government nor the taxpayers of Barbados because we did not seek to finance that illegal structure in the first place so we are not guilty of any waste, having demolished the illegal structure. It was a commendable effort that we sought to enforce the law and make sure that due progress is respect adhered to and at the same time we are prepared to create kiosks, markets and vending facilities around Barbados. Some of these facilities are also scheduled for St. Thomas, St. George, Oistins and Speightstown in St. Peter.

Sir, the financing of this kiosk in Ferniehurst was not some dastardly plot hatched in the dead of night for some cynical political reason but part of a national programme.

Sir, I want to deal with some other substantive issues and also to look at those issues relating to the Ministry of the Civil Service. The Ministry of the Civil Service has had an active year and we have been proceeding with the long awaited job evaluation exercise which has been long overdue. The last evaluation in Barbados was done in 1989 in a subjective and ad hoc manner which left more people unhappy than satisfied. We have sought to bring about a more transparent, objective and professional process by

which all jobs in the public service of Barbados will now be evaluated and given a certain weight, merit and value in the future.

Sir, this process started in November 2000 and is now proceeding at a pace and is a two-phase process. The first phase, the diagnostic phase has been completed and the second phase will be the implementation phase. The diagnostic phase is to access the nature of the problem relating to jobs in order to decide an appropriate solution to the problem. We have started the implementation phase on November 1, 2000 and this will be completed in approximately eighteen months.

Sir, this job evaluation is not being done by any politicians. It is being done by a steering committee which is chaired by the Head of the Civil Service and the membership is drawn from the senior ranks of the public service and trade unions who represent the interest of the public servants. The process is on the way, good progress is being reported and we have no doubt that it will meet the targets which have been set.

Sir, another major development over the last financial year was a revised qualification order which came into effect from December 30, 2001. The last qualification order was done in 1976 and it is almost twenty-five years since we have had an up-to-date qualification order in Barbados for the public service. This Qualification Order is a very comprehensive document that covers every established post in the public service except those in the Royal Barbados Police Force and unlike other previous orders, the legal post, teaching service and casual workers are included in this order.

This Qualification Order has sought to clarify the appropriate changes that have been made since 1976 because since 1976, scores of posts would have been created, some posts would have evolved into new areas and, therefore, would have had to have their qualifications amended.

The Public Service Act was also done by the Ministry of the Public Service over the last year. This new Public Service Act must be seen as central to the general public sector process that is on the way and a committee was set up to advise on the policy framework. The recommendations have been laid in Parliament and debate has begun in the Other Place.

4.25 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: This will bring a new management, a new look and conditions of service for all public sector personnel, financial

management, discipline and functioning of the various commissions et cetera.

We are sure that the work of the committee will impact on the public sector and as we sought to consolidate and revise these programmes in order to help to create new services which will inure to the benefit for Barbados for the next twenty years to make the Barbados public service in-depth and equipped for the task it will have to carry out in playing its role in making Barbados to continue to achieve growth and development in the new emerging global environment.

Sir, with the conclusion on the debate of this proposed policy framework, the drafting of a new Public Service Act will begin as soon as possible. We will like to think that Act can be drafted and completed this year, 2002. I could not conclude without looking at the public service which is easily one of the most successful and important aspects of Public Sector Reform, where Government sought to convert approximately 5 000 casual workers into new public officers in Barbados. This has brought a new image and meaning to the lives of these persons. It has brought with it enhanced benefits, status, increased and expanded retirement benefits, which in many cases have would almost double.

I am happy to say that the process which involved the unions has gone very well and we estimate that approximately 99 per cent of those persons who were eligible for appointments to public officers status were appointed.

Sir, they are persons who are working in acting capacities or temporary positions for a long period of time and have not yet been made permanent appointees by the Statutory Boards. Some of these Statutory Boards have been delinquent in regularising these positions and we are working hard to bring them on. There is an unfortunate aspect of this exercise which created a culture by some persons who were once casual workers. Some of these new appointees have adopted a new culture. They are taking advantage or abusing sick leave.

Sir, having enhanced their status and given security of tenure, they are now as public officers seeking to abuse the same system from which they can benefit. Sir, a system which has been abused by their predecessors and that is a serious problem which has grave implications for both the finances and productivity levels of Barbadian society. Sir, we are now working in collaboration with the unions in an effort to weed out this practice.

I will also like to mention that a new training policy is underway for the Ministry of the Civil Service. It is felt that in today's dynamic world we need to have a comprehensive training policy that will meet the needs of

the entire public service. We intend to develop a new training policy in a creative and comprehensive manner that will more adequately represent what are the intentions and goals of the public service set by the Government, therefore, providing a service that will allow persons to provide a more efficient and effective service for the public who pays their salaries and whom they serve.

Sir, many of these measures are part of the general public sector reform effort. There have been many good deeds which are ongoing but unfortunately there have not been publicised adequately. In a few weeks time you will observe things in the press and the electronic media which will draw attention to public sector reform and the existing activities in the various government departments and Ministries. These initiatives were not imposed on the employees by management.

I am very pleased to say that you will see a new dynamism given to the new Public Sector Reform efforts in the future through its public relations of what has been happening. The public has to be made aware that the Public Sector Reform is not dead. It needs to be promoted and marketed like any other service in the public service.

One of our more successful programmes is the Employee Assistance Programme. We make it possible for persons who are suffering from any disabilities relating to stress, addictions, domestic problems and grief which are affecting them as individuals and their productivity of services. The Employee Assistance Programme is available to all employees. They may be referred by their superiors who may detect that some employees have problems or they can seek assistance on their own. All information regarding persons seeking assistance remains strictly confidential. Sir, approximately seven hundred public officers have used the services of counselling and assistance from this programme. This programme has met the support of the unions and it is a programme that the Government will continue to support and leave that as a place of solace for public sector workers who need professional services.

Sir, another issue is the Performance Review and Development System (PRDS). The PRDS is a replacement for the archaic and unsatisfactory system where every year routinely, if you are lucky, an annual confidential report is given to employees who in turn fill them out. We are replacing that by what is called a Performance Review and Development system, which is a modern system developed with the support and cooperation of the unions. It is a system where targets are set for the individuals, and the organisation. If an individual has any difficulties in meeting the targets set by the organisation, those deficiencies are pointed out and a chance is given for them to improve so that when the next evaluation comes around,

they would have had a chance to enhance their performance for the betterment of the overall assessment.

Sir, these assessments are done periodically during the year so that by the end of the year you will have a more systematic objective system, rather than something, which if it is done at all, is done at the whim and fancy of individuals rather than in a constructive way.

4.35 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: This is a system based on merit and helps to create a bigger meritocracy in the service where persons are not necessarily appointed or promoted on the basis of seniority, longevity or survivability but more on the question of merit, performance and contribution to the system. It is being overseen by a Steering Committee and being implemented by a project team which has been set up in the Personnel Administration Department and every month reports are submitted to the Ministry of the Civil Service and to the Head of the Civil Service for this performance review and development system. We have put great store in this system which we think can only contribute to a better public service and enhance the whole question of the performance of the public service in Barbados. So far, we have been able to pay out of the Estimates.

Sir, I would like to turn now to the question of the Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister's Office does a multiplicity of things and one of the things I would like to deal with which has not been dealt with before has been the question of compensation to churches for repairs of church properties which were formerly used as schools by the Ministry of Education and were returned to the churches without repairs by the Government.

I am pleased to say, Sir, that the Committee which is set up in the Prime Minister's Office to deal with this problem so far has been able to pay two denominations fairly sizeable sums of money out of the last allocation in the 2001-02 Estimates. In the case of the Anglican Church, we have been able to pay \$480 673 for four properties which had been returned by the Ministry of Education without repairs. These school buildings were St. Swithin's Primary at a cost of \$174 863, Cherry Grove Primary at a cost of \$69 000, St. Philip Boys' School - \$134 000, Holy Trinity Boys - \$102 810. That adds up to a grand total of \$480 673 to the Anglican Church.

In the case of the Methodist Church, they have been paid \$243 210 for repairs to the Beulah Girls' School. Both the Anglican and Methodist churches have received payments of almost \$800 000 from the last allocation. Work on compensation for the other buildings is underway.

Discussions are underway and one of the last stages that had to be done were the remaining six properties for the Anglican and five for the Methodists and three belonging to the Moravian church, some 14 properties outstanding.

Some evaluations were being done by a quantity surveyor and the report is being awaited. As a matter of fact, it is probably about two weeks behind hand. Once that is done, Government has allocated in the next financial year another \$1 million in the 2002-03 Estimates to meet the payments for these properties for which compensation will be approved during the coming financial year.

Sir, I am very happy to be able to report considerable and pleasing progress in an area which has been long a bone of contention between various governments and the churches. We feel that the churches of all denominations which have property have made a valuable contribution to the social, moral and spiritual development of Barbados and that they should not be hard done by and that they need money to run their affairs and Government has to set an example to show its appreciation for their work, not only in lip service but in hard cash, which will, therefore, help to put them in a much better financial position to continue the work in a society where secularism, if we are not careful, will predominate over things religious. We have to make sure that there is always a balance between the secular and the religious in the society, a society which in the same way that we are now a multicultural society we are no longer an Anglican society or a Methodist society, we are not just even a Christian society but a multi-faith society.

We have a multiplicity of faiths in Barbados, Hindus, Muslims, Bahai et cetera. It is even broader than ecumenical, it is several different faiths. Sir, we accept persons despite their colour or their culture. We have to accept also that their faith is secondary to who they are as human beings. If that is done, Sir, I am sure that Barbados will be a much more cohesive and harmonious society and that we will have the quality of life and the quality of country of which we can all be proud and in which we can all live comfortably.

Sir, some issue has been attempted to be made, and I do not think that it has really got off the ground - it is like in the days when we had carbides, sometimes they fizzed and did not get off the ground and there was no explosion - over the fact that the Prime Minister has taken Culture under his portfolio, they have tried to make it out as some major issue, but the Prime Minister has a very clear concept of what culture is. It is not just about dancing, singing, painting and reciting poetry but it is the way of life of the Barbadian, the total Barbadian society, every aspect of the Barbadian society in the same way as when he took the question of AIDS under his office.

That step, Sir, has earned Barbados a high commendation, both regionally and internationally, the fact that a Prime Minister could use the authority and the prestige of his office to illustrate the great moment that he is placing on AIDS and Culture so that it has come to mean a lot to people. Sir, I can assure you that those who have been sniping at such a step have not come from the artistic community, artistic in the very broader sense. It is only the political ne'er-do-well who would seek to make that an issue. We understand that they have to clutch at something to grasp.

In the meantime, the cultural sector has performed admirably and there are several aspects of its performance over the last year which have been very good, but I want particularly to focus on the question that among the ideas that the Prime Minister has, one is that the National Festival of Creative Arts, NIFCA, should be restored to its place of pre-eminence as the foremost festival in Barbados by which all cultural manifestations in Barbados are judged.

NIFCA came into being in 1967 through persons like the late Arden Clarke and since then it has seen better days. One of the first steps the Prime Minister has done would have been last year to move the award ceremony which had fallen in importance and regard for some people. That was for the first time in a very long time taken to the Prime Minister except for the very first year when it was held at Culloden Farm. The award ceremony had not taken place at the official residence of the Prime Minister and last year the Prime Minister moved that event to Ilaro Court to show the importance that his office and the Government as a whole attaches to NIFCA as a breeding ground and as a nursery for all the artistic pursuits in Barbados.

I am pleased to say that that step was so significant and so much welcomed by the artistic community that out of a total of 311 persons who were receiving awards of various categories, 309 attended the ceremony. I think the people voted and spoke in appreciation with their feet and for 309 out of 311 to turn up at any event tells a story in its own right. I do not think that that can be seriously questioned. The benefits of that have already begun to pay off. People now have a new sense of spirit, purpose and appreciation for NIFCA and I am sure that in this coming year, Sir, in the next NIFCA festival time we will see the benefits of that being manifested in several ways.

Last year, Sir, the Governor-General's Award of Excellence in the culinary arts was awarded for the first time. We included video in the photography section of NIFCA and one of the most touching and far-reaching indications as to how the new spirit and attitude has been given to NIFCA was the fact of the award of the Ivan Payne Award of Excellence to an inmate of Her Majesty's Prisons who attended the award ceremony at Ilaro Court,

not under heavy guard but treated with dignity, dressed suitably for the occasion as any other person, was a very special moment, I think not only in the life of the award but for those who witnessed that very important occasion.

Sir, I could not deal with the question of culture unless I made some comments on the whole question of spouse before I get into Cropover. This is something that I have thought about carefully: that indigenous beat in Barbados and indigenous musical idiom and the attitude to which it has been subjected by persons who can do much to help it perpetuate itself and show greater appreciation for it.

I want to pay tribute to the well established impressario, entertainer and performer, Richard Stoute, for the Herculean efforts he has made to ensure that spouse which was created by the late Jackie Opel is given the true regard which it deserves in Barbados. Government took the first step about four years ago by naming the amphitheatre at the general post office after Jackie Opel which is next door to St. Mary's School where he went to school. We thought that that was a step that would show Government's appreciation for who could be regarded as the first musical icon, a true, genuine, indigenous musical icon of Barbadian extract.

We went a bit further and since then the Community Independence Celebration Secretariat has each year awarded a trophy to the winner of the best musical rendition in the annual Richard Stoute contest and also give a financial contribution to the winner of that contest. Government has really established its bona fides in this respect but this year on March 12th a day after Jackie Opel had died, some 32 years before, Richard Stoute and some others have worked to stage a memorial concert for Jackie Opel at the Frank Collymore Hall - non-political.

I regret to say that the concert which was of an extremely high standard the Frank Collymore Hall was only half full, not because people did not think it was important, it was not promoted enough. I want to say that I was very disappointed at the attitude of the radio stations and the newspapers. One radio station did some promos on radio and the lone television station, which is CBC, did not live up to its promise of giving television promo even if they came and filmed the event for future viewing as a programme. I was told by some of the newspapers that no stories were actually written to promote it because no ads were being bought.

4.45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: It was not spectacular. It was not Kenny Rogers or some famous singer. The Cental Bank showed their appreciation for the

effort, as giving a very generous concession, on the cost of using the hall for the occasion. I would like to think, Sir, that this will not happen again.

Sir, before I close, I would like to mention the Government's expanded HIV/AIDS programme. This involves some eight ministries across Government and we have received great cooperation from the public sector and private sector. We have been very pleased with the progress that is being made to tackle this issue which is probably one of the most important issues facing Barbados today and which saps at the well being and the future of the Barbadian society.

We are happy, Sir, that on April 3, 2002 new facilities which will be used in a new phase of the treatment and care of persons suffering with HIV/AIDS in Barbados will be opened officially at the Lady Meade Garden in Jemmotts Lane. This facility will have all the services available: lab testing, clinic services, counselling services and basically to access the application for the anti retroviral treatment which will add to the quality of life, the quality of care and the longevity of the persons, that we know will create a new world for persons who are, unfortunately, affected by HIV/AIDS.

Most important, the Government has done its work and the private sector has, in the past, donated materials. Some persons have donated photographic services. Financial contributions have been made but we want to say that along with the medication, the new physical facilities and the equipment, that there is a new attitude that comes forth in the Barbadian society, where we will erase the discrimination and stigmatization of persons who are affected with HIV/AIDS. It is hoped that those persons will be allowed the same treatment and dignity as other persons in the society. We feel that unless that comes, along with the enhanced treatment, care and attention, we would not be doing our job.

Apart from that, one of the next steps that we intend to take would be the setting up of an HIV/AIDS foundation. This is the major initiative being contemplated now. The job would be to raise and receive funds, including donations, loans, investments, sales of commissions, royals and royalties and the like, to inform and educate the public about HIV/AIDS, to facilitate access to spiritual, psychological, medical, surgical and psychiatric services for persons with HIV/AIDS and to contribute to research being advantageous to the knowledge of HIV/AIDS infection, to establish and find accommodation for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and to cooperate and support the work of individuals and organisations, having objectives similar to the foundation.

Therefore, Sir, we think that a new era will be dawned with the opening of those facilities for persons

living with HIV/AIDS in Barbados. Therefore, I call on the Barbadian society to join the Government and all the volunteers who are in that process to make life better for persons whom we do not intend to leave behind. It is in that spirit, therefore, that I commend these Estimates to this Chamber.

I thank you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 5.15 p.m.

The question that this Sitting be now suspended until 5:15 was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

4.53 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I rise to make my contribution to the Appropriation Bill for \$1.1 billion and to congratulate the Leader of Government Business for his excellent presentation today especially in the area of health which we have not heard in the Senate to that extent before. So I am very glad that he has confirmed and re-enforced quite a lot of what I was saying in this Senate for the past seven or so years.

Mr. Deputy President, I want to limit my contribution today by using the theme which another Senator has used, "Preparing for the smallest developed country in Barbados in the next ten years", and look to see if we are going in that direction. In my last debate I gave my vision for the health care system but I want to look and see which direction we are going.

I note that 50 per cent of Government expenditure is for personal emoluments and debt servicing which is quite a large sum. I do not think that is going to be reduced in future years because it will increase about 5 per cent each year, so we need to think seriously if this is the direction in which we are going. What will happen, Sir, when we have to service the debts? Will we be able to have expenditure for other areas? That I do not know, only time will tell.

I want to turn now to the sick days that have been so widely discussed and publicized. I must say up front that I do not condone unnecessary sickness but there are some areas in the economy that are making us sick, for example,

pollution. It has made me sick and when you think you are getting better, down comes the pollution again and you are sick again and you are forever pumping pills like Sudafed and antihistamine in order to get better.

Now that we have a fully fledged Ministry of the Environment, the time has come for them to take a full firm role and do something about the pollution. Down Batts RockBrighton's, the Barbados Light and Power Company emits loads of black smoke.

The other morning when I was coming from my early exercise I saw the Pine Hill Dairy emitting some thick black smoke. Fortunately, my car is air-conditioned and I could turn up the windows and put on the air-conditioning but when I want to go out during the day and walk around it is not so easy. So some people have to stay at home during the day and go out early in the morning or late in the evening when the pollution is not so bad.

Now, there are measures that can be implemented to stop this pollution. There are filters that could be used. They might cost a bit but it will cost less in medication and less respiratory infections and asthmatic attacks which is helping to escalate our health bill.

I do not know what role the Licensing Authority plays in controlling pollution when they give persons road worthy certificates for their vehicles. I would like to see the officers taking the vehicles for a drive to see how much emission is coming from them. In some countries, vehicles that give off emission are pulled off the road and the owners must fix them before they are allowed to go on the road again. This is not too much to ask for the health of our nation because health this year as always for the last couple of years is the second largest receiver of Government funds.

I have said on many occasions that health is a bottomless pit. It can suck in as much money as you can throw into it. Therefore, what one has to look for is efficiency in order to reduce the cost of health care. I sincerely hope that with our new Minister of Health we will be able to make some headway.

Another area of the environment I will like to spend a few seconds on is noise pollution which is also affecting us. I know there are instruments in environmental health that can measure the level of noise pollution but when this is done I do not know what happens. There was some construction next door to me and they were using these big tractors but they had to stop using them at certain hours of the day.

There are also other areas of noise pollution like the tooting of car horns which are affecting us.

Mr. Deputy President, a section of the society has tuned out because they are not interested in listening to anybody and they walk around the place with headphones and their radio turned up loud which means that down the road, the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist is going to have to do all sorts of operations because their hearing is going to be impaired. So we need to start some sort of educational programme to educate these people that using too many decibels can damage their ears.

Another area of potential pollution is the disposal of batteries both small and large. We want to be moving towards a developed country in the next ten years and we cannot move there unless we control our environment. We allow people to bury batteries but that can pollute our underground water source. In some countries, the people who sell the batteries have to take them back and arrangements are made for the disposal of the batteries. The acid in the batteries is not good for us.

Are we really going in the right direction or are we going in the wrong direction about the Greenland Landfill? Every one of us in here knows that we do not have enough land to keep having landfills. We do not even have enough land for housing for our people so we cannot take up what we have and use it for dumping sites. At some point in time we are going to have to come to terms with this and think in terms of incinerators. I know I am talking about pollution but we are going to have to filter the emission from the incinerator sometime because we are running out of land space and we do not have unlimited funds to spend on the Greenland Landfill.

I have said this in here before and I am going to say it again. My family property is next door to Greenland and we had to move from down there because my grandparents woke up on morning and found the house down in the road so Greenland is not suitable for a landfill. The land slips but we are still paying taxes on it. I think we need to cut our losses and move ahead and get into incineration as a method of disposal and sorting of garbage.

5.25 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: The people are ready to sort out the garbage; they are ready to put their garbage in one kind of plastic bag, the bottles in another, et cetera. They do it when they go overseas and I am sure they are willing to do it here. It is time we move in that direction.

Mr. Deputy President, I would like to go onto the area regarding a health education unit in the Ministry of Health. Sir, since 1982 this is a Proposal I wrote the Government of Barbados to set up a health education unit

because I had the job of Health Education Officer in the Ministry of Health. I still have the Proposal since 1982 and the priority areas I gave to the Government are: the drug benefit service, aging, drug abuse, cervical and breast cancer, the opening of polyclinics 24 hours and community nurses, including the preventative aspect of chronic and degenerative diseases. At that time, they would not look at the issue of diabetes nor hypertension. Now they are coming around to that but not as much.

Sir, in 1974, I did submit a plan on ambulatory centres...

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs P. E. RICKINSON: 50 years ahead of my time, I think I was.

Sir, this was the Proposal that was done. I had advised the Government until I went blue in the face about it. Sir, there is need for health education; one cannot get far without it. All they are doing is fragmenting health education and we do not know what is happening. People are duplicating the efforts and are just wasting money. Sir, take dengue fever for example. How do you think we got rid of it? We had people going from house to house, looking under the flower pots and teaching people that although their houses were clean, there was water settled under those plant pots which can breed mosquitoes. At that time, people were not allowed to get rid of the eggs because the Public Health officials were the ones to do that. These health officers would go from house to house, 365 days a year. They got the aegypti mosquito index so low that we got rid of dengue fever. Now with our development what has happened? The Public Health inspectors have factories and other areas and the Government has not been able to expand it sufficiently for persons to go from house to house and teach people about dengue. Let us learn from the survey of HIV/AIDS to young people. What did they say? Too many statistics. Put a face on HIV/AIDS. In other words, what they are telling you is that they want people to come and talk to them face-to-face and explain things to them. Public relations is okay but there is a reinforcement agency. I noticed that the Commission has advertised for a Public Relations Officer. I have no quarrel with that but what you need for these conditions is face-to-face education; two-way communication between people. There is the need for foot soldiers all over the island.

Mr. Deputy President, on Friday I was asked to find three persons to go to a training seminar which starts Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. They are going to release them but it is going to make the hospital difficult. I do not know if they are trying to use up the funds or not. Therefore, why a Friday to get people for the following Wednesday? Sir, this is what is happening all the time. In

other words, you are going in a wrong direction and this is wrong. You are not going to be the most developed country in the next ten years if we continue like that. We need the same face-to-face education to go with diabetes, hypertension, drug use and abuse and we cannot have different people going into the schools. The school curriculum cannot have people going into the system; one set for family planning; one set for drug abuse, another for dengue, et cetera. There is not enough space in the school curriculum. What we have to do is to have a health and family life education syllabus which I helped them to write years ago since 1972. I do not know what they have done with it. What I tried to do was to show them how they can integrate it into the different disciplines: Mathematics, English or Geography, because we cannot have so many people running into the schools and interrupting the curriculum.

I sincerely hope the health education unit will come to pass. Mr. Deputy President, there is only one person there at a salary of Z10.1. I ask, what can one person do? He cannot even coordinate the activities of what is happening. It is too much work.

Mr. Deputy President, I would like to give credit to the Haynes Commission. As I said, they are trying to sensitize the population but time will tell if this is the way to go. What I would like to see happen is that the Elroy Centre be properly staffed. Sir, for those who do not know, the Elroy Centre is the only residential place in Barbados for persons with HIV/AIDS. They live there, have to be ambulated, but are looked after by a cadre of people, including health aids. The post of supervisor has been absent for a long time. It has recently been advertised and I hope that it will be filled more sooner than later because that Centre needs some semblance of direction. It needs someone with management capabilities who could give both the staff and the patients some form of direction. I go and talk to them and I see how I can help the staff but I can only do so much. There is need for a qualified person stationed there. There is also need to get those health aids training updated and to choose persons that are going to be working there very carefully.

Mr. Deputy President, I welcome the Leader of Government Business saying that nursing assistant training for three years will be started. That is needed but I sincerely hope that it will be done in collaboration with Barbados Community College and would not be a separate training school, as was done before which caused all sorts of chaos. I do not see why the Barbados Community College cannot oversee the training. I heard it was to be at the Psychiatric Hospital and the only thing that stopped it was because they did not have steps for a fire escape. It does not take long to build a few steps. That Psychiatric Hospital Training School has been there from time immemorial and has trained many single-trained

psychiatric nurses with England now taking most of them and promoting them as quickly as possible into sisters and is sending for more and more of them all the time. They are only trained in single psychiatric training at the hospital.

I know because several of the board of directors and young people who I was training in trade unionism, et cetera, have left and gone to England and have written me that they have been promoted.

5.35 p.m.

Monday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR MRS. P. E. RICKINSON: There is no reason why the Barbados Community College cannot oversee the training of nursing assistants. I personally feel that the ratio of qualified nurses to nursing assistants is wrong. The qualified nurses have to do an Associate Degree. It is an expensive and sophisticated programme and they should be allowed to do what they are trained to do. The nursing assistants are practical nurses who can be used throughout the system and they too should be allowed to do what they are trained to do.

For example, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there is a nursing assistant downstairs who runs a dressing clinic but when she goes on the ward they will not allow her to do dressings on the ward. This does not make sense.

We cannot become a developed country in the next ten years if we do not change course and do so quickly. We need to train these nursing assistants and allow them to do what they are trained to do. This will go a long way in staffing our health care system.

Mr. Deputy President in keeping with the draft nursing policy for the Commonwealth Caribbean I would like to see the Barbados Community College start training those health aides.

Some nurses feel that health aides are demeaning the nursing profession but they are only demeaning the profession because the nurses are not accepting their responsibility and giving guidance and support to the health aides. When I was trained in England in 1955 health aides brought the bed pan and made beds but in this year 2002, registered nurses do not want to work with health aides and are treating them badly. Yet at nights there is only one staff nurse in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and if health aides are not at work the patients would not get the necessary care.

Sir, we have to look at our system and what we are doing. In the district hospital and the geriatric hospital health aides are in charge of the ward because there are no nurses and they do double shifts as well and also work at

night. I would like to see the Barbados Community College start programmes for training them or have in-house training at one of the hospitals.

Mr. Deputy President, this is not my idea. It is in keeping with the draft nursing policy for the Commonwealth Caribbean which says that the training of health aides should be part of the responsibility of the nursing educational system. Other Caribbean countries use health aides as well as Canada, United States of America and Australia but when it comes to Barbados they give health aides a hard time.

Mr. Deputy President, in order for health aides to be more comfortable I would like to examine the job description that was submitted in keeping with other health aides and what they have been doing. It was submitted since the year 2002 with the recommendations for the Haynes Report to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and subsequently submitted to the Ministry of Civil Service but they are reluctant to discuss it.

Sir, no matter how many boards are put in place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the attitude and the culture of the nurses must change.

Sir, these health aides do exactly what they do for the elderly at home. They comb their hair, give them something to drink, take them for a walk and bathe them et cetera and they can do the same for the patients in the hospital. Sir, you do not need an associate degree to do these things and some people are leading them astray.

Government cannot afford to have glorified maids with associate degrees walking down to the laboratories to carry specimen because the health aides are there to perform these functions while nurses should give nursing care and act as professional people. Sir, I have nothing to lose and it is time that I speak out about these matters.

I asked for uniforms for the health aides since 2000 because they wear these horrible smocks that make the patients feel more sick than they are and when you are sick you want to see someone smartly dressed. The Haynes Report said they should be dressed in uniforms in keeping with their wishes.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: A pattern was sent in for a light blue uniform two years ago. I do not know what is blocking this but I am telling the Minister of Health who is also the leader of Government Business and the whole of Barbados about it so that people will know what nonsense is going on in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

They only want the health aides to do housekeeping....

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: The senior nursing personnel made up the job description and the health aides chose the uniform since two years ago and the pattern is available. They are blocking the health aides and giving them problems but when the nurses are home sleeping at night the health aides have to come in and do the work that the nurses should be doing.

Sir, patients look forward to seeing the health aides because they are polite and look after the patients well. They carry water and bed pans to the patients and when you are sick and people do those things, you are very grateful.

5.45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. Deputy President, in 1998, there was a draft strategic plan. I have all the documents. If the Leader of Government Business wants any copies I can give them to him.

Sir, we called an audit to determine the cost-effective skill of nurses. I will explain this to you, Mr. Deputy President. There are different categories of workers. For example, you have the Registered Nurses, Nurses Assistants and the Health Aides. What you want to find out in this process is what mix of persons you will need to give the best care to a patient. You might need one Health Aide, two Nurse Assistants and one Staff Nurse to a ward, that is what you call skill-mix to run a ward and this will assist in reducing the cost of running the hospital.

We need to have the Health Aides accepted in the hospital system. They are currently being accepted in the District Hospitals. They are accepted because sometimes, in the District Hospitals, there is no one else available to give the care to the patients but they need some training.

Mr. Deputy President, I would like to see the Health Aides who are currently employed to be given first preference to do the Nursing Assistant training. Some of them are matured students and some have been told that they have to start doing all sorts of things which are not necessary in order to qualify to attend these courses.

Sir, I went into the university here in Barbados without any A'level subjects and graduated with Upper Second Class Honours. When you are mature, you can study better. These Health Aides want to study. They work

hard and deserve to be given first priority in any form of training that the Government is implementing.

Sir, there are some substitute nurses who have been working and giving loyal service to the Government, when the appointed nurses do not turn up for work the substitute nurses are called and they come and prop-up the hospital, particularly the District Hospitals. When it comes to appointments, these nurses are overlooked and friends are appointed over these substitute nurses. Sir, that is an injustice to these substitute nurses and it is wrong. We need a proper system for appointments so that your loyal workers are not unfaired by the current system.

I am very glad that Senator Murray spoke about the performance review of workers. Mr. Deputy President, these workers give of their best during the year and when it is time for their report, their names are not submitted for appointment. I have received complaints about this practice. I asked if they were not given any reasons for their names not being submitted for appointment and they said no reasons were given. I asked if they were given bad reports or if they were counselled and they said no. Mr. Deputy President, I told them that they should have been told the reasons why their names have not been submitted. You have to be told what you are doing wrong and given the opportunity to change. If they do not improve their performances then they will know why their names have not been sent up for appointments.

Sir, a lot of the appointed nurses are lazy and do not want to do any work and if you have to tell them anything they get vexed and victimise some nurses by not submitting their names for appointments. I told them that I am not going to tolerate that kind of treatment that is meted to substitute nurses. It is sending the wrong message and it needs to be changed and changed quickly.

Another area of concern is, substitute nurses will report for duty and they are not given any reports on patients. Sometimes these nurses feed patients who are scheduled for operations because no reports were given on the patients. Are you telling me that someone is working on a ward and you are not giving that person any information on patients? You do not have to give the nurse the patient's business because the patient tells the nurse anyway. The Staff Nurses or the Sisters who are

in charge of the wards at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital do not give reports on patients to the substitute nurses. I have mentioned this to the Matron and the Permanent Secretary. The Permanent Secretary does not understand what I am trying to tell him. Sir, for two years I have been trying to get the Permanent Secretary, who is in charge of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, to understand and I cannot get through to him. His name is Mr. Bascombe.

Asides.

Mr. Deputy PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member is not supposed to call names of persons unless the Member first seeks permission from the Chair and I hope that such a slip does not occur again. Proceed, please.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Your Honour, it will not occur again.

Aides

Mr. Deputy PRESIDENT: Please do not be intimidated by the asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I am sorry your Honour. That would not happen again.

Mr. Deputy President, I want to speak about the flexibility allowance that has been made available. This flexibility allowance is only given to employees of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Psychiatric Hospital. We have an aging society and we have been here talking about those who have contributed to the development of this country but when it comes to the care of these people there are overlooked. The nurses have to care for those persons in the geriatric hospitals and they need that allowance also. They travel as far as St. Lucy week after week to do double shifts, because some nurses have not turned up for duty and the patients cannot be left on their own. They are the people who need the flexibility allowance, not those nurses who work in the office pushing pen and paper and you cannot see what they are doing. The people working on the wards doing the work should be paid this flexibility allowance. I would like to see that policy changed so that all institutions may benefit from it.

Mr. Deputy President, in 1989, the late Dr. Enid Walters, in her book, wrote that it cost the QEH \$250 daily to look after a patient. They are elderly patients in the QEH and persons are currently paid \$50 a day to look after these patients. This is now being increased to \$75 daily. I think that is an excellent idea and I congratulate the Government. However, you need to set up a proper system of inspection to determine what the nursing homes are doing.

5.55 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR MRS. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. Deputy President, the Oistins District Hospital needs closing. I complained about this a long time ago because the nurses have to take the patients in blankets in order to carry them down the stairs. It is in an awful state of disrepair and it is terrible. I am glad that you are closing it, but I do not know where you are going to put the patients, because you still

have the elderly holding up the QEH's beds, who need care. I do not know if you are going to get all of them into nursing homes, and if you have the ones from Oistins, I sincerely hope that you will find enough places for them.

Sir, it takes \$250 a day at the QEH, but then, you paying the people \$50 a day, so you see how much money that the Government is saving when you put people in the nursing home, but you just have to monitor what you are doing and be firm with them and not let them tell you that they have political connections and they can do whatever they feel like doing.

Another area that I would like speak to, is the qualifications for the nursing staff.

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has been asking about time. According to my records, she has six minutes more.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I will like to say a word or two about civil establishments, qualifications and the personal emoluments. I sent correspondence to many people, including the Minister of Health, which I hope he received, the head of the Civil Service and others.

I do not know if you all recall that in the Senate some time ago, I spoke about a manager for the Operating Theatre. They did ask for a course in theatre operating techniques, but they advertised for mental health qualifications. I would like to know what mental health has to do with it, because if you are going to manage five operating theatres, you need a manager. You do not need anybody with mental health qualifications, but you need someone qualified in theatre techniques, and I said in the Senate that I did that course in 1959 in England. Then, at the age of 22, I was managing five operating theatres and that is the course you need. This course is available and this is the year 2002 and I am talking about 1958.

The Civil Establishment Order has come out with mental nursing, and not even a qualification in management to run the operating theatres. How are you going to get your operating theatres managed? I do not know who recommended this qualification order to the health section. They need to be relieved from their jobs, whoever did this, because they do not know what they are doing.

Sir, they have done the same thing in nursing. They asked for mental health nursing qualifications for the Matron to manage the QEH, and they have only a few mental health beds, but they did not ask for midwifery

qualifications and they have a host of midwifery and obstetrics beds.

Sir, why are you putting mental nursing qualification to run the geriatric hospital? They have not asked for gerontology. The Chief Nursing Officer does not require as much qualifications as the persons she supervises. A Senior Health Sister must have a degree to manage, but the Chief Nursing Officer is not required to have a degree in management. You can be a Chief Nursing Officer without having a degree. Are you going to tell me that in the year 2002, when you offer your student nurses an associate degree for the basic qualifications who come out without knowing anything, and your Chief Nursing Officer is not required to have a degree? I do not know who advised you. You have to go back and change this quickly, because you are going to run into problems if the trade unions start complaining about the various people imposed at the moment.

People do not have mental health training because it is a speciality, and it is reserved for the mental hospital and for certain other jobs. This is a situation you are going to find yourself into. You do not need mental training to head the Geriatric Hospital but you need Gerontology. They send out the doctors to train in Geriatrics and Gerontology but when it comes to nurses, they tell me it is not a priority. The Ministry of the Civil Service wrote to me when I was trying to get somebody trained for a Masters Degree in Gerontology, and they said it is not a priority.

Sir, we have an aging population. We are not going to disappear. I am 66 years old, and we have a host of aging people like me that have to be catered to and we need people trained in Geriatrics and Gerontology, who would know exactly what they are doing for us, so as not to keep us in a Geriatric Hospital, but to plan community based and other programmes, to carry this country forward so that it would be the most developed country, within the next ten years.

Sir, regarding the qualifications needed, we held a workshop and we put the qualifications order with remarks indicating reasons why it cannot work. I sincerely hope that it is taken seriously, and I do not have to come back here and complain about it again. Those are the personal emoluments.

Now, Sir, regarding the QEH...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has two minutes to deal with Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

Sir, we have to decide what we want to do with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). Do we want a hospital for yesteryear or do we want one for tomorrow? If you want to have one for tomorrow, and want to get rid of that fungus in the building, you have to bulldoze that hospital and build a new one. If you want a hospital for yesterday, you just have to be patching and put a little bit of paint here and there, and computers would not work and other equipment would not work.

Canada went through it, and they had to build all new hospitals. Learn from other people and try to decide what you want.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to make my contribution to the Estimates debate for the financial year, 2002-2003. Since we are all talking about the Ministry of Health, I want to continue from where Senator Rickinson left off. I know nothing about health, of course, but I know something about one of the services that is provided at the QEH and that is the library.

The medical library has been provided with \$186 000 for books and other resources in this year's Estimates which is not a bad sum for the size of the operation. I want to say at the outset, that all persons who have looked at the collection at the medical library, said it is not a bad collection.

The only problem, Mr. Deputy President, is that the collection of the medical library is in one room which was built in 1976, and has not been expanded since then. The fine collection of periodical and books, are not all on shelves. Most of them are in boxes piled so high that it is difficult to unpack them or to know what is in them.

6.15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR V. E. NEWTON: This medical library which is serving the medical students has 12 chairs and six tables. This is a facility that is used by persons in Barbados who are seeking information in the area of health. It is used by persons teaching at the University of the West Indies School of Medicine and by the more than 136 students and nurses who pass through the doors of the hospital on a yearly basis. I only had occasion to see this facility recently when I was doing a study of the libraries associated with the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill Campus and I could not believe what I saw.

It is all well and good to provide money for books but you have to have somewhere to put them and they have

to be stored in such a way that people can use them, otherwise it is almost a meaningless exercise. If there is a library crying out for help at this present time, it is that of the Ministry of Health.

Now, some persons have asked what is the role of the University of the West Indies in all this. When the School of Clinical Medicine and Research was established in 1967, the Government of Barbados took full responsibility for providing a library for the programme and that is where the responsibility has remained.

While the University of the West Indies can assist with purchasing books from time to time and doing other small things, it still remains the responsibility of the Government of Barbados to ensure that this facility, which is used by students coming out to look after all of us, is in tip-top shape.

Over the years there have been several plans to expand the library, to move it and to do all sorts of things with it. None of these have ever come to any fruition. I have been told recently that in the plans for the improvement of the hospital - and Senator Rickinson I do not think that it involves pulling down the old and building a new - some space is to be provided for a new medical library. I hope that will not be forgotten because of the urgency and the extent of the other needs of the hospital because after all unless you look at the intellectual underpinnings of any discipline much of what comes afterwards is wasted or the project is diluted.

Now, having spoken about the medical library I want to move closer to home and look at Parliament because every year we range far and wide and we are not looking under our very noses to see the things that are going wrong here.

Under Head 12, I notice that over \$6 million has been voted for Parliament. There is no breakdown except to provide for exchange travel between this Parliament and other Parliaments. What this is saying to me is that since last year \$71 000 more has been allocated for the needs of Parliament. I am just wondering if anything is included in this sum for a Parliament library.

About a year ago, I took some weeks of what I considered my very valuable time for free to do a study on the needs of this Parliament for library services. I believe due to the initiative of the present Clerk of Parliament some of the recommendations certainly in relation to the relocation of the old library have been effective. Some improvements have been made in the present location but the library would have to be funded properly to make sure that the book collection is added to, that a network is established which would carry information on the collection owned by the library, the parliamentary debates

and the Order Papers which is being done now in most modern Parliaments.

You go to Trinidad and Tobago and a number of other islands in the Caribbean and further afield and you find that the libraries are not just a place where books for parliamentarians are carried but that you have computers with a lot of the relevant information which you need for your debates and which will tell you the programme of the Houses of Parliament, but this is something we do not have.

Of course, a corollary of developing the library of Parliament is to ensure that the staff is well trained. There is one library assistant. She is only trained at the level of library assistant but she is very diligent and keen and I think she is eminently suitable for further training. What I am wondering is where in this \$6 million has any money been put aside for Parliament. The last time I asked I was told that there were no funds and I would hate to think that the situation is the same this year especially since the former Clerk of Parliament, Mr. George Brancker who died recently had so much to do with the amassing of the collection which is now in the library. It is now my fervent wish that the library should be put on a sound footing as soon as possible and renamed after him. I made that suggestion earlier and I am making it again.

Mr. Deputy President, the library is not the only facility or activity of this Parliament that we need to pay attention to. I am not sure how this will go down but something that has bothered all of us and certainly me for some years is the length of time it takes for proceedings of this House to reach us for editing and the state in which the material comes to us. It would suggest to me that Parliament needs to spend a bit more money on training these persons who are responsible for this activity.

I have been in Parliament since 1999 and I have never seen a published debate which emanated from this Chamber which means that the debates are at the very least three years behind. So I am wondering why it is that in this modern day and age with all the information technology facilities which are available and which the Government has made available both to the Parliament and the Government Printery that this is the situation. I would think that these are things that we ought to pay some attention to.

The next thing about Parliament is the West Wing. According to information which was given to me, work on the renovation of the East and West Wing began in 1983 which is almost 19 years ago. Work on this East Wing was completed but the West Wing is an eyesore.

6.25 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR the Hon. Mrs. V. E. NEWTON: Mr. President, all sorts of people visit Parliament Building. They look to the East Wing and see a reasonable looking building, well furnished. They look to the West Wing and see a building with windows permanently opened and falling off, insects and vermin flying about and lots of dust. I am wondering how, as self-respecting Parliamentarians, we could go on year after year, accepting this state as it is.

Every Parliament in the Commonwealth Caribbean, from Guyana in the South to Jamaica in the North, has precincts of Parliament that are more well-appointed and more attractive than we have. I am not speaking about what goes on inside, I am only speaking about the external. This is something we should pay some attention to. Parliament is the primary law making facility and it seems somewhat odd that we are so concerned about how things look in other institutions or how things are run in other institutions and we are not doing the things for ourselves.

Sir, this goes, of course, to the question of the committee system which does not work and for some reason, we cannot make it work. Our names are on a list; I am on the Library Committee, others on Management Committee. I have had the privilege of attending two Library Committee meetings but how many of you have been to Management Committee or any other meetings? None. In other countries the committee system works. We only have to go as far as Jamaica and if we do not know how to get ours working, maybe some of us, with all this money for travel, could go to Jamaica and sit in on a few of its meetings to see what it is they do to make the committee system work. Of course that includes the Public Accounts Committee; a Committee which I am told in constitutional law books, history books, for example, Erskine Mays, are the cornerstones of Parliamentary democracy. It does not work in Barbados and we should be asking ourselves why. We should also be looking to see how we, who think we are the model of democracy, should make the institution that signals democracy, work for us.

Mr. Deputy President, I wish to move on to the Immigration Regulatory Services, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Head No. 28. Sir, one has to congratulate the Immigration Services Department for the good physical state in which the plant now appears and has been kept for the past few years. Some of us can remember what an eyesore the building used to be and how difficult it was to do business there. A lot of that has changed. The building looks good and when one goes to the Immigration Department nowadays that person can be processed very quickly. All that is very good and those reforms were long in coming. However, I have been hearing what I consider to be fairly serious remarks being made about certain aspects of the Immigration Service in recent times. This has to do with what some persons may see as disquieting things about the granting of work permits to foreign nationals.

Sir, I want to say at the outset that I have nothing against Guyanese or other Caribbean people because for most of Barbados' history and certainly since the late 19th Century, we have been a people on the move. All through the Caribbean one can find Barbadian teachers, policemen, et cetera. Therefore now that some of our Caribbean people want to come here to live and work, I have no major problem provided they go through the right channel. What I am speaking about is not Caribbean migration but what some persons consider to be almost an attempt to recolonise Barbados. That has to do with some aspects of the hotel industry, where advertisements are put in the papers for jobs with certain qualifications cited. These qualifications are cited in such a way that locals are not interested in applying. Then one sees an application to have the post filled by non-nationals because no locals have applied. I have heard that in some cases the non-nationals are already here working in the same institution and that these are only attempts to get Immigration papers for them to regularize their defacto situation. That frequently when these posts are filled by non-nationals, they are filled at better terms and conditions than they were originally advertised.

Sir, I am not sure what the resources at the Immigration Department are, what sort of checks are done routinely; how much it relies on information being brought; whether it has officers who go about in the field and investigate these things? I would like to think that it does everything possible to make sure that certain interests are not going to use the laws we have set in this country for ensuring that our people are not disadvantaged when it comes to finding jobs but to do just the opposite, that is to do things such as bringing in bartenders and housekeepers from outside and also persons from Europe to fill positions in the hotel; jobs to which many of our citizens are eminently qualified. It is a form of recolonisation that can only result in two things: (1) disenchantment with some of our middle management in the hotel industry and (2) while we are urging our citizens to love the tourist industry for what it contributes to the economy and to treat the tourist well, it can have the other effect. When persons think they are being disenfranchised in their own country, one can never tell what they will do and I think this is something that we ought to watch.

Mr. Deputy President, the other thing I want to speak about is Culture. Senator Murray spoke very briefly about the things that are being done with regards to culture. He also spoke about an agenda to make the activities that can be associated with Cropover more meaningful in terms of our lives. There is one activity with which, over the past years, I have become quite dissatisfied and I know my views are shared by many. This is in relation to Cohoblopot. Cohoblopot used to be a cultural extravaganza to which many people looked forward. In recent years it has become much less than that. It has become no more

than a show for Barbadians of a certain age and - I am emphasizing - a certain type of music. Sir, I would think that as it comes as a culmination of Cropover, there ought to be something in Cohoblot for all Barbadians of all ages, the way it used to be. Sir, I would hope that when the Ministries are reviewing their activities of Cropover, they would have a look at what has been happening with Cohoblot.

I also wish to speak about Head No. 14, program 122 - Development of the Securities Market. The Government has provided \$1 million for strengthening the Barbados Securities Market which, I think, is a good move. The money includes funds for educating the public on the meaning of securities. Sir, while it is possible that in a small economy like ours, there are very few people in the streets who will actually become major players on the stock market, the objective ought to be - and I would hope it is - to provide them with the information needed in case they want to look at the purchasing of shares as an alternative to buying bonds, putting their money into saving banks, et cetera.

Mr. Deputy President, when the 2001 Security Commission was established, it was to regulate the stock market which, until then, was self-regulatory.

6.35 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR MRS. V. E. NEWTON: There are important points in relation to that, that we have to make sure we do not forget.

One of the purposes of the Commission is to engage in public education and conduct research on the activity of listed companies to ensure that there is no insider trading or infelicitities. To that end, the staff of the Commission must ensure that they act without fear or favour in the effort to protect the integrity of the Stock Exchange so that it will make a greater contribution to the economic life of this country and that persons in Barbados and outside will have faith in it as an institution.

Mr. Deputy President my next point relates to the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment. Senator Rickinson and others have spoken quite eloquently on the activities being undertaken and those which can be further undertaken to ensure that we live in a clean and safe environment. There is a subheading under this Ministry called 'Beautifying Barbados 2000' and much is being done to beautify parks. I notice that the highway from the airport to Kingsland in Christ Church has been cleared and shrubs are planted along the highway which look quite attractive.

I have also noticed from time to time when I go to activities at places such as the Sir Garfield Sports Complex that there is a remarkable absence of containers for disposal of garbage. If we are teaching our citizens to ensure that they dispose of garbage and not throw things around, we should be providing containers for adequate disposal of garbage. I have been to functions and walked around with paper and other items in my hand looking for a garbage dispenser in which to place it. I cannot understand how this elementary need could be overlooked. I am urging those who plan these events to ensure that garbage dispensers are in place where they can be seen clearly.

Mr. Deputy President, I think these Estimates have made a reasonable attempt to allocate our resources to the various Ministries according to need.

Mr. Deputy President, I thank you.

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Deputy President, I happily rise in support of the Estimates on this occasion. Regrettably, my voice does not allow me to hold forth as some of my other colleagues have done but it would be remiss if I did not speak in support of these Estimates and also to take the opportunity to highlight a few matters which I believe are timely and I will proceed on the understanding that my voice will not permit me to do so for very long.

Mr. Deputy President, the new millennium has brought with it new challenges and I believe it is clear as we look around us. We have a new economy with new features facing us and we must understand the context in which these Estimates are set. I do not propose to view this context in a purely political sense but in a sense which is fair and accurate.

I have no training as an economist but I believe there are a few hallmarks which we can identify in today's economy. I had the privilege of enjoying a discussion with an overseas economist and he termed this economy as a scissors economy and when I enquired what he meant he said that a 'scissors economy' is one which you cut out some of the features from the past.

From my own assessment, Mr. Deputy President, today's economy is different because it has seen a situation where we have eliminated many of the middle men in our commercial environment.

The travel sector would be an example which is apposite. We recognise that the major airlines of the world have slashed commission. Delta has just taken a position to eliminate commission to travel agents altogether. In many respects the players in today's society have always felt that they needed someone to assist them in doing the most basic of things. I have always felt that I needed a travel agent to

assist me if I wanted to go from here to St. Lucia but what is clear is a move by many players to eliminate many of the middle men in our travel arrangement.

As I said, Delta has eliminated commission to travel agents altogether so anyone wishing to travel on Delta, if they go through a travel agent, that agent will not get any commission and Delta is encouraging them to make all their bookings online.

We know that American Airlines and BWIA have also severely cut commissions for travel agents so it is not purely a travel phenomena. In many instances which we can recognise today the consumer is able to deal directly with the supplier and cut out the middle man whether in the supply of books, music, software and a whole variety of things. We are now buying cars without going through the recognised car dealers.

Sir, the point is that this is not business as usual and to the extent that we do not recognise that this is not business as usual we stand to suffer and to participate in an economy that is not capable of firing on all its cylinders. Companies no longer enjoy the benefit of the monopolies they did in the past and a whole variety of things have changed. We now have what is called the light economy, an economy which is not based on physical goods but on the intellect. I am sure that Honourable Senators have recognised that we talk on a daily basis about intellectual property and the need to protect it.

Sir, as a little boy, I remember work along the road being done by donkeys and all societies go through a stage where the emphasis is placed on manufacturing of goods, converting physical goods and raw materials into commodities but this has changed almost entirely to a situation where the emphasis is on intangibles.

6.45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: It is estimated that in today's environment 90 per cent of all twelve year olds know what a modem is while only 12 per cent of all business executives know what a modem is. Does this not tell us the type of shift that we have, where in years past we would have looked to the executives as being on the cutting edge of industry and commerce? We have had a complete inverse obtaining where the children more readily understand the technologies that we are faced with.

When we consider that we have a new economy in which we operate then I believe, Mr. Deputy President, that we will be in a position to move forward.

With those remarks I want to continue by saying that there is a distinct challenge to the service sector in Barbados. Barbados has moved away from the manufacturing in a sense, from heavy goods et cetera, to a service economy. We have to recognise that Barbados is not the only player in the game. Barbados is not the only country that is moving towards this service-based economy.

As we daily contemplate and negotiate with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), we have to recognise that our country is being asked to make commitments to open up the service sector. The service sector is a sector which affects accountants, lawyers, doctors and anybody who provides a service for gain. This is not a bad thing but we must recognise that coming along with these commitments, in the WTO and the FTAA, people are going to be expecting to enter into our commercial framework to provide the same services that we have so jealously guarded and protected over the years.

As a professional, I asked myself what my law firm would do when the mega firms like Baker and McKenzie come to Barbados to set up business. We have welcomed into the fold international firms, so it is not something that we need to fear but it is something that we need to prepare for because the world environment requires an environment which is not selfish. It requires an environment once we put commitments on the table, we are entitled to hold other people to similar commitments.

We have benefited significantly from being able to provide people to work in foreign lands but we now have to go beyond this and contribute services and provide services into foreign economies. This is a significant challenge for us because for too long, in my respectful opinion, we have been very myopic and we certainly are xenophobic. I am happy that Senator Newton said out-front, "I am not xenophobic. Barbados has always touted their goods and services abroad."

Sir, apart from cane cutters and the manual labourers we have never had to face situations where people are coming into Barbados to provide services. We have to accept that this is a thing that is coming upon us and we, therefore, need to prepare ourselves.

Preparation comes in many ways. We are preparing ourselves in terms of our education system and training but the mind set that we bring towards people in the Caribbean, brothers and sisters, is going to be very important. I have to say that I had the distinct pleasure of presenting a paper at a recent conference in St. Lucia and in a social setting the participants were speaking about how they are treated as they travel through the Caribbean. Without fail every one of them highlighted that they are treated worse at Grantley

Adams International Airport than they are treated anywhere else.

I rose in defense of whatever happens at Grantley International Airport but the truth is, I have been part of that silent majority where we have all witnessed situations where fellow Caribbean people have come into Grantley Adams International Airport and have been treated in a very offhanded fashion by Immigration Authorities and, perhaps, by the Customs Authorities.

The point that I am making is that the world does not evolve around us and in the same way we expect that other nations will allow us to go about our business dispatch and with regard to our humanity and so on, we have to begin to extend the same courtesies to our fellow Caribbean people.

Mr. Deputy President, I am aware that my voice is failing but I want to touch on a few things.

Barbados is involved in a beauty contest. When we think about a beauty contest, we think about a recent contest in South Africa but beauty contest in today's commercial framework means a whole lot more. When we talk about being in a beauty contest, we are talking about a situation where we are contestants on the global stage for exactly the same goods and services as places like Bermuda, Cayman, Bahamas and a lot of other places. We know only too well that only the first, second and third places in any beauty contest get a prize.

Therefore, this beauty contest means that when we stand on that global stage next to other players in the game, we have to stand with a serious chance of winning. I fear that we are not entirely capable of winning that beauty contest. We have certainly made tremendous strides. I believe that we all recognise the importance of being taken off the OECD's blacklist but we sometimes fail in the smaller things.

I would like to mention here the situation at Corporate Affairs. The Corporate Affairs Department and the staff there must be given full marks for having to deal with almost thirty pieces of legislation, for having a shortage of lawyers and still being responsible for ensuring the bedrock of our International financial services sector functions.

6.55 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator D. D. MARSHALL: However, Mr. Deputy President, I feel bound to draw to the attention of the Honourable Senators that in the year 2002 it is still taking more than a week to incorporate a company in Barbados. This was the case in the eighties. For a short period of time

in the nineties we were able to bring it down to two days. The rest of the world is functioning at a pace that is faster than 10 years ago and if we cannot keep up with this race we are going to lose business opportunities. I speak from a personal experience where many of the people with whom I interact on a daily basis in my professional capacity need to have the incorporations completed within a day or two. It is not impossible. In fact, all of the competitors are doing it and we find ourselves in severe danger of losing that beauty contest when I, as a service provider, have to say to an individual in Canada or wherever I will get your company incorporated for you but it will take me a week while somebody in Bermuda, and I can say this from experience. If I call a service provider in Bermuda at nine o'clock this morning and say to him I need a company incorporated called Dale Marshall Ltd., at three o'clock this evening he would have called me back to confirm the incorporation and to say that he is sending me the notarised copies first courier out tomorrow.

That is the beauty contest in which we are participating and it is tragic that having spent so much time and effort establishing ourselves as a financial services sector, having dotted all of our Is and crossed all of our Ts, that the fundamentals continue to elude us. I remember, and my memory is as failing as my voice, I have a recollection of a saying that for want of a nail the shoe was lost, for want of a shoe the horse was lost and for want of a horse the battle was lost. The conclusion was that for want of a nail the battle was lost.

If we continue to allow the fundamentals to elude us and I am not blaming the Corporate Affairs Department, they obviously need institutional strengthening and so on, but we have to recognise that we are not in this game alone. For every stride that we take, there is somebody who is trying to match us and somebody else who is trying to take two more strides. We also have to recognise and perhaps my dollars and cents may be small but it seems to me that whenever we incorporate a company in Barbados the filing fees at Corporate Affairs is \$1530 and if we can incorporate 10 000 companies in Barbados you can imagine the volume of money that this department would be producing.

We have to ensure that we keep our eyes on the small things because no matter how much credit we give the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his efforts in succeeding to take us off the OECD black list that is not the only criteria by which we are being judged. We have had some challenges in recent times and the OECD black list is one of them, the WTO ruling in relation to foreign sales corporations has eliminated that aspect of our international financial services sector. The market has been soft in captive insurance companies, what we now call exempt insurance companies, but there is hope on the horizon.

In fact, while I would be loathe to make mileage out of the tragedy that has befallen us since September 11th, it is clear to me as a service provider that there is substantial opportunity in the fall-out and we would be foolish not to grasp it. As a result of the events of September 11th, reinsurers have found themselves in a very difficult position, and if reinsurers find themselves in a difficult position, insurers similarly find themselves in a difficult position. What is happening in the world environment of insurance is that people who might have had an insurance bill with an annual premium of \$2 million are in one fell swoop presented with an insurance bill of \$30 million. They are now recognising the importance of the need to self insure.

In recent times, Barbados has not been doing too well in captive insurance but it is clear to me that the tremendous increase in premiums charged by insurance companies makes self insurance once more a very attractive option to business people. I am quite certain that in the short term what used to be a soft market in such things as captive insurance companies will become a very vibrant market once again as people are faced with very high insurance needs.

We have an environment which while we cannot gloat over the tragedy that has befallen since September 11th we do have to look to see whether or not there can be a phoenix rising from the ashes for us. In my respectful submission, there is tremendous opportunity now in the area of captive insurance. I want to say, however, that in recent times the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation has been trying to do a little repositioning. We all know that the BIDC is the arm of Government that is responsible for spreading the message about our financial services sector and they have been trying to see how best they can juggle the funds.

I am a firm believer that the times when the market is bleak or when the market is soft that the people who do well are those people who confront it and spend more money on marketing. I believe that any businessman knows that when the market is bleak the fellow who suffers is the fellow who hauls in his dollars and refuses to spend money on marketing. I would want, therefore, to urge the BIDC to continue its thrust and perhaps expand its thrust to spread the message more and more. Barbados has a lot of things going for it and I would want to say in particular for the Honourable Senators who are not aware, there are two kinds of commercial treaties that a country enters into and one is the double taxation treaty the purpose of which is to mitigate a person's tax liability on a global scale. In other words, you pay tax in Barbados and therefore you do not pay tax in the jurisdiction in which you are from. The other agreement that we have is a bilateral investment what they call a BIT. A Bilateral Investment Treaty is a different kind of animal which attempts to deal with protecting an

investor when he brings an investment to your country and deals with expropriation of the entity.

Barbados is extremely fortunate because we do not rely on the Bilateral Investment Treaty today as we may have well in the past because of the confidence that investors have in Barbados they are not in fear that people will wake up one morning and take their business from them. The double taxation agreement is the one which we are placing emphasis on. At this point in time we have about 20 double taxation agreements and of particular interest to many North American investors is our recently concluded agreement with China. People have been asking me for details to see how they can effect this marriage.

We are faced with an economy where it is not business as usual and not in the least because of the events of 911. We are faced with an economy where we have to recognise that in this beauty contest we are not the only player.

7.05 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: We have therefore to ensure that the services we provide are provided in a timely fashion. We have to ensure that the efforts of the Government, in terms of marketing those services and the efforts of the Government in terms of ensuring our marketability by having us removed from the financial Action Task Force's black list, that all of the elements which go towards making us a vibrant domicile, are in place.

With this in mind, therefore, it is important for Barbadians of all walks of life, to approach the rest of this decade with tremendous confidence, recognising that the Government has put an awful lot of effort into facing the challenges of this new millennium, into facing the challenges posed by globalisation, WTO and the FTAA. We have to recognise also that we are facing these challenges in terms of our educational system.

I mentioned donkeys a little while ago. I was reading an article which said that fifty years ago, in the United States, there were hundreds of thousands of horses engaged in commercial activity and today, there are none. In my respectful opinion, we have to ensure that the next generation of Barbadians, will not be like some of these horses. Sir, once we have shifted our economy from a heavy industry economy, to one where the emphasis is placed on intellect and creation of the mind, then the empowerment of our citizens and the empowerment of the next generation becomes critical, and we have to ensure that they do not find themselves like so many horses, incapable of finding gainful employment.

Mr. Deputy President, I believe that I have extended the capacity of my voice and while there are a few things that I would have liked to have dealt with, I am afraid that I shall have to stop. Let me close by saying therefore, that it is incumbent on every Barbadian to recognise that business is not as usual. The beauty contest is not one in which Barbados is the only contest and while some people may be critical of the Prime Minister having said to the business community, we want to know what you feel the industry needs, we have to recognise that it is a hallmark of a modern democracy where all aspects of governance rely on the consultative process. That consultative process is strengthened where those who govern, readily and almost eagerly approach those are governed to get feedback from them.

We have long recognised that the economy is not based on the Government only, it is based on the private sector working hand in hand with the Government and therefore, I am firm in my hope and expectation that the private sector, working hand in hand with the Government, will ensure that the fortune of Barbados and Barbadians will continue to rise. Notwithstanding that we may be buffeted by the storms that may surround us, we will continue in the direction that we have been proceeding in for the last seven or eight years.

With that, Mr. Deputy President, I thank you very much for your patience and time.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise like all the other Honourable Senators on this side to give my full support to the Bill before the Honourable Senate. I know that we had a very long day and I will not keep back the Senate any longer than is necessary. Indeed, there are a few matters that I have to address and I will take my time, Sir, and address them.

I want to begin, however, by offering my highest commendation to the Leader of Government Business in the Senate. I sat and listened to him and it reminded me of the early 1980s when I sat in this Honourable Senate listening to the then Leader of Government Business, former Senator Nigel Barrow, with the eloquence, clarity and the high level of confidence that he always demonstrated. I was particularly impressed with our Leader of Government Business in the Senate and it tells me that quite frankly, he obviously has a long political future. I am going to predict that he would have a very long political future.

There are other persons that I would want to commend, this is not, Mr. Deputy President, because there have not been other outstanding presentations in this Chamber, I think Barbadians from all walks of life, when they listen to the contributions from the Senate on their radios today, I believe it would be true to say that one and

all would have thought that the contributions have been particularly outstanding.

I know that there are one or two contributions, by Honourable Senators from the Opposition, that can only be remembered for the stamina which the individuals maintained.

Asides.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Sir, I give them full marks for stamina. Regarding the sum total of what they said, there is one point made in those three hours, that I will respond to, but I do not think there is anything else that comes to mind from those contributions.

Generally speaking, all the other contributions were quite outstanding but I personally, Mr. Deputy President, want to congratulate Senator Kerrie Symmonds for what I thought was an excellent presentation today. I thought it was quite outstanding for someone making their very first contribution in an Estimates debate.

Mr. Deputy President, I know much has been said about the way in which our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has been commended for the way he continues to run the affairs of this country. I think it was all summed up by the honest and dispassionate comments and commendations, from none other than our own Sir John Goddard, who simply said that he must be congratulated for the way that the Barbados economy is managed. I think it goes without saying, that we all understand, and not only Barbadians say so, but throughout the length and breadth of the Caribbean and beyond.

Sir, it is not surprising, of course, that the Estimates are intended to continue to put, once again, this economy on a growth path. I said that combined the two Opposition Senators spoke and there is one point that I have to respond to which came from Senator Mascoll. Now, there is a saying that politicians have very short memories, and in some instances they have convenient memories. When I listened to Senator Mascoll yesterday he gave me the impression that he could have been a very outstanding graduate from a 'University of Convenience'. He spoke for a long time and coming on to the end of his presentation, he alluded to the fact that we have seen the downsizing of BARTEL and BET. He went on to say that it is now followed by a hastening of a contract for competition, which did not come through negotiations - and these are not my words, these are his words - but rather in the form of a statement in the press.

Mr. Speaker, nothing could have been further from the truth. The process in terms of the transition to liberalisation is one that I will speak to but Senator Mascoll's history is deficient and his memory is basically

short. It seems, however, that when it comes to all measures of reform in this country, whether it is public sector reform, health reform, or the upgrading of the hospital and looking at the issues of the hospital, whether it is reform within the sugar industry - and I will speak about that a little later - whether it is reform in telecommunications, it seems as though all these things are always left to the Barbados Labour Party to address.

7.15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Once there is something of substance that calls for great care, attention and foresight, it seems as though it is always left to the Barbados Labour Party.

I want to put in context the comments made by Senator Mascoll about the move to liberalisation of telecommunications. For him to suggest that you can simply open up the market one morning without saying to the people the process that you have to go through and what it is that we face as a country, is wrong. The Democratic Labour Party as far back as the early 1970s had a chance to become involved in the policy of telecommunications in this country but a lot of people do not know that. At that time, the then Prime Minister sought to get some kind of guidance in terms of consultancy as to whether or not Government should have some kind of interest in telecommunications. It is amazing, Mr. President, that on that occasion all the reports of the international actuaries and so on suggested that it was something that was costly, it was a loss and it was something that the Government should not get involved in.

It took 1976 to come about and the then Prime Minister, the late 'Tom' Adams, also looked at telecommunications in this country and said that it was something that Government must get involved in. We all know that the Government of Barbados had 25 per cent interest in BET as it was called at the time it was formed and there was private sector interest as well.

It took the Democratic Labour Party in 1991 to sell those shares. They did not even keep a golden share at the time. Mr. Deputy President, if there was a time for us to move down the road of liberalisation in telecommunications it was then but they allowed the company to get a licence for 20 years. To come now and suggest that there cannot or ought not to be a process of negotiation is foolishness. This is not the days of the old wild west where somebody can simply say to someone who has a licence to operate and to provide services that they should just leave or you will arbitrarily grant other licences or whatever. The company has a licence to operate to the year 2011.

Therefore, Government had to sit down with the company and agree to draw up that period to one where we can now see other players coming into the marketplace. That is the reality of it. It was not this administration that granted them the licence to the year 2011, it was the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, the move to liberalisation in telecommunications has to be done in a structured way. It would have been a midsummer madness to allow other players to come into the market in one morning without putting the right framework in place first because you must be able to regulate something once you have more than one player. You have to put mechanisms in place which will allow real competition to exist and to support that competition. Therefore, you need proper regulations.

Now, what is so wrong with the Government seeking first, as it did, to come up with a policy on telecommunications followed by legislation. As you all know, we passed new legislation with respect to telecommunications. We also put the regulatory framework of the Fair Trading Commission (FTC) in place and it was logical and orderly in terms of transition. I heard the Minister with responsibility for telecommunications say that Government is at present considering granting licences in the area of mobile and all of this will be done in an orderly fashion.

We have seen the reasons which gave rise to the factors of liberalisation in telecommunications. There is increasing evidence that liberalised telecommunications markets are growing and innovating faster and serving customers better when the markets are opened.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: On a point of order. Just so that the record would put the Honourable Senator speech in perspective. Is he wearing his Cable and Wireless hat or his Government Senator's hat?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I would like you to declare his interest.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I again say no point of order.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: The need to attract private sector capital is part of the reason for the drive and move to liberalisation in the market. We have seen in the Caribbean where other players have come into the market and have invested close to \$300 000 in network in one particular domicile. This happens when the market is open up so the Government has to be guided and learn from the experience of other countries.

The growth of the internet has caused data traffic to overtake voice. All of these things gave rise to the need for proper regulation within the industry hence the road and the process that Government took toward liberalisation and in moving toward liberalisation.

The successful transformation of a monopolistic telecom market requires regulatory intervention if competition is going to be meaningfully realised. The regulator has the responsibility to make sure that any barriers to competition are removed. You have a situation where new players will be coming into the market and if they are to survive, they need the services of the incumbents in whatever countries or jurisdictions they have to interconnect. Now, how do you begin to talk about allowing new players to come in before you put things like the Fair Trading Commission (FTC) in place and make sure that it is in a position to be an effective regulator?

Sir, the President of the Democratic Labour Party, because I cannot say leader, said that there was no negotiation and all Government is doing is talking and rushing ahead by way of press statements. There is a process that had to be followed because it was a case where people had a licence that expired in the year 2011 and if you are going to ask them to draw it up then you would have to sit down across a table and negotiate something which has value in the real sense.

7.25 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Therefore, if you wanted to draw it up before 2011, the Government had no choice but to move in that direction. This Administration, as I said, once it comes to reforms and dealing with harsh and critical issues, has no difficulty in doing those things. We have done it before, will continue to do it and will continue to move ahead with reform within the telecommunications sector.

Mr. Deputy President, I want to move to broadcasting. As you know, Sir, at present I have responsibility as President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) for looking after the affairs in terms of policies. Sir, you would recall that the Minister of Finance, in the other place, had alluded to funding by Government in terms of recapitalization of CBC to the tune of \$22 million. May I state to you, Sir, that \$22 million is both part loan and part grant.

Sir, the intention of Government is for us to see CBC being put on the kind of sound financial and technical footing that the public would have confidence to invest in the Corporation. We have seen when it is done correctly how the public can have confidence to be involved in

entities like BNB and ICB. Sir, I am satisfied that this Government is committed to seeing the Corporation privatized and divested. We have a responsibility to ensure that the public would have confidence; would see it as a well capitalized, well run and very efficient institution and the kind of institution that they would want to become involved with. Sir, the Government has responsibility to provide that measure of funding in order for it to be done. I distinctly remember there was an occasion where the Corporation was involved in negotiations and there was the feeling that Government, in itself, should have absorbed the expenditure. The current Prime Minister, I believe at that time had responsibility for CBC, subject to correction, but he said that Government had a responsibility for the capital side. Government's responsibility was to see after its improvement, upgrading and investments. The Corporation had to run in a way that it pays for itself.

Sir, I am happy to see that Government has kept its commitment. The Corporation has a lot of old analog equipment and some of it, quite frankly, dates back to over 37 years ago and it is to the credit of the people who are able to keep the system running, and that is the staff. The technical staff must be complimented for keeping this equipment functioning. Sir, the fact of the matter is that this is analog equipment and we are into a digital world and have to move toward the digitalization of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Sir, it is our intention, therefore, that all of our platforms will move to a high-quality digital environment. Sir, for example, CBC Subscription Television is experiencing what other paid television providers around the world are experiencing; there is pressure on those kinds of operations to move to digital. The world is not waiting for anyone, programme providers are moving toward a digital platform and, therefore, we cannot stay still. If we do, there is a cost to it.

Mr. Deputy President, the cost of maintaining analog systems is also extremely high and may I say, uncompetitive. There are often times when one continues operating in an analog environment, there is a lack of spare parts and these things add to the frustration of the Corporation. It is vital that we make the transition now, since manufacturers have retooled their operations and have gone digital, therefore, we have no choice. All satellites' transmissions are dominated by a digital format while, at the same time, they try to do a conversion to allow people still to receive an analogued form. That is not going to continue because by the end of 2006, those service providers will simply make the assumption that everybody has moved to a digital platform. Therefore, there will be no conversion and this has to be done now. Again it is to the credit of the Minister of Finance that we are making that move at this stage.

Sir, the benefits, of course, to immediate digitalization include: our paid subscriber base will immediately increase through the digital signal encryption, thus eliminating piracy and may I make a point. Sir, at present, it is estimated that from piracy, we lose between \$2.5 and \$5 million per year. Let me say to those who might be pirating the signal, there are two solutions. One of them is legislation and the other is the use of technology. Sir, I am issuing a warning to those pirates; instantly as we move toward a digital platform, pirating is going to be all over, and that is going to be shortly.

Sir, there will, of course, be the opportunity for other revenue features enhancements. For example, pay per view, where there will be higher levels of security. There will also be the timely roll out of products and services from the Corporation. Sir, clearly with a new digital platform, there will be significant reductions in our operating costs. For example, things like installations will become much easier and simpler. We would be able to move to more local news channels. Already we know there is a visitor's channel, which is very popular, but there is also a long waiting list for other similar local channels. This is because there is significant consumer demand. There will be new value-added streams - data services to business, video on demand, close-circuits, et cetera. Therefore, the move in itself to a digital environment will ensure that not only are we in a position to offer to the public more channels and may I say, immediately as we go digital, the number of channels that we would be able to offer would quadruple. There will also be improvement in picture quality and also a number of audio channels. Sir, may I say, I am not talking about something that is going to take another year to happen. I am saying this is something that is just around the corner and we are doing a lot of work to which the public and our customers will become the beneficiaries.

Sir, with the increase channel capacity, there will obviously be better bandwidth efficiencies. Equally important is the fact that we will have enhanced coverage across the country. I know there are areas where we experience difficulties in reaching our potential subscribers' base but that in part will be addressed as we move onto a new platform.

There are a number of proposals we are looking at with respect to suppliers who can effect the upgrade for us in the movement of analog to digital. They are being evaluated and we hope that shortly we will be effecting a supplier for the new system.

May I also say to the staff of CBC that it is not just Multi-Choice Television that is going to benefit from this upgrading but the entire Corporation. There will be the refurbishment of equipment and where there is analog equipment in whatever area, that is going to move to digital.

Sir, in order to put the Corporation in a position for privatisation it of course would have to be restructured and that is something that we are committed to and will start shortly.

7.35 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS: I want to briefly comment on the whole question of programming. One of the things we have to continue to do is to serve this country in terms of the quality programming that it enjoys. We have started the morning show and I want to say to the Honourable the Senate that it remains extremely popular. The first survey we had 108 000 Barbadians were watching the programme and we are not sitting on our laurels because we want to move regionally and beyond. This programme cannot be a programme for Barbadians alone because we have to embrace the region and with the appropriate telecommunication solution we can translate that into a regional product.

Mr. Deputy President, the corporation's strategy for renewal is going to be based on five pillars.

The first and most important pillar is human resource development. There is going to be heavy emphasis on training. The process has already started and we have already secured funds for upgrading and restructuring the corporation and, quite naturally, any new equipment will require specialised training.

The second pillar is technological improvement. We are moving from an analogue to a digital platform.

The third pillar is efficiency. We have to operate at the maximum level of efficiency and our intention is to ensure that the public is confident to take an interest in the corporation. I note that Senator Sir John has asked a question in terms of the lateness of the financial report of the corporation and when I talk about becoming efficient I am saying that these things ought not to be and must be of the past.

The fourth pillar is our product integrity.

The fifth pillar is the financial growth.

If we are able to see those five pillars realised, CBC would be in a position where it has become the model Caribbean media house. This is the remit we have and we are working towards it.

As I said before, I am happy that Government has given us the resources that once and for all we can begin to address a lot of the problems and difficulties faced at the

Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation so we are obliged to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Deputy President, I am mindful of the time but I want to deal a bit with agriculture because I know that my dear friend Senator Laurie would be extremely disappointed if I did not speak to some of these issues particularly in the area of sugar. I note that Senator Laurie sidestepped the sugar industry again and took the opportunity to get to the feed lot.

Mr. Deputy President, historically, sugar has played an important role in the economic development of this country and it still continues to make a contribution to GDP, employment and foreign exchange.

Despite its decline, in the year 2000, it still contributed 2.54% to GDP and generated \$53.3 million in foreign earnings. We have to understand that when an industry can bring in \$53.3 million in foreign earnings, even though we have to subsidise it, it is foreign currency that we do not have to borrow.

Asides.

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Yes, it cost a lot locally to produce it but the reality is that it brings in foreign currency. The industry continues to employ between 2 500 and 3 000 people and we know about the environment and agronomic role that it plays in preventing soil erosion.

The problem as we understand it centers around declining cane use, the high cost of production both in terms of the factory and field levels, inefficient management as a result of the scarcity of qualified and experienced personnel and the increasing unavailability of labour. Sir, every time we start the crop there is difficulty in terms of getting sufficient labour to reap the crop and the declining acreage of production is still an issue.

There was an effort taken in the early 90s to revitalise the industry. We had the amalgamation of the highly indebted plantations. Then there was the establishment of the BAMC and the transfer of the industry debts to the BACT. The fact of the matter is, as was said by the Prime Minister when he broke the impasse in terms of negotiations, we are at the point where there must be serious reform in the sugar industry.

Over the years there has been a lot of talk about the way to move forward and a lot of studies were done but we have to move beyond the studies and implement some of them because the truth of the matter is that things are not standing still. The price for our sugar continues to drop and by the time the market is opened up and the African countries are able to sell as much as they want and have

full access to the European market, the price is going to drop even further. It behoves us all not to wait until tomorrow but to deal today with restructuring the industry itself.

The way forward is for the industry to reduce its production cost to enable it to become more competitive in raw and bulk sugar production for the international market. This means that we must diversify the use of sugar cane into alternative uses. We need to look at the production of specialty sugar and make things like syrup, ethanol fuels, animal feeds, speciality chemicals. All of these must be looked at to see how best we can use sugar cane to be able to get into different products because with the price going down after 2006 to 2009, it is clear that we have to have a strategy now if we want to retain the sugar industry.

This administration is committed to maintaining the sugar industry but it has to be reformed and restructured. Incentives must be provided that are aimed at encouraging the private sector to exploit commercial opportunities. The domestic market offers the best returns for the sale of sugar and the time has come where we as Barbadians can begin to enjoy that precious commodity called sugar that we produce here on this island.

7.45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: If we begin in terms of selling it on the local market, Senator Laurie alluded to the fact that the Ministry is now moving to a sugar desk to facilitate the coordination of activities associated with the reform. I think to simply say that we are going to move towards reform and put in the institutional mechanisms for it to happen, to my mind, would be wrong.

I am not sure whether he was critical of it or whether that it should have been that and something else as well. I am happy to see that there is now a desk and it will facilitate the coordinating of the activities associated with any such reform.

Mr. Deputy President, there were a number of other areas that I want to look at but time does not permit me. I think that we have had a very long debate in this Honourable Chamber and we have had some excellent contributions. It is just for me to say that I am happy to be part of an administration that while the world could be going through extreme difficulty, yet we could have a set of Estimates which continue to allow this country to move from one stage of development and go to another and hopefully will put us back once again on a growth path.

I am obliged to you.

SENATOR Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President we have had a very long and interesting debate. There are a few comments to which I would like to respond but we have been here almost ten hours. I do not know if Members are in the mood for that at this point in time.

However, there are just two comments that I would wish to respond to. One is from Senator Laurie in conjunction with the expenditure on roads for this year. He made the assertion that there was a decrease in expected expenditure from \$58 million, I believe he said, to \$33 million.

I would like to point out to him that \$33 million is for highway construction and maintenance. There is a further \$15.1 million which is assigned to the road network service; there is a residential road construction and maintenance programme of \$1 million; there is an infrastructural maintenance road programme for Baxters Road and Tudor Street of \$2.2 million, there is a special road rehabilitation project of \$6 million and there is a special road project in the Scotland District to which \$2.9 million is assigned. This totals approximately \$60 million as opposed to the \$33 million which you spoke about.

Another area I would wish to speak on was from Senator Mascoll, with tourism as his baby.

Asides.

SENATOR Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: I was at pains to point out that US Air arrivals had diminished and he painted these figures about 107 000 tourists arrived in last year and 106 000 this year. He omitted to mention that in 1989 we had gone to 154 000, 1990 - 153 000, I do not know which Government was in power at the time; 1991 - 119 000; 1992- 110 000 and 1994- 109 000. It had declined by 66 000 tourists from 1987 to 1994. At this point in time with all the problems that you are seeing and the lack of domestic support, the number that came in 2001 was 106 000. In the case of Canada, arrivals in 1998 were 65 000 and in 1994 there were down to 52 000. In the year 2000 there were 59 951. The figure increased between 1994 and 2000. In the case of the UK, in 1994 the figure stood at 123 455 and in 2000 the figure rose to 226 787.

Sir, we just have to look at this and see what is happening in tourism. The number of tourists who arrived in 1994 was 425 632 and in 2000 was 544 096. A similar picture for cruise ship arrivals, in 1994 - 459 502, 2000 - 533 000 and in 2001 527 591. I just want to clear that area for you Senator Mascoll.

The Honourable Senator also spoke about a 15 per cent decline in earnings from tourism. In 1996 - \$441 million; 1998 \$482 million and in the 2000 - \$487 million.

Sir, with those few words, I want to reiterate what I said yesterday that these times call for strict fiscal discipline and we have to bear in mind the need for physical and social development in this crisis. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT the Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT the Bill was Read a third time and passed and cited as the Appropriation Act, 2000.

At this point Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

ORDER NO. 6 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
REVOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING OF CROWN
LANDS LOCATED AT ALLEYNE'S LAND, BUSH
HALL, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, the Senate is being asked to consider this Resolution to vest 2 203 square metres of land at Alleyne's Land, Bush Hall to facilitate the extension of the Urban Development Commission's pilot project under the Urban Renewal Program. It is being sought to vest this land in the National Housing Corporation.

This matter dates back to 1997. Initially the plan was to acquire nine plots of land but after subsequent survey, it was determined that area would not be adequate to facilitate the construction of adequate roads and foot paths. It was decided that we would need to acquire another five plots of land making it fourteen parcels of land.

It is now proposed to vest this land in the National Housing Corporation and the project will include the creation of lots for sale to tenants who are being relocated; the transfer of titles; the provision of foot paths and roads; the conversion of 50 pit toilets to waterborne systems and the general upgrading of the tenantry. The project is expected to cost approximately \$1.2 million.

This vesting will facilitate the upgrading of Alleyne's land and will also allow some persons to be able to purchase lots under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act.

Sir, this land is available and with these remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING OF
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (COLLECTION OF CAR PARKING
CHARGES) (VALIDATION) – BILL, 2002

SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Sir, since implementation of the last Car Park Regulation in 1987, that is the Road Traffic imposition of charges and parking places regulations, the only car park which has undergone any regulations was the one at the Lower Wharf.

7.55 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: This has necessitated the preparation of a validation Bill in respect of the collection of fees for the extended portion of this car park.

With these few words, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, 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.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the President the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Road Traffic (Collection of Car Parking Charges) (Validation) Act 2002.

ORDER NO. 5 – MAGISTRATES' COURTS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2002

Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, The Bill for the consideration of the Senate is a proposal to amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, Cap. 116A to extend the powers of a magistrate to remand an accused person in custody for a period exceeding eight clear days. As the Act now stands, a person cannot be remanded for more than eight days, except in special circumstances where persons remanded on bail can be remanded for a longer period if the persons consent and also when it is adjourned for non-

appearance of the accused or in a case where the accused has gone to seek medical examination.

This system is affecting negatively the administration and security at the prisons because every day several prisoners have to be transported all over the country to several magistrates' courts. Obviously, when they are being transported prison officers have to be deployed with them. This, obviously, depletes their resources at the prison and predisposes and makes it more difficult to maintain full security at the prison. In addition, it also affects the police force by the fact that with all these prisoners coming to various courts additional police officers have to be deployed. It is felt that this amendment would certainly reduce the movement of prisoners and help reduce this strain on the staff.

It should be noted that the right to apply for bail at any time during such a remand is provided and the provision for making representations to a magistrate prior to such an order provides adequate safeguards.

With these few remarks, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, 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 - 5 inclusive, were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

8.05 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, Mr. 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. J. X. WALCOTT, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Magistrate's Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I wish to ask of the Honourable Leader of the Senate:

1. Is the Honourable Minister aware of reports of Barbadian teachers are being recruited to work outside of Barbados?

If the Minister is aware of such reports, could the Minister inform this Honourable Senate whether the said reports are true and if so provide relevant information on:

(a) The number of teachers who have resigned from the public service over the past year.

(b) What steps, if any, are being taken by the Government to mitigate any negative impact on the educational system to this island, occasioned by any loss of teachers.

2. Is the Honourable Minister of Health aware of the reports that Barbadian nurses are being recruited to work outside of Barbados.

If the Minister is aware of such reports, could the Minister inform this Honourable Senate whether the said reports are true, and if so, provide relevant information on:

(a) The number of nurses who have resigned from the public service over the past year.

(b) Whether the said resignations have impacted on the staffing of the health institutions of Barbados.

©) What steps, if any, are being taken by the Government to mitigate any adverse impact on the delivery of health care in this island, occasioned by any loss of nursing personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, we do not propose to proceed with items 1 and 2 today. This means that we have concluded our business for today. Before I move the adjournment, I want to thank all Honourable Senators who have taken part in this debate and certainly the Clerks of parliament, the Reporters and Caterers. We have been here a long time and I want to thank them for their assistance and I hope that they all have an enjoyable Easter Holiday.

I therefore move that the Senate is now adjourned sine die.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would just like to remind Honourable Senators that dinner is available in the dining room.

The question that the Senate is now adjourned sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

8.10 p.m.

CONTENTS

RESUMPTION

Senator His Hon. C. L. Bolden, 1, 2, 4, 5; Senator B. R. Collymore, 3, 4; Senator C. K. Laurie, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 8, 9; Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 11; Senator K. D. Symmonds, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17; Senator L. H. McCLEAN, 16, 17; Senator Miss J. C. Odle, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25.

RESUMPTION

Senator D. L. Haynes, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Senator L. H. McCLEAN, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37; Senator His Hon. C. L. Bolden, 35; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44.

RESUMPTION

Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51; Senator Mrs. V. E. Newton, 51, 53, 54; Senator D. D. Marshall, 54, 55, 56, 57; Senator J. E. D. Williams, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62; Senator L. H. McCLEAN, 59; Senator Hon. J. X. Walcott, 63.

ORDER NO. 6 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
REVOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING OF
CROWN LANDS LOCATED AT ALLEYNE'S
LAND, BUSH HALL, ST. MICHAEL.....63
Senator Hon. J. X. Walcott, 63.

ORDER NO. 3 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING
OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (COLLECTION OF CAR
PARKING CHARGES) (VALIDATION) – BILL,
2002..... 64
Senator Hon. J. X. Walcott, 64.

ORDER NO. 5 – MAGISTRATES' COURTS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002.....64
Senator Hon. J. X. Walcott, 64.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN.....65
SUSPENSIONS.....26, 45.
ADJOURNMENT..... 65
Senator Hon. J. X. Walcott, 65.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BOLDEN, Senator His Hon. C. L.
COLLYMORE, Senator B. R.
GODDARD, Senator the Hon. P. C.
HAYNES, Senator D. L.
LAURIE, Senator C. K.
MARSHALL, Senator D. D.
McCLEAN, Senator L. H.

MURRAY, Senator the Hon. G. S. H.
NEWTON, Senator Mrs. V. E.
ODLE, Senator Miss J. C.
RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P. E.
SYMMONDS, Senator K. D.
WALCOTT, Senator Hon. J. X.
WILLIAMS, Senator J. E. D.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.

Q1. Masthead. The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

Q2. Dates in the text. The source gives ‘Monday, March 19, 2002’ (19 March 2002 was a Tuesday). The weekday and date do not agree; printed as in the source.

Q3. Opening. The source begins at ‘RESUMPTION’, with no PRESENT list or prayers, and the President’s opening words are broken over three lines (‘This Senate is in Session. Senator / Murray. Senator Murray has given way to Senator Bolden. / Bolden.’). Several Senators, and the Leader of the Senate in reply, refer to speeches made ‘yesterday’, so this appears to be the resumed second day of the Appropriation debate. Please confirm.

Q4. Appropriation Bill, third reading. The Bill for the 2002-2003 Estimates is cited as the ‘Appropriation Act, 2000’. No Committee stage is recorded between the second and third readings, and the note ‘At this point Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair’ follows the third reading. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Appropriation Bill, Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson’s speech. While the Deputy President is in the Chair, one remark is labelled ‘Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER’. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 6, heading. The heading reads ‘TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A REVOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING OF CROWN LANDS’, presumably ‘Resolution’. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 5, Magistrates’ Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2002. The third-reading note cites the measure as the ‘Magistrate’s Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2002’ rather than an Act. The motion to go into Committee is attributed to Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, although Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott moved every other stage. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate resumed on Tuesday, 19th March, 2002 its debate on the Appropriation Bill for the 2002-2003

Estimates, a sum of about \$1.1 billion; Mr. President was in the Chair, and the Deputy President took the Chair in the evening. With Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray giving way, His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden spoke first. He answered criticism of the National Housing Corporation’s building programme, described losing a business after supplying chickens to the Barbados Marketing Corporation, urged the tripartite committee to sit down and settle a policy, and spoke on retirement age, a point on which Senator B. R. Collymore explained that public servants entering after 1st June, 1984 retired compulsorily at 65 and optionally at 60.

Senator C. K. Laurie ranged over the Barbados National Trust, the National Council for Science and Technology, the Barbados National Standards Institution and fisheries talks with Trinidad and Tobago, which drew points of order from Senator Murray. He estimated farm-level food production at \$130 million and questioned the distribution of land for the landless, on which Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard rose to say he had imputed improper motives. Senator K. D. Symmonds spoke on the magistracy, including a Privy Council ruling that magistrates were civil servants, and on penal reform, and the President said he would not be ‘a conduit’ when Senator Symmonds invited ‘the presidential leader’ to repudiate a political position. Senator Miss J. C. Odle reviewed home affairs, including planned regulation of the storage of hazardous materials, the Fire Service, and the 577 overstayers asked to leave so far in 2002.

After the suspension, Senator D. L. Haynes spoke on youth, sport and cricket, including the under-15 players left out of the side for Trinidad. Senator L. H. McClean, for the Opposition, said by the Minister of Health’s own admission the Queen Elizabeth Hospital remained a national disgrace, noted that \$219 000 of the \$672 168 for the National Council of Science and Technology went on salaries, raised waste dumped at the Belle quarry, and withdrew any imputation of improper motives at the President’s direction. Senator Murray replied on the economy, citing unemployment of 9.8 per cent and reserves of \$1.5 billion, defended the Department of Science and Technology, and spoke on public sector reform and a merit-based service.

After a further suspension until 5.15 p.m., Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson spoke at length on health, including the training of nursing assistants at the Barbados Community College, uniforms for health aides and the Oistins District Hospital, and was reminded by the Deputy President not to name persons. Senator Mrs. V. E. Newton described the medical library, with 12 chairs and six tables, and the condition of the Parliament Buildings. Senator D. D. Marshall noted that it still took more than a week to

incorporate a company, and Senator J. E. D. Williams spoke on liberalisation of the market to attract private capital and on local programming; Senator McClean's attempt to have him declare an interest was ruled no point of order.

Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott, Leader of the Senate, replied after almost ten hours, telling Senator Laurie that road spending included \$33 million for highways, \$15.1 million for the road network service and \$2.2 million for Baxters Road and Tudor Street, and giving Senator Mascoll tourism figures of 425 632 arrivals in 1994 and 544 096 in 2000. The Bill was read a second and third time.

Senator Walcott then moved the Resolution vesting 2 203 square metres of Crown land at Alleyne's Land,

Bush Hall, St. Michael in the National Housing Corporation for the Urban Development Commission's pilot project, including the conversion of 50 pit toilets; it was agreed to. The Road Traffic (Collection of Car Parking Charges) (Validation) Bill, 2002, validating fees for the extended Lower Wharf car park, and the Magistrates' Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2002, allowing a magistrate to remand an accused person for more than eight clear days, both passed all stages, with His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden in the Chair in Committee. Senator McClean put questions on the recruitment of Barbadian teachers and nurses abroad. Items 1 and 2 were not proceeded with, Senator Walcott wished Senators an enjoyable Easter, and the Senate was adjourned sine die.