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# THE SENATE DEBATES

## (UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

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PARLIAMENT 1999 – 2003

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### THE SENATE

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

#### RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill which is now before the Chamber. I want to start by saying that the Estimates show the position of a Government that recognises that we are moving into new and dangerous waters. That we need the sort of personnel to run a Government that can understand the feeling of the people at home and put that against circumstances that affect us in this world.

Mr. President, one of the things that we have to look at is how is the Government going to proceed from here in order to keep Barbados at the standard that it is today and the standard we now enjoy.

I recall the Honourable Prime Minister saying that it is his wish that he could move Barbados into the status of a developed country out of the status of a developing country. If we want to be a developed country there are certain things that we must accept and adhere to.

One of the first things I think we need to look at is public sector reform. That will only come when the unions in Barbados recognise that things have to change and until we change, our productivity is not going to be sufficient to compete with the changing world.

Mr. President, I am going to give you an example of this. In 1978 I was Minister of Transport and Works. One of the first things that I attempted to do was to save that department from the gossip of people who would complain in the press and on the radio that Ministry of Transport and Works' workers were standing at the side of the road and hiding under trees and doing nothing. Sir, with that

statement, it accused the Government of not properly managing that sector of its employees.

I called a meeting and I discovered that there was an agreement that each one of these workers was supposed to weed 300 yards a day and at the end of weeding the 300 yards they had nothing more to do for that day and that was part of their contract. I asked the representative how would you like them weeding 300 metres and whenever they were finished they could go home. The representative agreed and five groups started it the following morning. The report was that persons went to work from as early as 5.30 a.m. and by 9.00 a.m. they had finished their allotted task and they went to work in the sugar industry cutting canes and doing several other things.

A few weeks after that the union called and said that it cannot work because this was a unilateral agreement and that it had to stop. The union said that the workers were weeding 30 feet more than they should and that they did not have any say in the matter. However, four out of the five groups came to the Ministry and said, Mr. Minister, we like this and we will carry on this arrangement.

Now, that is an example of the unions not pulling in tandem with the developed world. Until we get the unions to understand that this is a developed world, we are going to be in serious problems.

Sir, I had another problem, I was still Minister of Agriculture in 1976 and I had a call from a plantation owner who said that he had planted pumpkins in a field and from the time he reaped them he could not get anything else to grow. He said that he had been calling the Ministry of Agriculture for months and nobody had responded. I called the then Permanent Secretary to get a team out to this plantation the Monday morning to carry out the necessary test. He called me back and told me that the arrangements were made for the visit to the plantation. I called the plantation owner and told him that a team from the Ministry would be out on the Monday. On the Tuesday

morning I got a call from the plantation owner and he told me that he waited all day Monday and no one came.

Sir, when I called the Permanent Secretary, he came back to me and said that the persons who were supposed to have visited the plantation said that it rained on Monday so they could not go.

Mr. President, I have gone to Taiwan and I have seen people in the fields with hats on and they introduced me to people in the fields who were professors and they had PhDs. One officer of the Ministry told me that his job was to sit at a desk and he is not going out into the field. This is an agricultural officer that told me this. I said to him that if he does not go out by tomorrow morning and get the job done, you and I will appear before the Public Service Commission, I still have an office on Pinfold Street and I hope that you have one somewhere to go because the two of us cannot be in here together. Sir, that was my method of running a Ministry.

I believe that this will be my last term in this Honourable Chamber but when I leave this Chamber I intend to tell the public of Barbados how Government is run in Barbados. The public of Barbados does not understand the running of Government.

Sir, yesterday you heard what the Minister of Health said regarding the procedure in appointing a doctor. I can tell you that a file will sit on a desk and it will stay there for months and it cannot move until that officer decides to put his signature on it. Why do we constantly blame Ministers for not doing this or that, when my knowledge tells me that there is only one Minister that I know, since I have been back in Barbados in 1964 and part of a new administrative Government, who knows anything about a cheque book, where things are sorted, filed and how files are retrieved in Government. A Minister has to wait until a file is put before him.

Sir, sometimes if the Minister dares ask a question, you will hear things like, he wants to run in here, well we will show him something. I do not want to tell you the story about that because I know the story behind that. If you doubt me, you can ask Mr. Ralph Boyce and he will tell you the story.

Sir, yesterday when I heard Senator Collymore chiding the Government for certain things, Senator Collymore should be the last person to chide any Minister in Government for anything in Government because he occupied some very top positions in Government over a long period of time and he knows how it works. So, to come in here and say that the Minister did not do this or that is not fair.

Sir, when I was Minister of Transport, I put a figure in the Estimates for realigning the road above the Cheapside market. A Permanent Secretary came to me and said, "you cannot put so much money in there. You have to do it a certain way. You normally go back for a Supplemental Estimate.

Mr. President, when I was Minister of Agriculture a consultancy team came to Barbados and our portion of the agreement was to provide housing for this team. I got a letter from the Ministry of Housing that we had three houses at Hinds Hill available. They told me that we cannot give up these houses because we do not know when we would need them. In the meantime, there was a mango tree growing from out of the sink of one of these houses, through a window and outside. The Chinese who lived in this house had left a mango in the sink and the mango seed grew. Sir, we have to understand how Government works in this country and stop blaming Ministers.

There is a situation where three bus drivers came to me a Sunday night and said to me, Mr. Bolden, we have been told that we have to leave Probyn Street Bus Stand by tomorrow morning. We want you to represent us. I went to a meeting the Sunday night and I ask them to bring their permits to me. The Monday morning there was an incident at Probyn Street where 20 policemen were there to move these buses from Probyn Street. I told a senior officer from the Licencing Authority that he could not move them because the permits say Probyn Street, Bay Street and Jemmotts Lane. I told him that if he puts them in the River Bus Stand, the Special Constable would report them for being off-route. Sir, he looked around, got into his vehicle and left.

Sir, they went back to the Licencing Authority and spent the night typing new permits and distributed them up to 3.00 a.m. The bus drivers told me that they wanted me back at Probyn Street the Tuesday morning because these new permits were dated for the Tuesday.

Mr. President, when I got to Probyn Street on the Tuesday morning I said to the officer, a permit is property under the law and you have no lawful authority to change somebody's permit unilaterally, so you cannot move them.

10.10 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The following Sunday, they went and pushed down the facility from beside the old plaza. Up to today, those bus drivers are still out there urinating all around the area without any facilities.

Then the Prime Minister got into it and asked for a visit to the River Bus Stand. The morning the Prime Minister said, in the presence of all of us, that this is not even fit for human beings to be here. He turned to a senior officer and said, that is the old Queens College building, refurbish it, make a waiting room downstairs and you can have offices upstairs to control the buses in this area.

We set up a meeting two days later at MTW, and do you know what a senior officer at MTW said, I know what money I have to spend and the Prime Minister or nobody can tell me what I have to do. Up to now, the old Queens College building is still there with water in the bus stand up there and the buses are still out Probyn Street.

Now, when Senator Mascoll comes in here and talks about above the line and below the line, off budget, et cetera, he is only running the same tune that the Democratic Labour Party has run every period of the election and they have lost and he will lose also.

Let me tell a story.

Mr. President, the same noise you are hearing is the same noise that said, he will not support Mascoll because Mascoll knows nothing about the Barbados Labour Party and its philosophies.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot presume that I am hearing noises.

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I apologise for trying to test your hearing ability.

*Asides.*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, the Democratic Labour Party bought a boat to move cement when we did not have a cement plant. They cannot deny that. Then in 1985, the then Minister of Finance, when he was a shadow minister before that, kept saying that Barbadians were overtaxed.

Sir, this is the same noise that Mr. Mascoll is making now that Barbadians are overtaxed. Mr. Mascoll will sit and look at this and subtract this from this et cetera. I will get to that in a minute.

Sir, when the Barbados Labour Party said they would give you \$12 000 tax free, the same Minister came out and said, \$15 000 tax free. I remember walking through the Courts and hearing young girls and boys in the Courts saying, we are voting Dems because we are getting \$15 000 tax free.

They told the public \$15 000 tax free and they boasted how they back raised H. B. St. John. Do you

remember that Gabby, your supporter, made a calypso, back raise, back raise...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am addressing the Chair. Not your supporter, Sir.

*Asides.*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Back raise, back raise. You won the election in 1986 and the first thing that was done, he up the taxes on gaming machines to such an exorbitant level that half of them collapsed in Barbados and that was the first signal of people going home because they had no work. But that is another philosophy of the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, in 1975-1976 they sent home teachers and 14-year-old children and left them on the streets. We argued, what are you doing. You are creating a dangerous situation where parents have to go out to work and children of that tender age will be left alone in these homes with nobody to care for them.

Do you know what the Minister of Education came in here and said, that he will do what he has to do. This raised an issue because the gentleman who said he is going to run in St. Peter now, wrote a letter in the Press, condemning the action. The Minister came into the Other Place and said he will not have him in the department any longer and he must go. But that man's brother came back to the House one evening with a cutlass to cut off the hand of the Minister. You can check the records and you will see what I am saying.

*Asides.*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I know. You will always disown everything now. Nobody is ever there but, Mr. President, that is not all.

They said we were overtaxed and they started chopping left, right and centre but what happened by 1993-1994, they sent home civil servants and then they cut the civil servants salaries. And worse than that, when Mr. Mascoll talked about Barbados' credit rating falling, those were the same words that were used in 1986.

They will not tell you that their Minister of Finance went around the world trying to borrow \$60 million and nobody would entertain him. Then he went to a Finance Ministers Meeting and start his portion of that Finance Ministers' Meeting which was to read a poem when everybody was talking about money.

Sir, Mr. Mascoll will have to tell us that Barbados attempted to borrow money and could not succeed. But they will throw this talk about Barbados in this bad position, because they say election is coming up, and they believe that the people of Barbados will be foolish to believe them, you fooled me once, you fooled me twice and you cannot fool me the third time.

Sir, he talked about GEMS and about JAWS and when challenged about JAWS, he said that was something he made up and there was no JAWS.

Now, credibility is a big issue and will be a big issue. He said that the Government should get out of HRL. This runs parallel with the Barbados Labour Party's thinking. That Government sold Heywoods when I was a minister, when we had to go down there and take over Heywoods which they had started and the IADB told us that if we rejected it we could not borrow money from them again, because it was an international project and Heywoods had to go through. Then they sold Heywoods for less than it cost to be erected.

*Asides.*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I am glad that he sold it to a Barbadian company. Now, GEMS is a Barbadian company, owned by Barbadians and the concept of Heywoods was that Barbadians had no stake in the tourist industry and therefore, Heywoods should be developed so that Barbadians could own sectors of that property as a Barbadian entity. That is why you have three swimming pools, four restaurants, et cetera. That was the international finding that Barbados had no stake in the tourist industry. The GEMS project is a Barbadian entity, but they are now saying to get rid of it.

Sir, I want to know if you know that at GEMS today, as of last night, they employed 17 persons at management level, 34 assistant managers, 17 administrative persons, 35 security persons, 17 maintenance persons, and 197 line staffs, making a total of 317 persons employed. They pay a monthly wage bill of \$170 000 and a weekly wage bill of \$111 000. Tell them at GEMS that you are shutting them down and sending home those people.

I want the Democratic Labour Party to come out and positively tell the people of Barbados, if we get in the power, we will shut down GEMS and we will send home those people. Instead of that, what I want you to do is call on the Government to register tour guides in this country, and then you would know the true system of the all-inclusive hotel and the hotel industry.

Mr. President, a lot of people do not know a lot of things. Do you hear about the 'do-flicky' that is put on at Pelican Village, as a method of attracting the visitors off

the cruise ships? Unfortunately, in my view and I am very positive about this, the redesign of Pelican Village is not in-keeping with a native market.

Sir, people do not look at it as a native market. I have friends from Canada, Germany and all over the place who came here and said they never thought that was a native market, so they do not go into it. You now have to spend money for a 'do-flicky' to get the people off the ships.

Sir, I have several friends that went on cruise ships and they said that on the ships themselves, people are telling the visitors not to shop in Barbados and not to go to Pelican.

10.20 a.m.

*Tuesday, March 26, 2003*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: They are saying that the prices in Pelican are too high.

I would advise the Government to put a PA System outside the Port so that from the time the ships get in the Harbour they would be giving the people information on what to enjoy in Barbados. That will defeat the action of the cruise directors on board the ships.

I have at this minute an ex-BA pilot and his wife staying in Barbados. On Sunday night he was telling me a story about some of his friends who came to Barbados and went back and said that there is nothing in Barbados. He said he asked them where they stayed and they told him that they were taken to a hotel where they spent a week and came back home. He told them that they have not seen Barbados.

I know of another two people who came from Canada and spent three weeks here while staying in Sunset Crest. They have now gone back, but they were told the same thing, that is, not to go out, but the gentleman said he rented a moke and he got lost in St. Lucy. He said he has often heard that if you get lost in Barbados to look for a rum shop. He went into the rum shop and asked questions. He said the people in the rum shop bought him drinks and from that day he has been coming back to Barbados every year and he has been telling his Canadian friends that when they go to Barbados to get out and they would enjoy Barbados.

We have got to devise ways and means of telling the people who come here on cruise ships that there are things in Barbados to see and do and in that regard we would overcome the bad mouthing of the cruise directors. We are getting mega cruise ships here. I have got clients who ran taxis from the Port and they tell me the few jobs they get,

the people tell them straight and plain what the cruise ship people told them. They walk from the Port up to Nelson here and after walking up and seeing the beauty of Barbados, they then decide to get into the taxis here around Nelson and tour the island.

So the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) has got to get things right. I am suggesting that as a first step they should install a PA System. They can have recorded information and pipe it out to the cruise ships before the passengers come off the ships so that they will know who is true and who is not true.

The Democratic Labour Party has now resorted to their elders, but I asked myself in the year 2003 how can you expect to use past persons to guide you, Mr. President. I have been reading the newspaper and there is a gentleman who used to be High Commissioner to Trinidad and then there is a lady who is talking that we should have had a fishing agreement for the longest time...

*Asides.*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: It just shows the thoughts of the people.

When it came out in the newspapers that Barbados and Trinidad were nearing an agreement, many organisations in Trinidad said that if the Government of Trinidad and Tobago go into an agreement with Barbados they will go to the court. Yet still, the Democratic Labour Party past elder is telling you that we should have had an agreement, but he was the High Commissioner to Trinidad for a long time. He did not get one negotiated. It just shows you the strategy of the Democratic Labour Party to confuse the people out there, but I think the people out there read the newspapers and they will see that to conclude agreements are not as easy as stand up because I heard them saying they are carrying the fisherfolks from Barbados down to Trinidad and the fisherfolks in Trinidad are agreeing with them.

I will tell you another thing too. I have many clients as fishermen and they do not want any agreement. Eighty per cent of the fishermen in Barbados do not want an agreement with Trinidad. They say that the day we have a fishing agreement with Trinidad, the boats will all head down to Trinidad and Tobago waters and the price of fish will drop in Barbados.

*Asides.*

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please!

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I want to turn to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. I think we need to do a serious reorganisation of

the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in terms of the Licencing Authority. If we are supposed to be an island that is putting our development and future into visitors to earn foreign exchange, I believe that we should be as friendly and as accommodating as possible in this way.

Many visitors still drive around Barbados. I myself am very confused every time I reach a junction because nearly every other junction in Barbados has a different type of marking for direction of traffic. As far as I know, road traffic is regulated by signs, but somebody has now moved from signs to words. If you doubt me, come from JB's Supermarket in Sergeants Village and you would see a big sign stick in the left-hand corner saying, if you are going to the Airport take the left lane and if you are going so and so... Tell me what somebody who comes from Germany or from France who cannot speak English is to do when they are coming down to that junction. Those road signs are very confusing. If you take it at this junction, the next junction is completely different.

I believe that the Road Traffic Act, and I said it over and over again, needs serious revision by people who know the law in Barbados and not by expatriates. There is a tendency of employing consultants who do not understand what is happening in Barbados.

One of the things that I want to highlight is that a visitor to Barbados can get a one-year drivers' licence for \$10 but a local person has to pay \$50 for the same one-year drivers' licence. I know there are several non-Barbadians who are living in Barbados and who are driving with a visitor's permit and they go and renew them every year. You only have to turn up with your passport and say you are a visitor, you came in last night and you are going back next week and the police would renew it for you.

*Asides.*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I think we have to have a different system. I do not mind if you are going to encourage the visitor to drive by giving them a \$10 licence but I think you must keep careful records and you must be able to look and see if that person had a licence before, if they left the island and if they came back. I think that needs to be done.

Now, I turn to the Highway Code. As far as I know in law the Highway Code must reflect the laws and regulations of the traffic laws of Barbados, but I have seen a published Highway Code that has things in it that do not reflect anything in Barbados. Here again a Highway Code is written that pays no attention to the Road Traffic Act, but there is a Highway Code. The Road Traffic Act demands that the Commissioner of Police produce a Highway Code. Here again I think that is not in keeping with Barbados' law because one can rely on a breach of the Highway Code

in a civil case in our courts in Barbados, but you cannot with this one. This one talks about going over bridges, steam rollers, trains, et cetera.

*Asides.*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Get a Highway Code and see.

I turn now to the Licencing Authority. The Licencing Authority issues a renewal disc for motor cars but after a month you cannot see what is written on any one of those discs, so when a police stops you, he will ask you when did you renew your licence.

10.30 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

His Hon. SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I do not think it is that hard for us to devise a computerised system where it could be printed and enclosed in a plastic case and given to the driver. Instead of that, a handwritten disc is given and in two days' time, no one can see what was written on it.

Sir, I go back to traffic. Everybody complains about traffic congestion in Barbados. The private sector employed a consultant to come up with suggestions about how to relieve the traffic congestion in Barbados. What I have read in the newspaper is that the consultant has said that schools should start earlier. I do not know what the consultant was thinking at that time.

I live in St. Thomas and when I leave home at 6.20 a.m., there are school children waiting at the side of the road for transportation. If school times are going to be changed these children would have to leave home at 5.00 a.m. Instead of that suggestion, the consultant could have gone to the Ministry of Labour where he would have seen that we have had a consultant here in the early 1970s and that I had made a presentation before that consultant.

At that time, I said that what Barbados needed was flexitime and that the stores in Broad Street should not be opened before 10:00 a.m. If stores are opened at 10:00 a.m., it would relieve at least half of the traffic that comes into Bridgetown. One now finds that anybody could walk into a store on mornings and would not find as many as six people in it at that time, yet the air-conditioning units would be running and the staff not having any customers to serve.

These stores do not realise they would save by not having to run the air-conditioning units at 6.00 a.m. They do not realise how many man hours would be saved by

opening at 10:00 a.m. and closing at 6.00 p.m., than opening at 8.00 a.m. and closing at 4.00 p.m.

Mr. President, rather than the consultant tell the private sector the reality of the situation, he chose that the schools should be opened earlier. That is why I said when the Road Traffic Regulations are being revised, one has to find people who know Barbados and who know what goes on. Little does the consultant know that the Transport Board takes about 70 buses off the roads on mornings to move children to and from schools. If the opening times for businesses are moved, those buses would be easier to move with school children and come back to service workers. Instead, the private sector wants to penalise the school children to satisfy themselves by continuing to open from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

I doubt many persons in here know there was a time when Broad Street used to be closed half-days on Saturdays and Swan Street half-days on Thursdays. When Parliament was made up of that interested class, they insisted that both be closed on Saturdays because Swan Street was making more money than Broad Street. This is the year 2003 and we should not carry on with that kind of thinking anymore.

Mr. President, I want to raise one other issue. I would like to ask one question, which I believe the Leader of the House could answer. How soon are we going to get a good telephone system in Barbados? I am having difficulty in using my telephone. After 5.00 p.m. on evenings, all I am hearing is "all circuits are busy now." I think the Government of Barbados will have to do what the Government of California did - go to court and have an action that the telephone supply company does not send bills to persons who do not get adequate service. That is the only way we are going to get a better system. After so many years of Cable and Wireless being in Barbados, do you know what someone up there told me, that I was on the 438th circuit and would experience that problem. When I questioned for how long, I was told I would have had to ask someone in management. Sir, there must be some remedy for what is happening. I think it is time for the Government of Barbados to tell us what is happening. With that, Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, in rising to make my contribution to this Debate which is now in its third day, much has already been shared but I do feel that I want to add my voice to the Appropriation Bill, 2003.

Sir, as I do so, I want to begin by reflecting on Barbados' sovereignty as an Independent nation, well able to manage our affairs. Mr. President, sovereignty for me is more than about broken tridents or the blue and gold flag flying majestically in Barbados. It is about lifting people up. It is about ownership. It is my Barbados. It is your

Barbados. It is about our sense of belonging. It is about our sense of being. It is about being able to participate in a society at whatever level we choose to or are at which level we are able. It is not about mendicancy and prostituting ourselves for hope of future aid which might never be forthcoming. We are aware there are many Third World countries where promises from all sources have been made and are yet to be fulfilled.

Sir, sovereignty is about being able to speak out against atrocities. I give that background because on a day like today where a part of the world is at war, I feel we should speak to it and for me to say I am opposed to the war. My feelings on anti war is nothing to do with the style of leadership within that country but I do not support oppression or dictatorship being a camouflage for democracy in any form.

The invasion by the United States and its allies is about power. It is about super power's might and super power's right, as they would think, to control. There are those who would even think it is representative reminiscent of a bygone era called colonialism and the powers in the past as they too sought to control. It is a flagrant disregard for conventions and resolutions agreed to by states of the United Nations and Barbados is one such state. We have agreed to certain conventions and this act flies in the face of those conventions.

10.40 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Sir, this war, as will all wars, will leave in its wake grave dislocation of families and even though we are not hearing about them on the news media there are many broken bodies, poverty, destruction and death.

This war is almost like a movie as we watch it on television. It is almost unreal and I have not heard much comment about the people implicated. As a matter of fact in a section of the media today I saw children being handed sweets by a man in uniform. Sir, it boggles my mind and it says to me that there are certain biases.

I want to speak about the method by which we have responded to a suggestion from the U.S.A. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade chose to respond on the Floor of Parliament and was castigated for doing so. Everyone knows that the individual who holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade knows how to do things when it comes to protocol. For the Opposition to suggest that we should have responded diplomatically by way of a communique is nonsense because it would have been taken care of already. If the Minister chose to speak to it on the Floor of Parliament I

do not have a problem with that. I have a problem with the Senator on the other side setting himself apart from it.

Sir, Barbados must stand united in our position. If we believe in freedom, peace, democracy and free speech, we must come together at this time. The Honourable Senator is entitled to his opinion but I want to ask him what image he has of himself. Is he a puppet pulling to the tune of some player because Barbados is not like that.

Barbados has demonstrated its ability to lead and get out of situations because if we were not able to lead our neighbours in the Caribbean we would have gone down a sticky path.

I remember the kind of image Barbados has worldwide. I think of Dame Nita Barrow when she was part of a U.N. grouping to look at the whole issue of peace and democracy. She was one of the first advocates of whom Barbados can be justly proud. She was eulogised as the best Secretary of the United Nation that never was. I think that is kudos indeed.

I am pleased to be a part of this Government because it has done an excellent job in managing the economy of this country in a decent and sovereign manner in difficult times and in good times. Obviously, Governments are comprised of human beings and none of us is perfect and we may make errors. I am not saying that we have done everything right and the electorate will have a chance soon to make their mark and determine if a good job has been done by this administration in the last two years and I want to suggest that this Government is ready and able to do another term.

The decisions made by this administration have been made in good faith and with professional and expert advice. The Minister of Finance deserves to be commended for his management of the economy. Even with war in the background and predictions of challenges in the economic front due to globalization, the Prime Minister is steering this ship through troubled waters with tenacity. In what is expected to be an election year, he could have done what others in the past have done and be loose with his hand in encouraging and initiating grand election spending. It is very clear that the Minister of Finance has not gone down that road with these Estimates before us.

As a matter of fact he did quite the opposite for the last three years and I remember him urging Barbadians to tighten their belts, save and invest but many have not done that. Those who have not done so, it is to their detriment.

I will not go into the issue of selling and buying shares but suffice it to say those who did not purchase shares when they were up for grabs for Barbadians, the

shares are now up to such an extent that they could have cashed them in and bought more again.

The Prime Minister advises us to save and invest to shore up for now because at the time there were no rumours of war and we know the effects war can have on us.

I will give an example of a young lady who services an international clientele and there were cancellations from many going to the USA and she was distraught because they were not traveling anymore. The cancellations were going to impact on her business. As far away as Barbados is from the Middle East, as a small services provider we are beginning to feel the effects of the war.

Sir, it was this Barbados Labour Party that refunded the 8 per cent back to the civil servants. These were moneys taken out under a Democratic Labour Party administration and the Minister of Finance strongly urged those who received the 8 per cent refund to invest it in buying shares in Insurance Corporation of Barbados and the Barbados National Bank. I want to say that a greater understanding about these types of investment would have been beneficial.

Sir, I have served two terms in this Senate and I have learnt many difference things. I value the time spent here. I am wiser for it. The idea of being concerned with a Budget with the vast numbers that these Estimates talk about was awesome for me. Many years ago, before coming to this Senate when the now Prime Minister and Minister of Finance was the Leader of the Opposition he put a human face to these numbers which many Barbadians are in awe of even though we are well educated and it began to take on a different understanding for me then a much younger business woman.

10.50 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Since I was in this Senate, I want to thank Senator Barker because he put another spin on it. He simplified the issues and said to me that the Budget is no different from managing a household, it is just a much bigger household and that really makes it real.

Mr. President, these Estimates speak to the upliftment of Barbadians. I say that because we think immediately of money for the building of roads et cetera but it touches people at a social level. I want to spend some time dealing with that.

I want to commend the housing policy and I am not going to go into specifics because Senator Marshall did so

with much aplomb. I want to know that this continuing policy will redound to the benefit of women, particularly. I say that because many women are householders but not house owners. The Senator spoke about the continuing sale of terrace units. Sir, we all are aware of starter homes and duplexes. I say that it would benefit women largely because there is no secret that 44.5 per cent of householders in Barbados are women, particularly single-headed households.

I am hearing in an aside that there are more than that but I am going by statics provided by the Gender Bureau.

Mr. President, the question of ownership of property is a dream that most Barbadians have. Everybody aspires to own a piece of the rock. Those of us who owned our home or invested in the first piece of land, even though you might be paying an institution for it, there was a tremendous sense of achievement and that achievement is being realised by this Barbados Labour Party administration, not only by the sale of houses but the issue of urban tenancies at \$2.50 per square foot paid by the individual and the difference paid by Government up to a certain size lot. Mr. President, that is an initiative that I do not believe is mirrored anywhere else.

I believe that this Government should be commended. Historically, we knew that we had the 10 cents per square foot under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, again, a Barbados Labour Party initiative. We are making sure that Barbadians feel that sense of ownership. If you feel good about your environment and good about your achievements, I expect that it would redound to the benefit of the society.

In recognising the issue of housing availability, to house a nation is a herculean task and I know that this administration could never hope to satisfy the demands in this short period of time. However, the commitment is there and over time we will begin to see significant benefits across the board in that regard.

The amount of money allocated to housing in this Estimates is testimony of our commitment. It is there for all to see and I commend it and look forward to those who have the opportunity to do so and urge them, if they are in a position to purchase the lot that they live on, through the Urban Development Commission, do not let it slip through your hands otherwise you will regret it. I urge you to take advantage in this regard because land does not spoil. So, if you invest now, who knows what the value of the land would be in years to come.

Sir, it also has an implication for the next generation. This kind of ownership, which is new to many upcoming Barbadians, has implication for inheritance for the next

generation so that they can take that opportunity to build and grow from there.

I want to look at social issues. The Ministry of Social Transformation has extensive responsibilities. The responsibilities speak to the core of our nationhood under the ambit of the Ministry of Social Transformation. It deals with children, women, elderly, disabled, poverty alleviation and Urban Development Commission, just to name a few. Sir, these are the central parts of any society. Figures are what there are but it is who they impact on that makes all the difference.

I am always expected to talk gender. It is not what more women want. It is about how things affect men and women equally or equitably. This is not a lesson in gender studies. There is a time and place for that on another occasion.

*Asides.*

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Sir, looking at gender issues we look at the reactions as well because there are called material relations and ideological relations.

I want to look at some of the issues under gender affairs, which have been allocated for in this Budget, and I would start by saying that the scope of the work expected of the bureau recognising that it was formerly a women's bureau and which has now been broadened, a commitment by this administration in its 1999 Manifesto, to equally look at conditions facing men and women in a modern progressive Barbados and to ensure that every Barbadian has an opportunity and not marginalised in anyway.

Sir, the issue of staff will continue to be a cause for concern. Provision is made for an additional research officer in the bureau to add to the present staff of a director, who is a technocrat in the field, understands gender issues well and is the ideal person to spearhead work in that division, along with two existing research officers. There is a provision for a third officer.

Sir, if in 2003 we do not pay attention to the relationship and harmony between the sexes, we are going down a rocky road and it has implications for all forms of violence and Barbados cannot condone that, being a signatory to conventions that speak about eradication of violence in this nation.

11.00 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Sir, not to be sidetracked, let me press on.

Under the responsibility of the Bureau and on the mandate of this administration, an advisory council on gender was established. They meet monthly and they will be and are, the advisers of the Bureau. It is jointly chaired by a man and by a woman. It has members of the Barbados Christian Council, the Small Business Association, the National Organisation of Women, the Men's Educational Support Association, in each instance, the president or a designate, a representative from the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Director of Bureau Affairs. Sir, the law is represented by the two co-chairs and their responsibility is very clearly outlined. It is to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on the Status of Women.

This Status of Women Commission was established now, well-passed 25 years, under a Barbados Labour Party administration. I have to keep this because it is this Barbados Labour Party whenever it comes to the issue of looking at the improvement of the lot of people's lives, it has fallen to the Barbados Labour Party and so too again.

The Advisory Council is to advise the minister on such matters affecting the interest of women, as he may refer to it, to investigate and report on complaints of discrimination against women, to address gender inequality, general gender issues, and specific women and mens' issues.

Sir, because it is a gender bureau, we must not forget that there are still circumstances, as felt by some persons, that women are still marginalised for want of a better word, in some regards. The Council will look at women's issues and mens' issues to make sure that there is equity and equality in Barbados.

Part of the mandate is also to assist in the implementation of a national plan on genders and development. The development of programmes and the refinement of policies and other matters as they relate to the functions and mandate of the bureau of gender affairs.

Sir, as part of the work, the advisory council has received submissions from a number of agencies and continue to do so as they pull in and get a better understanding of the conditions that exist in Barbados today. Now, M.E.S.A, the coroner, a psychiatrist, Sir, because of the issue of suicide needs to be deeply looked at, in terms of what happens to men and women and how they react to stress that exist in the society.

The Centre for Gender Studies has also made submissions. There are also receiving submissions on the impact of health conditions that affect men and women, whether it is diabetes, pollution, et cetera.

Issues of politics, what is the politics in Barbados and is there equity and equality in the domain. I am sure they will hear submissions about quotas as well with respect to participation on an equal footing of men and women.

Issues of race. They are in receipt, of course, of the document that was spoken to, by the members of National Reconciliation Committee and would look at that as well.

They are also in receipt of a report from the National Task Force on the criminal risk factors. All of these speak to the kinds of behaviour, Sir, that could impact on Barbados' ability to respond equally and equitably on men and women and their relationships therein.

They are also in receipt of a report dealing with the roles of child rearing and child bearing. Obviously women have to be the one to bear the child. There are some who think that is the most important part but I have to tell you that it really cannot happen one without the other. I do not care how much genetic anything. I am not even going to go there because I have problems with test tube babies and the like, but that is another discussion for another time.

They are also going to be looking at the aging population. This too, will have an impact. How many Barbadians are now putting their seniors in the hospital and forgetting that they are there? How many seniors are leaving because there is nobody at home and they are lonely?

I was involved in a study under the National Assistance Board many years ago looking at homelessness in Barbados. One of the things that stood out quite clearly was that there was an elderly gentleman on Baxters Road who came and lived on the street because there were people there. He was not lonely there, even though he might have gotten cold in December at night, he wanted to be where people were. He might have done that by choice but the truth is, if family neglects, then the senior has to look for another place where he can find solace and comfort.

The Advisory Council must also, as part of its responsibility and has recognised this, look at the conventions to which Barbados has signed and look at the compliance. This is very much the work of the Advisory Council that I would speak about today.

Sir, to come back to the Bureau and its direct work, they have spearheaded workshops on gender analysis and training across Government agencies, with what they refer to as gender focal points. Each ministry should have a gender focal point, which is the person who would be the conduit. If information is happening in Ministry A, B, or C, on a particular matter or a particular set of concerns and is not channeled to any one repository, then it is just out there

and does not help to inform policy, recognise if any change needs to take place, and that is part of the work of the gender focal points. They would bring to light issues of equity and equality in their respective ministries for the pooling of information.

Sir, incoming, there will be two major research studies done by the Bureau. One of them will look at the situation of Barbados' men and their treatment within the criminal justice system. I already know that one of the things that will be considered and will come up in this discussion and research, is the whole question of custody of children. This requires some dialogue because there are men in this country who, for one reason or the other are denied access to their children.

I am not suggesting, Sir, that persons who may have abused, et cetera, have access but there are some in Barbados, we refer to as 'decent men' who are denied access. Very often, you see this coming if child support is late and I may say that these conditions usually exist where there is discord in the family unit. This study, Sir, among other things will look at the whole issue of custody and men and their children.

The research will also look at the social and economic cost of domestic violence. Sir, domestic violence is exceedingly topical and it is not going away until the violence stops. The statistics in Barbados are still pointed to the fact that it is primarily women who suffer domestic violence. While we recognise, of course, that some men may suffer it, the statistics such as they are, point directly to women.

Sir, I must spend a minute on one of the things that the Bureau will be doing in terms of the gathering of information, because we can only speak from what we have, in terms of statistics. In my view and in the view of the Bureau, research needs to be done further on collecting data.

Sir, data collection not only speaks to some of the matters I spoke of earlier, but will also determine how a country will determine its policy, how it will channel its funds in different kinds of ways. I would have to say that we have fallen down in this regard. Because from the time I have been coming to the Senate, sometimes it has been very difficult to get figures. Even to get to a single place, you have to collect information from different places and then do your own analysis. This is not good or safe, unless you are a person trained in working with analyses and determining their outcomes.

One of the issues, as well, in terms of gathering information from domestic violence and the social and economic cost is the whole question of the power of arrest. The Protection Orders Act does not make provision for this

and recently, as part of this research, the feeling as is employed in other places, is that there needs to be a power of arrest where violence is perpetrated against a person, regardless of the sex. There needs to be that extra because there are people who have a Protection Orders Act, and still get bludgeon, black eye, break foot, break hand, you name it, puncture, hole in head and the list goes on. This is gruesome and disgusting and the violence must stop.

It will not stop, Sir, until each and everyone in Barbados recognises that not one of us - if you recall when you were a child and might have been a bad boy, as I am sure that some people on my side and over there would have been, and bad girls too - when you got punished, not bludgeon, a spank or reprimand, it hurt your nerves badly and you did not like it and you tried not to do it again. And so, it would not stop until each of us recognises that it is not a good thing to be subjected to that kind of abuse.

11.10 a.m.

*Tuesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I am not referring to a parent punishing a child as abuse, not the abuse that we know exists in this Barbados. It may not be as bad here as it is in other places, but we are nothing to do with that, we have to be concerned with here. Each person has an opportunity and a right to be able to live free of fear and free from fear.

Sir, it also has an impact on productivity because if you do not feel good about yourself - remember we talked earlier in this debate about our human resources being the most valuable asset - you cannot meaningfully contribute to your job, to your own employment, to managing your affairs and to managing and raising your family well. So it is important that we get the statistics on these things to see how we can implement programmes of awareness and of correction.

Sir, one of the things the Bureau must do, which will be helped by the general focal points I made earlier, is to collect information so that it can be accurately captured in any reports that Barbados is mandated to make to regional agencies such as CARICOM and international agencies such as the United Nations Convention on Discrimination Against Women and the Organisation of American States. It is critical, if we are signatories to conventions, that our reporting must be done timely and accurately.

Sir, having spoken about violence, I want to touch briefly on a piece of legislation - I do not know if it is allowable to wear all the hats that we have, but I wear several hats. I recall about two to two and half years ago the National Organisation of Women presented to the

Government what they referred to as a list of demands. Amongst them was the call for a Sexual Harassment Bill.

I want to touch on this because I have read aspects of the media that this Bill is in delay because the National Organisation of Women has failed to respond or to offer any submissions. Sir, this is not accurate. I am not necessarily knocking the department that has responsibility for dealing with this, but if we do not speak out to things that matter, then they may never get resolved because all across the world and in Barbados we talked about things that we did not like and they got changed. If we keep silent about things, we would go on from year to year and nothing will get resolved. So today I am going to speak about the Sexual Harassment Bill and the fact that the National Organisation of Women has made its submissions. I have a copy of such and I want to touch on one or two of the points. I do not have the actual Bill with me, I have the points that concern the collective group of the National Organisation of Women which is an umbrella organisation of 13 members including political organisations, the Barbados Registered Nurses Association - Senator Rickinson would be happy to hear this - and several other agencies that work with women in the communities.

The draft legislation now has had an issue with part of the preamble. The members felt that the legislation should not be limited only to...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, if you are speaking of a matter which is likely to be brought before this Chamber in a reasonable time, then perhaps you should not anticipate it. This is forbidden by our rules.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I will leave that, Sir, just to say that I look forward to it coming to this Chamber.

I heard an aside, but you always urge us not to speak to asides, Sir.

People talked about the work that the so-called social clubs do in this Barbados which impact positively on the different sectors.

Sir, I want to touch briefly on the Child Care Board and the Ministry of Social Transformation because I do not plan to spend a lot of time on them given the time allocated here today. I believe that a nation is judged on how it deals with its disadvantaged groups. Some may argue that our youth are disadvantaged because they are still in the nurturing process and if you do not do it right, then the nation is in trouble. We need to look at our elderly and the disabled. Barbados has a proud record, ever growing because we must never rest on our laurels, in terms of making provisions for disadvantaged groups.

The Child Care Board has under its responsibility 123 children living in their residences. As they grow up there needs to be a transition for these adolescents from institutional shelters to a home of their own in some way or the other to at least manage their environment whether they are owners or tenants or whether they are sharing accommodation.

Sir, there are service clubs in this country that make a contribution in ensuring that they assist this Government. I think they must be commended because I believe we are still in the year of volunteer. Last year was the year of volunteer. I am one of those people who believe that every single Barbadian should be volunteering to do something to help somebody else. I do not make any apology about that because I believe that if more people were to contribute time, energy and effort to all kinds of issues that would help to improve the lot and to uplift people generally in a society and the workload will be reduced on a larger number. So I unapologetically call, I wish I could make it a demand, on everybody in Barbados to volunteer, but to make it a demand, it would not be voluntarism.

I am aware of the initiative taken by the Optimist Club of Barbados to adopt the Sterling Children's Home. This is not new. Adopt in this sense refers to adults spending time working on programmes to uplift and to develop the young persons. This is encouraged by the Child Care Board. The Optimist Club went further and created what they called 'The Steps to the Future Project' which saw the building of three homes to accommodate adolescents on the cusps of leaving the Child Care Board institutions. This is part of their initiative to help these young adolescents to manage their own environs and affairs.

11.20 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I am aware that at the Challenor's School, a unit was also constructed for a similar purpose. Many of the Children's Homes have additional space in their environs that could accommodate this type of project. It is a sort of project that could lend meaningful support to young people and I believe it needs to be expanded.

I would like to go further and to suggest that service clubs that are spearheading these ventures should be encouraged to continue and that the project be matched by funds or assistance from Government. Furthermore, that the material used for labour receives tax concessions. That way, the cost would be reduced overall because, at the end of the day, the beneficiaries are the young, often able sometimes disabled young people, who will be making a contribution in one way or other to Barbados. We cannot

measure that contribution because it would vary across the board.

One concern though is that the laws only make provision for children under the age of 18 to be under the auspices of the Child Care Board and so that needs to be managed. I am suggesting that if there is a unit built on the property of the Child Care Board, that it not necessarily be captured under the same legislative arrangement because technically, the individual would be living within a stone's throw and not necessarily under the auspices of the Child Care Board. There may need to be some amendments and the lawyers who are aspiring to the Other Place might want to take that on as one of the projects that would certainly win friends and influence people.

Sir, I want to look at the care of the elderly and to remind Barbadians that the Home Care Programme coming out under the National Assistance Board has, because of the initiative of this administration, ensured that all home helpers are now employed on a full-time basis. Sir, the benefits to that are tremendous. Not only would the persons working be able to command a better take home pay but the persons in their care would have access to better week-round services. There was a time when no service was administered on a weekend. That has changed now that there are full time staff working as home helpers.

Two new projects have also come in under the Home Help Programme. One is the installation of smoke detectors. Sir, we are well aware that house fires in Barbados are not on the decline but on the increase and very often, it is caused by senior citizens, whether it is an old smut lamp or an oil stove. I think this is a good initiative. A further initiative is the issue of pick up of prescription service. Many old people do not have someone to do things for them. Therefore, this service is a superb one to assist seniors. Of course, the recipients in this programme continue to benefit with such things as walkers, wheel chairs, et cetera.

The National Assistance Board also has to encourage recreational facilities; a programme that sees physical exercise and training in craft being incorporated in 13 centres across the island, with over 357 participants. Government's plan over the coming year is to extend the programme in response to the needs of a growing elderly population. We know that Barbados is an aging society.

When we look at the older people of today they are still actively doing things, for example, driving. If I can think of my Colleague on my left, though retired, is as active as any young working person. Therefore, for those persons who thought that retirement was sitting back and swinging away on a hammock. If I can have it such as the Dame has, then there is nothing to worry about. I laud the

Government and those older persons who want to contribute to the satisfaction of their needs.

I want to commend a project that has finally started. That is the construction of the Senior Citizens Village, Vauxhall. This was on the books for a long time. The Barbados Labour Party cannot take credit in its initial stage. That was the initiative of the Other Administration but it was lying dormant for sometime. I am now pleased this construction has commenced since August last year. The village was conceptualised to provide alternative accommodation options to address national problems of housing accommodation for the elderly, to meet the needs of further development of recreational centres for this group of persons.

The complex is 5 1/2 clusters providing for three 11-bedroom units. It is being constructed on approximately 54 000 square feet of land. Provision is also being made for a day care and recreational centre. I do not recall Senator Collymore speaking to this but I believe that Barbados Association for Retired Persons (BARP) is also giving some thought to this to see if they, as an agency, in a joint venture partnership, could possibly create similar types of housing to meet the needs of persons in another sector of the community. I would want to urge the Barbados Association of Retired Persons to look at getting shareholders to put money to contribute to it. It is similar to Coral Ridge Cemetery where they are allowing people invest in burial plots now that they are alive.

Sir, I want to raise a number of concerns pertaining the Immigration Department. I want to do so because I note and have noticed that I am seeing more and more applications for work permits for some jobs that I would call - and no disrespect to men - run-of-the-mill. I have to ask the question. Is there no where in Barbados that we can find people to fill these posts? I am not suggesting that we should not have free movement of labour but when I see applications for jobs such a purchase manager or operations manager - Barbados has a well-educated human resource, well-educated in a wide range of disciplines.

I want to beg the question, I suspect that some of the requirements for these jobs which are being advertised are not realistic for the post and are only a setup to ensure that certain persons can get their friends into Barbados under the guise of work permits, then have them to be living and retiring in Barbados.

Sir, I would like to see some criteria being set out to state what exactly is it they are looking for in these jobs. I believe that as concerned Barbadians, when the advertisements appear in the newspapers asking persons to submit their objections, if we are clear-thinking persons, we should send our letters of concern or complaint to the Immigration Department, if we are serious about giving our

young people in this country the opportunities of growth and for work, for a good pay.

11.30 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I am equally concerned of the young brilliant minds in Barbados particularly in the area of technology who are able to develop programmes but then they meet a blockade because they do not have the resources or contacts for the products of their small business to fly and to become contributors to the economy of Barbados. The President left the Chair and the Mr. Deputy President took the chair.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Odle, you may continue.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Thank you, Sir. Mr. Deputy President we are talking about upliftment and opportunities for Barbadians.

Sir, I will deal with the last item on my list. We are blessed to have the Minister of Health as Leader of Government Business here in the Senate. He outlined magnificently the works being administered under the Ministry of Health. I was pleased to hear of some of the improvements before us because we know that the health of our nation is the wealth of our nation.

I want to touch briefly on the issue of HIV/AIDS. We in Barbados recognise that HIV/AIDS is truly a pandemic that could decimate our landscape. I was not able to pick up the total amount allocated to this Head but maybe one of the other Members will speak to the amount of funds being allocated collectively across this portfolio as there is training in other areas and the anti-retroviral drugs which have a tremendous cost. I think that as a small developing country we are can see the importance of making provision for this type of treatment.

I want to look at HIV/AIDS in terms of the impact on family life because every one of us in this Chamber may know someone with HIV/AIDS. In Barbados we are inclined to be insensitive and we stigmatise, label and ostracise people with HIV/AIDS. We do not stigmatise persons with cancer, diabetes or any other life threatening illness and I wish we would not do it with HIV/AIDS either because no one in his right mind would ask for a life threatening disease. No matter how good you protect yourself there is still risk. You may be in a monogamous relationship and your partner is not promiscuous but we know that HIV/AIDS can be contracted in so many difference ways. Sir, I believe that promiscuity is still too high in Barbados and once there is promiscuity there will be trouble in the camp.

I would like to preach abstinence if you are not married but people would laugh at me but people should reevaluate their lives and use abstinence as a tool for protecting themselves.

We talk about the impact on families but HIV/AIDS has an impact on the productivity of this nation. This was particularly bothersome to me when I received the news of the death of a young woman who has five children. I do not know what will happen to these children because the extended family is not there. Sir, what destruction has death brought to this family? It behooves us to be careful and not to be judgmental about these kinds of conditions but to continue to educate and inform.

Against that background I want to commend the HIV/AIDS Commission headed by Dr. Carol Jacobs because I believe that whilst we are advanced into the spread of this disease we have to continue to do and spend much if we want to save Barbados and make sure that the quality of life is secure.

Sir, none of us can predict the length of our lives but we can have some say in terms of the quality of life and to those who are now disadvantaged because of this terrible disease.

Sir, the last eight years have been great. I have already said how much I have learnt and how I enjoyed being a part of this August Chamber with the diverse views of this wide cross section of Barbadians. I believe that the Senate should remain as a Chamber of the review and as a management of our system of Government.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator your time has ended.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Sir, I simply want to say thanks again and to urge the electorate as they listen to the remaining part of this debate and when the question is posed to you soon, please do the right thing.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. Deputy President I must say from the outset that I have found this debate to be quite fascinating.

11.40 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, that must be added to the subvention by the Barbados Labour Party to ensure that political parties survive in Barbados. Political parties who normally have to wait on contributions from various sectors of the society, no longer

have to be beholden to the society but they have money which they can use to run their affairs on a regular basis without having people sign mortgages on their personal property to protect the interest of the political party of which they support. I think that is a very progressive step and I think that it also flies in the face of the propaganda from the Democratic Labour Party's side which says that we are trying to extinguish the Democratic Labour Party in any form or fashion, when we have tried to enhance it.

Sir, I want to congratulate most of the Senators who spoke, so far, for the quality of their presentations which help to save the Estimates debate from staying on the downhill path which Senators McClean and Mascoll of the Democratic Labour Party consistently did.

I am sorry that my friend Senator McClean did not have the strength to resist the temptation to follow the lead set by Senator Mascoll.

*Asides.*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: I really expected him to be strong enough to resist the temptation. He normally strikes out on his own path and makes his own point. However, he succumbed but I do not know for what reason he did that. Senator McClean has already made it known that he would not be a candidate for St. Philip South so I do not know why he would have to succumb. Only he could tell us why. Therefore, I am very sorry that he followed the bad lead set by Senator Mascoll.

*Asides.*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I have been in this Chamber too long and I have interacted with Senator Mascoll too long as well to have been disappointed in his presentation.

SENATOR LeR. McCLEAN: On a point of order. I think that the Honourable Senator is reflecting negatively on my character when he gives the impression that I have no mind of my own and that I am simply following somebody. I think that I made my presentation in the best interest of myself and my party. Therefore, for the Honourable Senator to suggest that I am merely following a lead is saying that I do not have the capacity to think.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is not a point of order. The Honourable Senator is intending to give his opinion of what he believes. The Rules specifically preserve that kind of debate.

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

Sir, I do not know why Senator McClean is protesting. I paid him a compliment. Normally he is a man who strikes out on his own path and follows his own direction. Therefore, I was surprised that he did not resist the temptation. I was only complimenting him that characteristically, on most occasions, the trend is that he is normally a man who can speak out. Therefore, I was surprised and disappointed.

However, if he does not want to accept my compliment, I still offer it for the record, Sir.

Sir, Senator Mascoll spoke for about two hours and said a lot with which I have to disagree, that should not have been said or said in that fashion but that is his privilege and it is also my privilege to disagree.

Sir, what I found more surprising was the fact that he spoke for two hours and did not mention a single word regarding the single biggest issue facing the world, the Iraq war. I found it really surprising and, therefore, I have to contrast Senator Mascoll who is... Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member should address the Chair and do not side talk, please.

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. Deputy President, Senator Mascoll is, I think, the President of the Democratic Labour Party, therefore, I would have felt that would have been his occasion to be statesmanlike. I expected that as a good Combermerian, especially on an international issue when the whole world is watching and listening, that his colleague took a different route and made it quite clear that he was throwing his full support behind the stance taken by the Government of Barbados, meaning the Barbados Labour Party Government, regarding the proposed United States war against Iraq.

Sir, he said that he was well in agreement with Government's condemnation of the war in the East and agrees with the Minister of Foreign Affairs' stand on the war and there is no difference of opinion.

Sir, that is a tradition of a democracy as we know it. For example, in the United States where there is a situation that confronts the nation, political parties come together, submerge their differences and have one opinion that represents the totality of the views of the state at that time.

Therefore, I would have expected Senator Mascoll to do that because I feel at a time when he expects to lead his party into the next general elections, that his statesmanlike leadership would have shown and he would then be in a position to lock horns with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Therefore, he would have risen to the occasion and spoken that way.

It may go back to some of my biblical readings that I have done in my time and to say that when the country and the party were crying out for leadership of that calibre, there goes none. I, therefore, have to take solace in the Gospel of Luke Chapter 11.11-12 which says:

"If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for fish give him a serpent?"

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?"

Sir, that is how I felt when Senator Mascoll failed to rise to the occasion and failed to join his leader and the leader of the Government in representing the views of Barbados in that regard.

Mr. Deputy President, if we think that was bad, there was worse to come. Senator Mascoll did not mention the Iraq war but Senator McClean did speak on Iraq and took a contrary stance to the Senator Mascoll. He said that he was taken aback by some of the comments of the Government of the United States. He said that he was extremely disappointed and embarrassed at the Government of Barbados' attitude to the United States led war on Iraq.

SENATOR LeR. McCLEAN: On a point of order. I do not know what the Senator is quoting from. It is very much like what was published in today's newspaper. My comments did not relate to the attitude towards the war. It related to the manner in which the comments were made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I said that even though the comments may have been correct, the manner and place in which they were presented were inappropriate.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator, that was on a point of elucidation.

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: I also recalled that when Senator McClean attempted to give his personal view of the issue, he said that he was not getting into that and that when two big friends fall out, you do not get involved. I am not sure whether that is a lack of political courage, whether it represents political disingenuousness or whatever form that represents. 11.50 a.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

Senator The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, again, that is a further repudiation of the philosophy and practise of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, their founding leader. He had a famous dictum at Independence

when he addressed the United Nations, when he said that Barbados will be friends of all and satellites of none.

I cannot understand what that represents. Whose friend Senator McClean or his Party could be, based on his views or whose satellite he could be. Sir, it makes me wonder if he could be embarrassed and disappointed by the Government's handling of the issue, an issue which had become public, I do not understand this hypersensitivity they are demonstrating.

I recall that his founding leader once referred to the President of the United States as a cow boy, and not even at a time of war. That represented the view of 'the friends of all and satellites of none'. As a matter of fact, that represents the traditional Barbadian instead of independence, that goes right back to the freedom at Oistins in 1952 when we told Cromwell and his gang, go your way, we make our own decisions. We pay our own way and we are not beholden to you, therefore, no taxation without representation. This was enshrined in the Barbadian psyche as far back as 1952. It was then further exemplified and articulated by the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. It has also been demonstrated since them by the other leaders.

Sir, when one takes the stand of the present Prime Minister of Barbados against the OECD, that was further manifestation of a sense of independence, of us being our own people and the leader being his own man, or woman. I do not understand this seeking to make excuses as to why you cannot take a position.

What is wrong with taking a position? I am wondering if you were advised that this is the position you should take by Jennifer Laslo, your 1999 public relations consultant from the United States of America, that you should not rub the United States the wrong way, even to make a comment which you are legitimately allowed to make.

Here is the United States of America expressing disappointment and hoping that we would not take a position in the United Nations. We pay our dues in the United Nations. We are not in arrears in any form, shape or fashion with the United Nations. Therefore, we are entitled to our views, just like the United States of America who represent or seek to represent freedom of speech and freedom of expression.

We have a right to have freedom of speech and freedom of expression, even if they do not like it, because we pay our own way. This has been the well established traditional Barbadian attitude.

Sir, after his comments, some people were shocked. I received telephone calls last night and this morning asking me what is going on.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator, please, I do not think you were interrupted in your speech. Let the Honourable Member get through his speech.

We will accommodate asides but not at that level.

Thank you.

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, people are wondering why this further act of political heresy on the part of the spokesman for the Democratic Labour Party. They cannot understand it.

First we had this repudiation of the value of education on the Barbadian system where one leader of the Democratic Labour Party said that qualifications do not matter. They do not count, they are not important and they are over rated. He almost said they should be thrown away, forgotten about or abolished which is the next thing I expect him to say.

Then, you have this act of non Barbadian, un Barbadian or whatever you may want to call it, Sir, where people are said to be cow-towing to the United States of America. Some people asked me whether this might have had anything to do with a reported visit of some high level team of Democratic Labour Party supporters to Washington not too long ago, to campaign for funds. They want to know if this is a pay back for that visit. If this is a follow-through, in order to get the funds that might have been promised to them on that visit to Washington.

Sir, his Party is accusing my Party of seeking to use funds from the sale the BNB for electioneering purposes to get electioneering funds. Then the people are saying, have you noticed how all of a sudden, the Democratic Labour Party is indulging in a lot of glitz, fancy and glamorous approach to events.

Sir, yesterday Senator McClean spoke of a nexus but what might be the nexus, Senator McClean between this sudden ostentatious show of money and that visit to Washington.

Sir, I also had to say that the good, but I remembered yesterday that I saw in the newspaper on page 11 of the Nation, former President Jimmy Carter, former Barbados Prime Minister, Sir Lloyd Sandiford, listening to former Honduras President, Carlos Roberto Reina at the conclusion of a conference on Campaign Finance in the Western Hemisphere last Wednesday.

Sir, what is going on? I was saying maybe these phone calls are not too far off and that one has to pay attention to see the nexus between these matters. I am grateful, Sir, to the members of the public who drew it to my attention. Therefore, I want to be sure that these weedwackers and rakes and boxes of fruit that we are seeing have nothing to do with Washington.

I would hate to think that a party of such fine standing and such a long tradition, up until recently, for independent, thought and action, could suddenly be so supine and seemingly servile to the United States of America's Government.

Sir, that was one of the most disappointing aspects of this whole affair and I hope, therefore, that Jennifer Laslo's description of us in 1999 as a nation of toilet scrubbers is not now being rephrased for us to be regarded as a nation of money grabbers.

Sir, from toilet scrubbers to money grabbers, I am not sure which is worse. I just hope that this is, therefore, not the new attitude being foisted upon us from them.

Sir, I am not surprised because one has to recall...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please have that argument outside, not in here.

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, one has to remember that the Barbados Labour Party never got any firm support from the Democratic Labour Party in its heroic fight against the OECD. As a matter of fact, I recall reading where Senator Mascoll said that we should have complied with the OECD and also the same thing happened with the shiprider.

When we took on the 'mighty' United states of America to get our own version of Shiprider, where our sovereignty will be protected and defined by us, not by them, we were told by Senator Mascoll on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party that we should have gone ahead and signed the agreement. In other words, forget about sovereignty, forget about dignity, forget about independence and whatever, and just because of people's superiority of finances or technology or the wherewithal, they should just run riot in your country.

Sir, the Barbados Labour Party has never subscribed to that and, therefore, we never will subscribe to that. I therefore, Sir, am just wondering how much more of this we are going to see. I think the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow must be very unhappy as he looks down on his Party from his place of rest.

Sir, you have a repudiation of the value of academic qualifications where people are saying that academic

qualifications are over rated in every respect and in every area of life. Degrees and those things are over rated. I have said this before and I mean it. In other words I am adamant and I will not apologise.

Sir, I would hate to think that a party built upon the foundation laid by the Democratic Labour Party where free secondary education is concerned and universalised it.

*Asides.*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: The facts are that we know that already and we have said it many times. Sir, the perception was articulated and created by the Barbados Democratic Labour Party. We do not begrudge them because we know it started on a good foundation so that is no problem. I am glad you joined us in that respect. That is in keeping with the tradition where one Party does, another Party extends and improves and enhances and goes on. It is a continuum, ad infinitum. So you did it, Sir, and the country is the better for it and we praise you for it.

12.00 p.m.

*Tuesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: I want to know whether this attitude that qualifications do not matter is meant to be a further repudiation of the qualifications and that we must replace the CXC's, Diplomas from the Barbados Community College, Associate Degrees, Bachelors of Arts, Masters and PhDs with qualifications in weed-whackering, raking and apple gathering. I do not understand what is happening. I think that is rather patronising coming from someone who described himself as an intellectual with a First Class Honours Degree in Economics especially since he was tutored so admirably by Senator Barker in econometrics and in other spheres of his study.

Sir, I think it is unfortunate that those who might not be as discriminating in their thinking as others are led to believe that they should forget all about school and not be bothered about getting certified and that all they need is a weed whacker or a rake and they will be cool and that is life. I would hate to think so.

I have heard Senator McClean time and time again castigating this party for allowing an educational system that would allow so many Barbadians to leave school uncertified. I think seventy per cent was the last figure. Therefore, if you are condemning a system and those who are administering the system for the last six years for allowing the system to make it possible for seventy per cent of those persons to leave school without qualification, I really think it is contradictory to want to say then that the

quest and the acquisition of qualifications after examination is overrated.

Sir, I want to let it be known that we in the Barbados Labour Party do not in any way subscribe to that point of view, but rather that as our philosophy and slogan for education says, no one will be left behind. That is how we are approaching the whole question of education.

I also want to deal with Senator Mascoll who spent a great deal of time riding his hobby horse on the GEMS Project and the Barbados National Bank. Sir, to my mind, there is a nexus between the GEMS Project and the Barbados National Bank. Senator Mascoll readily admitted that the infamous acronym JAWS was a figment of his imagination which he had put together to represent a company called JAWS, but there was no company. In the same way that there is a nexus between that, there is a nexus, to my mind, between that and these charges, these innuendos and character attacks where the sale of the shares of the Barbados National Bank is concerned.

Sir, I am not surprised that some people may describe this as the result of puerile imagination. Where the Barbados National Bank is concerned, the Democratic Labour Party has never subscribed to the idea with the Barbados National Bank. Sir, let me declare an interest where the Barbados National Bank and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados is concerned. I was among the first few persons to deposit a few dollars in the Barbados National Bank and I have been a faithful contributor ever since. I also did the same thing with the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. I was privileged enough about three years ago, I think it was, to have been awarded by the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for being among the very first, I do not remember what number, of its clients. Therefore, when they put shares on the market, I put my money where my mouth is and bought a few shares that I could afford and showed my solidarity, my patriotism and my nationalism.

For those of us in this Chamber and outside who are being so critical of the Board of the Barbados National Bank for seeking to sell its shares, I wonder how many of them put their money in the mouth when the time was right. The late Errol Barrow made it plain that we should not subscribe to the Barbados National Bank because it is nothing but a piggy bank. So when now people are talking about nationalism and what it represents to the Barbadian mind and mentality and you want to sell off this glowing Barbados asset, remember it was nothing but a piggy bank. I only wish that all the piggy banks in Barbados could have mushroomed and expanded like that because we will be a very wealthy country. A lot of young people in Barbados still have piggy banks. In my day, we had a puzzling tot where we saved a few pennies because we could not afford anything more than a tot. We did not have anything

ceramic. If we had more puzzling tots or piggy banks of that calibre we would be a much better off society. Therefore, this castigation of the Government is not surprising at all. The Prime Minister in his Economic and Financial Policies enunciating on October 22, 2002 on page 70 in relation to the Barbados National Bank said:

“In relation to the financial sector, Government’s principal focus is to exercise effective supervision and regulation, to become less involved in owning and running such institutions. For those that are now owned by the state we want to support their institutional development in a sector that has become consolidated and liberalized.”

He mentioned the Barbados National Bank and he said:

“Mr. Speaker, the last quarter of the year 2000 saw initial public offerings by two government corporations: the Insurance Corporation of Barbados and the Barbados National Bank. In my economic policy statement of 2001, I announced the intention to allow the two institutions to return to the market to continue the process of divestment of a substantial portion of the remaining shares owned by the Government of Barbados. I also stated that this offer would not be limited to the local market, but would also be targeted at regional pension funds, insurance companies, social security schemes and strategic partners either regional or international. Since that time the Board of the Barbados National Bank, acting as agent of the Government, has been in discussion with possible strategic partners.”

So this is not something that was hatched in the dead of the night for any nefarious reasons. Its intention was announced way back in October 2002. Therefore, what happened is a natural progression of those affairs as represented by those in charge.

Sir, I had the great privilege of seeing the views of none other than the Deputy General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union, Mr. Robert ‘Bobby’ Morris, which organization represents the Barbados National Bank workers. He said that the Barbados Workers’ Union does not anticipate any industrial relation problems for our local employees of the Barbados National Bank when Government sells its shares to the Republic Bank Limited a move which the Union says might not necessarily be negative. He went on to say that the Union has taken the position that the sale is more an issue of our indigenous bank having to seek strategic alliances at this time to be able to survive in the future, so we are not necessarily seeing this as a negative thing - this is Robert ‘Bobby’ Morris, Deputy General Secretary of the Barbados Workers’ Union who is also regarded as one of the most progressive minds in the Democratic Labour Party - but as an opportunity for the Barbados National Bank to go into

the lucrative areas of banking, corporate banking, investment banking and offshore banking. Clearly they have to form a partnership with a company like the Republic Bank, Morris said.

12.10 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I think that is commendable. No one in Barbados could seek to describe Robert "Bobby" Morris in any sphere as a conservative. He is one of the most progressive minds any where in Barbados and, therefore, I very seriously have to take his view.

Sir, I wish to make a comment in relation to the Hilton Hotel. Again, a great deal is being made about that hotel. People try to overlook the fact that the hotel was tired, old and had virtually become dilapidated. It had outgrown its position in the marketplace in every possible sense and needed to be refashioned. Just as Sandy Lane Hotel had to be refashioned, a national asset had to be refashioned and given a new lease on life, one which would continue to make a great contribution to the Barbadian well-being.

Sir, as regards to the speculative exercise about not knowing how much the Hilton costs, et cetera. When Senator Mascoll said that, it reminded me of the fact that the Hilton Hotel was built in 1966, almost 38 years ago. Up to this time, nobody knows the true cost of the hotel, a hotel that was built; has been occupied; has made a significant contribution; has been operated; has helped to put Barbados on the map through the linkages of the other Hiltons and the services it offered, 38 years later, nobody can tell us the true cost. At the same time, Senator Mascoll is speculating about a work in progress. I would ask him if he could use his powers of research, research that he has come up with such matters of JAWS, et cetera, to come up with the true cost and also tell us about the origin of the fire that has destroyed the records of banks, receipts and the safe. If Senator Mascoll can research that, I would be eternally grateful.

Sir, having put those matters out of the way, I am now in the privileged position to be able to deal with some of the issues as they relate to the Estimates. One of the things I would like to start with, which I am sure is pleasing news to Senator Rock's ears, is the question of compensation to the churches of Barbados for the Government funding the repairs for those buildings that were used by Government.

Last year, 2002, the Government made part of that compensation. A committee in the Prime Minister's Office has been working with the various denominations. It is a

rewarding exercise where people have been very fair and where there was a sense of maturity on both sides. That year in compensating these churches, the Government has paid out \$723 883 to the Anglican and the Methodist Churches. There were four properties for which the Anglican Church was compensated in the sum of \$480 673. Last year there was one property for which the Methodists were compensated in the sum of \$243 210, representing \$723 833.

This year, 2002-2003 financial year, the exercise has continued. I am pleased to say an agreement has been reached between Government and some of the denominations to the sum of \$978 185.50, with the Anglican Churches being paid \$331 967 for two properties, namely St. Mary's Infants School and St. Stephen's Junior School. The Methodist Church received \$86 000 for the cost of repairs to the Paynes Bay Primary School. The Moravian Church being compensated for two properties in the sum

\$560 218.50 for the Clifton Southborough and the Grace Hill Primary Schools.

There are still 8 properties belonging to three denominations which have to be dealt with: four to the Anglicans, three to the Methodists and one to the Moravian. Government has put another \$1 million into the

2003-2004 Estimates to finance this process with the intention that as long as an agreement is reached, further compensation would be paid as the exercise goes on. I hope we could complete it this year and could let that be a settled issue between the State and the Churches. Sir, I, therefore, want to thank all who have contributed to the exercise. I want to thank them for the great spirit they have exemplified.

I want to speak to the issues of culture and to some of the major issues that are outstanding for the 2003- 2004 financial year. As part of the Ministry of Culture activities, one of the major events for this year is, apart from the continuing work with National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA), the Crop-Over Festival; the Community Independence Celebration, dealing with the Barbados Historical Society and the Barbados National Trust would be that particular attention is going to be placed for National Heroes Day. There is going to be an announcement that there would be a life-size statue of Sir Frank Walcott being unveiled on that day. There is a Committee made up from persons of the Barbados Workers Union; the National Insurance Board; the Cabinet Office and the Prime Minister's Office, working to formulate the programme for National Heroes Day, 2003.

We are promising it would be an undertaking in keeping with the dignity and the seriousness with which

Barbadians attended the unveiling of the statue of the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams and last year, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. This is going to be an event to which the public could look forward with great anticipation and which would be a rewarding experience for all concerned.

I am also pleased to say that another major event would be the Emancipation Day at the Rock Hall Monument. Sir, as you would know, last year for Emancipation Day, there was a ground-breaking ceremony for Rock Hall, which is the first free village in Barbados. There will be the erection of a statue to commemorate the historic part that location plays in the Barbadian social history.

A competition was launched and I am pleased to say there was a great deal of response to it from the widest possible aspects of Barbadian life, where persons wanted to design and to submit entries. There were a total of 45 entries from amateurs, professionals and others. The Committee has determined and has made certain recommendations and the winner would be announced early next year April. I think there will be a first prize of \$10 000 but there are a number of other prizes to be won.

Sir, I also want to deal with the Prime Minister's Office in relation to HIV/AIDS. Senator Odle has made some reference to it but I want to assure you that the programme continues at a pace. It is being refined and adjusted. Since the Commission has come into being, surveys have shown there is heightened awareness amongst the Barbadian population about HIV/AIDS. We want to take it beyond that level where we are seeking to change people's behavior because while knowledge is important, unless persons change their behavior, then everything is naught.

12.20 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Let me assure Senator Odle that abstinence is a major component of our policy. We do not shy away from promoting the value of abstinence. We give young people all the choices and let them know there is nothing to be embarrassed about if they chose to abstain and that it is a legitimate valid way or representing a behaviour choice. We are developing billboards, literature and other media communications to follow-up the ones we did before.

The billboards at Bay Street and Queens Park are going to be replaced by others which will promote abstinence and behavioural changes. The programme is continuing and we want persons to know that the

commission is hard at work coordinating the work of the various Ministries, NGOs and the private sector.

There has been admirable level of cooperation from all concerned.

One of the behavioural changes we want to emphasis is the question of stigma, discrimination and marginalisation of persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and this is a major plank of the Government's national programme. We want to let all Barbadians know the benefits of attending Lady Meade Reference Unit where Government gives free anti-retroviral drugs, counseling and support.

Last year at World Aids Day the Prime Minister announced that a register was set up to register acts of discrimination and to seek to develop policies to as how we will deal with those acts of discrimination. The Ministry of Labour has been doing some work and a policy framework is being examined and analysed to see how it can be put into being as quickly as possible.

We have also begun to work on setting up an AIDS Foundation, a non-governmental institution with people from the private sector which will work to develop its own programme to raise funds for various causes. This is a contribution from the good corporate citizens of Barbados. I want to say thanks to Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard for his contribution and initial efforts and I look forward to him and his other partners working to bring that to conclusion soon.

The Ministry of Health is working on plans for a drop-in centre where we can provide an environment where persons with HIV/AIDS can go to study, have recreation, exercise and make friends. They will not have to look for accommodation but will have a safe place where they can operate at a level in keeping with their aims and objectives.

I want to deal with the question of the Ministry of Civil Service. Yesterday Senator Collymore made mention of the job evaluation exercise that is being conducted to seek to enhance the system that has been in existence for many years and which has been the source of much contention. There was never universal satisfaction with the way the system works and the last job evaluation exercise was carried out in 1989.

We are seeking through this exercise to put it on a more comprehensive, objective, less personalised, less subjective basis. Phase One started in October 2000 and was completed in May 2001. We are into Phase 2 started in November 2001 and this will involve the actual evaluation of jobs and according to the programme which is on stream, it is expected to be concluded in November 2003. There is every expectation that this deadline will be met

and we can expect to see the fruits of this labour being available to Government so that implementation can happen soon after.

We regard this as a major plank in Government's activity and we are determined that we will proceed with it as quickly as possible.

Mention was made of the qualification order and I want to say that the last order was made in 1974, amended in 1976 and another was done 25 years after in December 2001. They are queries about the current order and every effort is being made to accommodate most of the concerns raised by persons but in addressing these concerns it must be understood that further work will have to be undertaken that will incur some delays in implementing legislation which has not been amended since 1976.

It is being reviewed and I give my assurance that this exercise is being given serious consideration by Government and that it will not take another 25 years before another qualification order is done. Sir, it is a major exercise and Senator Collymore can attest to this.

12.30 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR The Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I also want to speak briefly on the new Public Service Act which is now being drafted. The drafting of this Act will be the result of the debates, comments and recommendations of the committee on the proposed policy. This Act is to improve the management of the public service in every sphere. Sir, the idea is to consolidate and modernise the legislation that impacts on the administration of the public sector towards the attainment of greater efficiency and effectiveness in the public service.

The Committee which developed the policy framework has agreed that this should proceed apace and Government is doing that. Government has given priority to the new Public Service Act which we feel is absolutely necessary if Barbados is to maintain its place in the world as a progressive, efficient society. Those are some of the programmes that we are undertaking.

I must repeat that the work on the casual workers to public officers is about 99 per cent complete. Approximately 99 per cent of those persons who are eligible have received their letters of appointment. Over 4 000 would have received their letters of appointment in the central civil service. We know that this Act will bring tremendous benefits to those recipients. We are hoping that this exercise for regularising all casual workers will be 100 per cent complete shortly.

We want to thank the unions for the part played in this area. We want to assure them that we appreciate their cooperation and we do not regard this as the end of the journey but only the beginning of things to come.

Mr. President, on the area of Public Sector Reform, some mention was made regarding conditions at the Immigration Department. I spoke to the acting Chief Immigration Officer and other persons related to that department and I want to assure the public that the scenes of long lines in the sun is not a situation where people have to line up all day, as has happened elsewhere. What creates this kind of situation is that people would go to the department before the office is open and wait outside until the doors are open. When the doors are open they go in, take a number and then have their business attended to.

As a matter of fact, the Immigration Department has relocated the passport section to the ground floor and other business is conducted upstairs to make it more convenient to persons. This department has done a lot of remedial work in improving its image. Information brochures and pamphlets have been completed and distributed. These are available at post offices across Barbados instead of making a journey to Bridgetown to collect forms.

Several changes have been made in upgrading the department. For example, hotlines, the distribution of passport forms, installation of suggestion boxes, process review of documentation and provision standards identified for delivery of service. The Immigration Department will be the first department which will be publicly put on display by putting its reputation and profession on the line, where it will publish standards. They will give you the assurance that once you have completed the paper work for your passport, you will receive your passport in a few days time. There will be a public commitment through a customer charter. The Immigration is not only promising to do things but they are putting their reputation on the line by stating what they intend to deliver.

Sir, we realise that in the final analysis, it is how you present the delivery of service to the public that will count and not the fancy slogans. There will also be a jingle and new public service announcements and other promotions that will be done.

Sir, while there has not been a lot of public song and dance about the public sector reform, a lot of work has been going on in the public sector. Last year we published a document called Public Sector Reform 'The Facts'. It enumerated organisation reviews, upgrade of systems, customer charter activities, the setting up of reform committees and employee assistance programmes, where the Government pays for persons who have emotional or other problems that may impact on their personal lives and productivity at work.

Sir, I had a discussion this morning with the acting Director of Public Sector Reform, who recently returned from a conference in New Zealand. He said that he took a copy of the literature of what Barbados has been doing and he reported that we are not doing badly in terms of world standards. We admit that more has to be done in the area of customer service and great emphasis will be placed in the next financial year in that area to the Barbadian public.

Sir, regarding the technical standards, the job evaluation exercise and strategic plans, we are doing well in this area and greater work will be done in the coming year and this will be initiated by that first customer charter activity at the Immigration Department.

I want to say with a great deal of satisfaction, as I review part of the work of the Government in this regard, that we regard the public servants' qualification and certification as an integral part of the Barbadian society. As a matter of fact, on Friday, March 29, 2003, the Training Division will be celebrating its 36th Anniversary with an awards ceremony. It is a pity that we cannot quantify the contribution made by that division to the training and the production of civil servants that has helped Barbados to progress over its years of Independence. It has been an integral part of the Barbadian society.

I want to close with a quotation from Luke Chapter 6. It is meant to encourage my friends who might be concerned about the slings and arrows of great misfortunes as it relates to the Democratic Labour Party. I have to take solace in these words from Luke Chapter 6 Verse 26-28:

"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."

Therefore, I am proud to be part of a Government and a country. My perception of Barbados is contained in this quotation from the great statesman Adlai Stevenson and I quote:

"To what was his inserenity and wisdom, with self-respect and the respect of all mankind, a patriotism that puts country ahead of self, a patriotism which is not short, plenty outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

I am obliged to you, Sir.

12.40 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to make the final contribution to this Honourable Senate before the Leader of Government Business winds up on the Appropriation Bill. I would like first, once again, to congratulate the Leader of Government Business for the way in which he presented the Appropriation Bill to this Chamber and, more importantly, the way in which he went through his own Ministry, the Ministry of Health, and brought us up-to-date with the things that have been happening under his watch, and the very good work and improvements that have been made, within the QEH in particular.

Mr. Deputy President, in beginning my contribution, I want to speak about an issue that weights on me heavily. In small societies, we must be guarded against giving an impression that you are being personal on matters, and you must be at pains to ensure that you deal with things fairly, honestly and forthrightly.

We are all charged with a responsibility that when we find ourselves in certain positions that we have to speak out on matters when we find it difficult and troubling with things that are happening.

I want to deal with a matter that would have its roots based in Head 44, subhead 420, which is really the Labour Department, dealing with industrial relations matters. The reason why I want to speak to it, is because we have a system in this country, when it comes to industrial relations, where the process of volunteerism is one that we have practiced, it is the one that has served us well, it is the one that I, as a trade unionist many years ago, believed in, and it is one, that I would have hoped, would have been something that we could continue to use as the process by which we can resolve matters.

More and more, the things that we are seeing unfolding, are putting that process under serious stress. The one main ingredient that makes volunteerism successful is the fact that it requires good leadership at the top. Our success over the years, in large measure, has been the result of excellent union leadership for the years past. It has served us well. I believe the time has come when some leaders, particularly the leadership of the National Union of Public workers, needs to do a bit of stocktaking.

I also want to say up front that I have never been and I will never be involved in union bashing. I believe that the unions, as far as I am concerned, are partners in the business. They have been partners, to my mind, and that is how I consider the role of the unions, partners in the business.

Our achievements have been the result of the fact that the unions have played a significant part and a role in the development of this country. Long may the unions last

and live in this country. At the same time, I have a responsibility to say to this Chamber that we have some serious concerns in terms of what I am seeing and what is the purpose behind it.

Last night, in this Honourable Chamber, we heard from Senator Rickinson. She spoke about her experience and involvement on the Haynes Commission, which was set up to look at and review the QEH and to make recommendations for the improvement of the administration of that institution. We were told that a key strategic part in the process, having been invited to attend meetings with that Commission and share, so that the Commission could have benefited from the concerns of that strategic partner, and I specifically refer to the NUPW, she was able to say to us that not once, and she did say for the second time, that not on one occasion did they have the benefit of the presence of anybody from the NUPW to come to that Commission to say, this is how we view the QEH, this is the concern as we see it and these are our suggestions and recommendations to move forward.

I only want to use that as a case in point to get back to the point I am making, because, as I said, we are now at a point where it has to do with ensuring that we do not move now to the law of the jungle.

I heard this morning, my good friend, Mr. Joe Goddard from the NUPW castigating the private sector...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I want to draw to the Honourable Member's attention that you are not permitted to call the names of civilians here, unless you have given notice that you intend to call his name. You may be able to deal with it in a different fashion.

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Thank you for your guidance, Mr. Deputy President.

The leadership of the NUPW is seeking to give advice to the managers within the private sector, in terms of what they should and should not do, to maintain industrial peace and harmony. If there is one institution, in this country, that needs to do a bit of introspection, it is that same NUPW.

Sir, as person who has been involved in industrial relations for many, many years, I can say that managers, particularly when they are governed by collective agreements, make doubly sure that when it comes to things like the grievance procedure, they are following to the letter of the law. Because, if you do not, the unions will come down on you like a ton of bricks.

Sir, you, as a responsible manager cannot attempt to fracture that process in any way. However, you can have a situation where workers can put down their tools and

withhold their services, or whatever, and then the union leadership comes in and says, we are going to legitimise the action. In truth and in fact, that is what you are doing. This is very serious. This is not a question of suggesting to workers that they may not have grievances. Of course they have grievances that must be addressed but you must establish a process, not for it to be respected only in the breach, rather than in practice. That is what it is set up for but as I said, the managers must respect it but the workers and the union can disrespect it in the breach.

Mr. Deputy President, as I say, things normally start, one today, one tomorrow, two the next day and thereafter you reach a situation where there is a flood. I am observing what is happening because, I know that has not been the practice in this country.

12.50 p.m.

*Tuesday, March 26, 2003*

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS: We have had good responsible leadership over the years, this is why I say there must be some introspection. I think there comes a time when you become so immersed in something that you have to take a step back so that you can regain your objectivity. I have a responsibility as a person who has been following our industrial relation practices for many years to say these things. I take no comfort having to say that, but that is the reality of the situation. As I said, those of us who know better and who understand better would be condemned if we sit idly by and allow these things to take place without comment.

I just simply want to ask a few questions along the same line. I observe what is taking place now in the Port. I want to speak simply in general terms because, as someone who understands the issues when they reach the level of discussion, one must not do anything to seek to create further difficulties because at the end of the day there has to be a resolution.

I can simply say to you, Mr. Deputy President, that one of the things after September 11 that this Government has had to do was to give undertakings to the United Nations to improve our own security particularly at our ports of entry. We have an obligation to do that. How many of us remember the incident that took place in Bali after September 11? There was also an incident, as far as I can recall, in Kenya. You are asked as a country to give an undertaking as to what you are going to do to improve the security in your country and to make sure that those improvements, in some instances, act as a deterrent, and you have to demonstrate that you are doing something about it. Recommendations are made to you and you give an undertaking in response. As I said we have the experience of other incidences subsequent to September 11.

Mr. Deputy President, if we did nothing and something happened in this country, particularly at our ports of entry, we would be heavily censored and justifiably so. That is my personal belief. Mr. Deputy President, I know persons, particularly like Senator Philip Goddard who has quite a bit of military experience, would agree with me when I say that terrorists look at certain vulnerable installations. They look at things like telecommunications facilities, energy facilities, television and radio facilities, the police and the ports of entry.

I am also made to understand that you want to put a camera here and you do not want to put a camera there and it is better that it goes elsewhere, but I ask when a terrorist is coming do you know where he is going to start from, do you know where he is going to attack. We all sat and watched in horror the experience of September 11. I, Mr. Deputy President, could never have imagined that someone could take an aircraft and use it like a missile. But terrorists do not think like normal people. So when you say to me that a camera must go here but it must not go there, I asked the question where will they start from.

We have, in this country, a situation where lots of other institutions like banks and so on have sought to ensure that they capture certain things to protect their staff and the public whom they serve. That is why I started by saying that this whole thing saddens me because I firmly believe that when we reach a stage where we begin to lose our objectivity, that we have to take a step back. That is where as far as I am concerned, the National Union of Public Workers finds itself today. If one side of a partnership is asked to respect a system, the rules and the process, the other side is equally expected to do the same, if not it cannot work and it becomes unequally yoked as the holy book says. I believe what I have just said speaks for itself.

Mr. Deputy President, before I move into the main part of my presentation, I want to speak to a comment made yesterday by Senator McClean which equally disturbs me. He spoke about the Deputy Prime Minister making a broadside attack on the United States of America. Mr. Deputy President, I have a way of writing very copiously, so if he did not say that, he can get up and say so, Sir. He said that most of what she, referring to the Deputy Prime Minister, said might be true, but you need to reply in a dignified manner.

Mr. Deputy President, it is true that our Deputy Prime Minister speaks with passion when she is ready and in a most incisive way. Yes, she speaks with the courage of her convictions, but never in a disrespectful manner. So that remark that came from his mouth yesterday saddens me because, as you have reminded us, these debates are carried live and someone just listening to him yesterday

would have been given an impression that the person said something different from what she said.

That apart, I am getting some very mixed signals. I saw a newspaper article which says that the Leader of the Opposition was in support of the position taken by the Government. Senator Mascoll got up in his presentation and spoke all around it and up until now I do not know that his stance is. I have heard Senator McClean and I know how he feels about it.

Sir, when he spoke yesterday instantly as he said what he said I remembered that part of the good book that spoke about Judas betraying Christ for 30 pieces of silver. I do not know why it just came to me when he said so, but it came to me at that juncture. That is all I want to say on that matter.

1.00 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR J. J. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, in places such as the United States and elsewhere, people would have difficulties as they look at issues but after that, there would always be a closing of the ranks.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy President, I am a bit aggrieved that the Honourable Member should be creating a nexus between my comment and the betrayal of someone for monetary gains. He is sailing very close to the wind, in my view, but I do not know what your informed judgment would be on a matter such as this.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You said that he sailing close to the wind but I have never known of a captain sailing his ship close to the wind who was in breach of any marine rules. Therefore, if you want me to rule, you will have to tell me exactly what you mean.

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I think that the Honourable Member, in his comments, is creating some kind of association between the comments that I had made and the betrayal for monetary gains.

I, Sir, have never ever discussed my position with anyone, far less to seek any kind of monetary benefits to make those comments. Therefore, I think that the association with the two comments is unparliamentary.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not agree with you. What I heard the Honourable Member saying was, when you made the statement, he said his mind suddenly went to that part of the Bible. I do not see any connection. If he is pretending to be religious and is looking for solace

at a time of pressure, then his mind can wander to any part of the Bible. Until he makes a closer nexus to you and to the statement, then I am powerless to rule.

SENATOR J. J. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, all I would say to Senator McClean is that he protests too much and for what reason, I do not know. I have not gone anywhere outside the boundaries of what is legitimate that could be said in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it that the guilty fleeth when no one pursueth?

SENATOR J. J. D. WILLIAMS: Sir, I do not know. Mr. Deputy President, Senator McClean spoke about speaking in a respectful manner to our large neighbours...

SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN: On a point of order. If the Honourable Member is going to quote me, let him do so correctly. I never said anything about speaking to any large neighbours. I made the specific reference to speaking about friends, if one considers people to be friends and secondly, if there is communication through a diplomatic channel, then the decent thing to do is to respond through a diplomatic channel.

Therefore, I think the Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber by misconstruing exactly what I have said.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a point of elucidation, to which you are entitled.

SENATOR J. J. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, if Senator McClean wants to understand what Senator Murray is saying, I wonder how he would consider the remarks from one of his most outstanding leaders, who, at the time, was not speaking about any ordinary person but about a President of the United States, where he referred to him as a cowboy.

I wonder if the Deputy Prime Minister had spoken in those terms what would I have heard yesterday? That is the kind of double standard one gets in this country. This is why I said when there are issues that are supposed to straddle political boundaries, that we not take a partisan position. I think particularly in times like these, it would be worth the while of people like Senator McClean, to understand what nationalism is about.

Sir, if there is one thing that could have been said about the late leader they had, was that he never had to look behind his back to see who was coming. He was a man that stood for the things in which he believes. Were he alive and in any one of these Chambers and had the opportunity to speak to what was going on, I am sure it would have shocked me. We know what the individual

stood for and the principles he had. He never would have come to this Senate and skirt around any issues but would have taken a position. That is what leadership is about. When things like these happen, what people like Senator McClean do not understand is that it gives people an opportunity to see what that person would be as a leader. A leader is not about dodging about issues but of taking a position of principle.

Mr. Deputy President, I want to look at Head No. 22, the section relating to the Small Business Sector. I have said it in this Honourable Chamber before and again I will say it today. While big businesses in this country and elsewhere are merging and, as a consequence, are displacing people, it is the small and medium enterprises that have to pick up the slack and are called upon to make the decisive difference.

Therefore, when our own small business sector says to us that they are experiencing difficulties, we, as a Government, have to address it. That sector in general, has always suffered from an absence of appropriate financial alternatives. The range of funding options that are available to the sector are limited primarily to debt financing, which reinforces a predisposition towards debt.

Many small businesses have excessive debt levels and there is also what I regard as an absence of an equity culture. Sir, there is a view by small business persons that if they create a business and own 100 per cent of that business, then they are not prepared to allow anyone else to come in, besides those persons who would have created that business in the first place, in order to invest and to improve it.

Sir, if one has a 100 per cent of something that is floundering and needs strengthening, to my mind it makes more sense to have someone else coming in and assisting the business by way of equity, so that one might receive maybe less than the 100 per cent but of something that is larger. That is one of the things that needs to happen in this country.

1.10 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Those small and medium size enterprises have capital structures that are improperly capitalised. They continue to rely basically on debt and they always have short term and liquidity financing difficulties.

There is a further double whammy because there is a commercial banking sector that is not predisposed towards lending to the small business sector because they see the

sector as high-risk and are not prepared to put finance into them or to support their activities.

If the banking sector is not prepared to give the small business sector short term financing to help with their liquidity difficulties, it rests on the Government as it has been doing over the last eight years to find windows of opportunity for those small and medium size enterprises.

A number of things presently characterise how the small business sector operates and the difficulties they experience. I have said before that they are under developed in terms of equity capital and there is an unwillingness by some potential investors to take risk with capital and for this reason Government has recently established the innovation fund. There is also a reluctance of entrepreneurs and business owners to share the business with outside investors simply because they have created the business and do not want anyone else to become part of it where if gains and profits are made they would have to be shared with someone else.

There is the question of the conservative commercial banking sector that has a strong aversion to lending to the small business sector and those same small businesses are in dire need of technical assistance and professional advice.

In discussions with the sector, persons were also able to identify a number of challenges they face. Applicants say they were not obtaining loans because oftentimes their businesses were deemed not to be viable and the fact that the time taken to approve loans was deemed to be too long, they also say that some times the proposals were considered inadequate in terms of information.

This brings me to the point that lending institutions have a responsibility to help these small business people to be able to provide the kind of information and prepare the kind of proposals that would see a higher level of approval via those windows set up by Government.

Cash flow problems are often not taken into account. It makes no sense if someone asks for \$10 000 to deal with cash flow difficulties to give him \$5 000. At the end the day you are making the situation worse because the person cannot survive on the \$5 000 and the inevitable is delayed. These are issues and difficulties enunciated by the small business sector.

Government, of course, has always had the interest of this sector at heart. Big businesses are emerging and are looking to create more profits towards the bottom line and last year we had the most interesting development where a company in Barbados earned over 100 per cent in after tax profits but continues to send home profits. I speak of none other than an institution for which I worked for over 30 years. I take no comfort in saying to this Honourable

Chamber that I believe it is fundamentally wrong particularly at a time when we are all going through difficulty.

I asked companies that are successful if they do not see themselves having an obligation to ensuring that people are not put out of work when 100 per cent return can be made on profits. Sir, what signals are they sending to the society? I think those things are wrong. I have worked with the institution at a time when people were of a different persuasion and thinking. I worked during my stewardship with people who had the interest of people at heart. I have seen a different kind of thing creeping in these days and as a Barbadian who cares about people I cannot and will not sit idly by and not comment on things like these that are fundamentally wrong.

Sir, the same institution is now attempting to do to Barbados what has been done in other parts of the Caribbean. As you know, we have started the process towards liberalisation in the industry. Quite frankly the Government has been slow in setting up the mechanisms and institutions necessary to ensure there is orderly transition to liberalisation and we have seen Cable & Wireless taking Government and other operators to court in Dominica, Jamaica and St. Lucia and it is my understanding that they want to take the Government of Barbados to court. These things tie up the whole process within the legal system and therefore, they believe that the process towards liberalisation could be frustrated. Sir, in the fullness of time, I will speak to other matters that trouble me dearly.

Sir, I want to continue to address the issue with the small business sector. We must have a change in the mindset of both those persons who are entrepreneurs, small business operators as well as the lending institutions. The agencies themselves must play a more complimentary role. You cannot set up a structure where the cost of maintaining it is greater than the assistance you provide for people. We have to look at the cost benefits of having lending institution and the assistance that those institutions give the small business sector.

Agencies must also strive for institutional strengthening to enhance the operational processes and procedures of reporting and the accountability.

There must be a careful evaluation of the client's needs and the information submitted must have a higher level of approvals when small business people seeking short term and medium term financing to help their businesses move forward, grow and develop and for them also to be able to deal with the new realities because they now have to compete every day in a different marketplace in a different environment.

1.20 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR J. E. D WILLIAMS: May I say, Sir, that one can expect assistance in every way from this Government in terms of helping the small business sector to continue to grow and develop. We have created institutions to look at every aspect of small business in this country and we believe that the small business sector is the sector that will make the difference in terms of helping us reduce the level of unemployment. May I say, particularly in a time of recession, it is still one of the very best anywhere in this hemisphere. In fact, in times of past recessions in this country, the level of unemployment is now better than at any other time, whether it was 1981/1982 or 1992/1993 period as we are now hovering around 10 per cent. This is to the credit of this administration that has done tremendous work to ensure that Barbadians remain employed. Sir, the Government made sure that it did absolutely nothing that would have militated against that.

Sir, when this administration came into power, it made a promise to this country that our number one job was jobs and it did not matter whether we were in a recession. We still had a responsibility to keep people employed.

Senator Mascoll in his culmination spoke about money that was put aside for a rainy day being spent. Sir, part of the money that the Government acquired in 2001/2002 was used, as he said, to keep Barbadians employed. I wonder what he would say if the Government had not taken that prudent decision. Sir, he would have said that the Government had over \$1.5 billion in foreign reserves but it was not prepared to spend a cent to keep the public sector workers or anybody for that matter employed. Sir, the Government did the complete opposite and the Government is being criticised for its prudent decision.

Sir, I recall Senator McClean, sitting on the opposition side of this Senate, cautioning government during periods of recession not to cut spending. He said that when you cut spending you drag out the period of the recession. Mr. President, we have seen this happened in the 1980s and the 1990s. However, this administration, recognising all the signs and signals, put aside something for a rainy day, borrowed money and then used it to keep Barbadians employed during the recession. We were able to come out of that recession and were doing quite well, in relative terms, until the start of the current war in Iraq. Sir, I have every reason to believe that if that had not intervened, we would have seen real growth in 2003.

Mr. President, I cannot say what will be the outcome. We all hope for the best but I am also mindful

that the world is now a different place. People are no longer preoccupied with assisting in world development. The largest nation on earth, in terms of being a super power, is being preoccupied with terrorism. To that extent we do not know what is going to happen because those countries also have their challenges.

Sir, if we look at ourselves in terms of our own performance last year, we did better in comparative terms, than places like Singapore and Hong Kong. Incidentally, Hong Kong had to increase corporation tax and income tax and we did not have to do that.

In terms of the performance of this country, when you look at certain indicators, inflation was approximately .1 per cent. In terms of our net international reserves, Senator Mascoll did not say that inflation only shifted by \$49.1 million for the year. We have seen on other occasions, during a period of recession, where it dropped by over \$200 million.

I am happy to be able to say to this Honourable Chamber that the target that we set ourselves of 30 000 jobs was realised even though we were criticised by the Opposition who said that it could not happen. Furthermore, we have done everything possible to maintain the unemployment level around 10 per cent and hopefully that too will continue to be reduced.

Mr. President, this brings me to the area of productivity. If we are to grow and develop as a country, we have to continue to focus our attention on productivity. The Barbados National Productivity Council is an institution in this country that has been doing tremendous work in that regard and it should be commended and I want to highlight it today.

Last year that institution planned to deal with improving productivity within 77 departments, which covers approximately 15 Ministries. Those activities centered around seminars, workshops, television and radio programmes and articles to the press. The Barbados Productivity Council is the only institution that has a weekly column dealing with productivity and productivity issues and it must be complimented for that. A number of in-house presentations were held for the public and private sector entities.

Sir, the Council has also been assisting in developing what I referred to as home-grown schemes with the assistance of the Barbados Workers Union and I commend the union for the emphasis that it has placed on developing productivity-related payment arrangements.

1.30 p.m.

*Tuesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Sir, as you recall, this whole idea of developing productivity schemes started back in earnest in the early 1990's when at that time companies could not grant increases to workers, except, of course, under two conditions which were either profit sharing or where there were clear instances of productivity gains realised.

There are times, Sir, when the same productivity council is required to assist the NUPW if the negotiations in constructing such schemes reach a point of difficulty. The Council also is seeking, and this is a very fundamental point, Sir, to establish national indices of productivity.

I think, as we move forward as a country, we have to be able to have bench marks that show the levels of productivity for which we should all aspire, as companies and as institutions.

However, currently, Sir, there is a lack of appropriate data at the national level that could assist with the establishment of such indices both within the public and the private sector. There is also the challenge where companies remain reluctant to collect and forward data, data that can assist in developing those same indices and standards.

The Council, however, is working with the Central Bank, the ILO, the Barbados Statistical Service, all in an effort to ensure that they are able to establish those national productivity indices that are necessary at this point in time.

Clearly, Sir, in a period where we are moving towards liberalisation and we have to deal with things like the WTO and so on, we have to compete. If we are to compete, we must know what standards there are that we have to reach.

The Council, Sir, again must be commended for developing a number of courses that impact significantly on this whole question of productivity. They have been able to develop forces in customer service, performance management dealing with things like change management, making sure that operations and companies are aware of what are the things that will make a difference in moving forward and what they must do to change.

It also, Sir, has developed a number of performance-based incentive schemes, in terms of courses, problem solving and decision making, time-management, areas of motivation, multi skilling to allow people to understand that, in truth and in fact, the nature of a job will continue to change.

If we start a job today, and in the past we would only be looking at a job description specifically. Now, people are called upon to do different things and people must have

different sets of skills, in order to be able to survive in the new environment.

The Council, Sir, in terms of statistics, since 1997, has conducted more than 240 general and in house seminars, impacting over 3 600 employees. This is both in the public and private sectors. May I say, through you, Sir, to Senator Murray that this is one agency of Government, that will make a difference in our thrust towards public sector reform.

In the coming year, Sir, the Council will also assist companies within the manufacturing sector to enable them to evaluate. Sir, having evaluated their operations, they will be able to target training in areas that are needed.

Sir, I want to briefly look in, I presume, the five minutes allotted to me, to say to you that Senator Mascoll in his presentation made reference to the University College of Barbados, as simply an institution that centered on the Polytechnic and, as he said, nothing more. I do not understand why any time he begins to speak on anything dealing with education, he seems to get it wrong.

I heard with consternation, Senator Mascoll, in his again, you know what word I would use, suggesting that the degrees from the University of the West Indies are overrated. He said to us, in this Honourable Chamber that he teaches at that institution.

Sir, if a person teaches at an institution and then he says to the country, these degrees are overrated, should one take him at heart. He is a lecturer but he is saying this after he has been the beneficiary.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. Senator Williams is misleading the Honourable Chamber, I said that academic qualifications are overrated in the context of the debate over its Fisheries department. I never said that a degree should not be sought, or that it is overrated.

Therefore it is misleading for Senator Williams to suggest that and I want to make it clear, and I repeat, that no person who worked for 20 years in the Fisheries department, wherever, should be replaced by some person without experience who has four or five 'O' Levels.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator, that would be a new speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: No Sir. That is no new speech.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You cannot tell me whether or not that is a new speech and if you keep on with that attitude I will have to ask you to take your seat.

There is only a point of elucidation but you cannot start a new speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is not a new speech.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is your ruling but my ruling is that it is a new speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Well, you are wrong.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Therefore, you must terminate your intervention.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, I regret that Senator Mascoll rose to defend himself at the eleventh hour. Sir, this is a matter that has been before the country and when it is placed in the context, now by me, seeing that he is a lecturer is saying that these degrees are overrated, I say that he should have been using the same argument with the BTA.

Sir, I recall when the appointments were made at the time, that Senator Mascoll, who came in here two days ago, and said that people are now learning things about tourism by correspondence courses and whatever, he said at the time that a man was unfit because he only had a Masters and did not have a first degree.

Sir, let him get up and say he did not say so because, he said such a person is unfit, and now he is saying that degrees are overrated and they are not important.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator, you have to conclude your speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order again. The situation at the BTA cannot be compared with the fisheries' situation. He is misleading this Honourable Chamber. The person who assumed office does not have any experience in marketing either, and is not qualified.

Therefore, you cannot suggest that it is a similar situation to what obtains at the Fisheries department. He is lacking in both experience and the absence of the academic qualification.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, in conclusion, let me say that these Estimates have come at a time, when in truth and in fact, tremendous uncertainty face this country...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You had better conclude quickly.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: ...but I will say, Sir, that this country has an outstanding leader who has taken us through difficult times and this country will continue to go forward under the leadership of the present Prime Minister.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

1.40 p.m.

*Tuesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: As I rise to speak on this matter for the final time, I want first of all to thank all Honourable Senators, especially my colleagues on the Government side and the independent senators, for the very well thought out, coherent and constructive contributions.

At the beginning of my first presentation, I indicated that this was going to be a desirous debate as these are serious times and the country is at a crossroad. On reflection, I think it is rather unfortunate that the two Opposition Senators could not make a single serious intervention in this entire debate. But I understand how difficult it must be for a party which has three leaders. They must be extremely confused, but a monster or an animal that has three heads would always be in a state of confusion. This is just part of the continuing confusion within the Democratic Labour Party.

Senator Rickinson, I am sorry that she is not here, made some comments about nursing, and we in the Ministry of Health are cognisant of the problems and are certainly moving ahead to address them. Her concerns about the air quality and noise pollution are being addressed by the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment.

Senator Laurie was concerned about the cotton industry and I must tell him that Government is committed to the revitalisation of the cotton industry. We are also mindful of the problems involved in the Slaughter House Act. We know that we have to move towards that as we go through this whole issue of negotiations with the World Trade Organisation and the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

In the case of Senator Rock, I have noted his continued concerns about the Accident and Emergency Department. He would note that in my initial presentation I spoke of the acquisition of equipment and we are certainly looking at staffing matters. Having said that, I should also indicate that some of the problems at the Accident and Emergency Department are due to the abandonment of elderly people at the department whose occupation of

cubicles cause a back up in dealing with patients who need to be in them.

Senator Collymore, my good friend, made a very serious contribution especially regarding the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and its transition to a Board. He took issue to the fact that the allocation to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been reduced, that we are moving towards a Board and that a number of other things would have to be undertaken within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This is well understood but surely Senator Collymore would understand from his several years within the Civil Service that you have to plan for these things. You know you would need more staff and equipment to carry over the transition but you cannot budget for these things until these posts have been approved. In addition to that, I made the point that the Government has given the green light to the Board to look at the amount of funds that will be made for the capitalisation and we have secured a loan from the commercial business sector. His point about a report being submitted in 1998 and the lost of time is well taken, I have no quarrel with that, that is true. We are certainly looking at revenue collection and the issue of making this more efficient.

Sir John's comments about the St. Joseph Hospital and the Paradise Hotel are taken. The Ministry of Health is looking at the utilisation of the St. Joseph Hospital. A number of people have approached us with various recommendations and various plans for that institution which I am sure you will hear more about in the not too distant future.

Senator McClean's position on the war in Iraq was well dealt with by my colleague Senator Murray. He said that he could not understand the need for a new consultancy at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and stated that we just had a Haynes Commission report and wanted to know why we would need a consultancy. I do not know if he had ever seen the Report of the Commission which was released to the public in 1998. I do not know if he has read it and if so, if he has retained any part of it.

On page 213 of that report at item 16 it says:

The Commission recommends the preparation of a physical development plan for the hospital taking into consideration the requirements outlined in this chapter."

This chapter dealt with the need to expand the hospital. This is one of the recommendations that came out of the Report that he was talking about. I guess this is also part of the confusion that emanates from that side.

Senator McClean as well as Senator Mascoll were concerned about the selling of shares in the Barbados National Bank. I want to spend a few minutes on this

because it is interesting that all of a sudden, an entity that was extremely unpopular with the Democratic Labour Party which was described as a piggy bank and people were told that they should not deposit a cent in it - I believe Senator Collymore remembers the statement - because it was not going to last for a year, that there is this consternation and apparent nationalism over this entity. I will just mention a few things about it.

In November 2000, the Government of Barbados offered for sale 50 million shares of the 96 million shares it owns in the Barbados National Bank. At that time we had heard the discussion that took place at the political meeting in Independence Square where about nine or ten dozen people attended who were told by the various spokesmen on finance and other things that they should not buy any of these shares because they were not going to be worth the paper they would get for them.

This has been in keeping with Government's plan which had been announced in 1997 in the financial statement and budgetary proposals of that year. This was reinforced in the year 2000 in the Budget which was presented to us on October 24, 2000 when the details of the privatisation of the Barbados National Bank and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados were announced. So this is nothing new.

Again in the 2001 Financial Statement, Economic and Financial Policies of Government which was presented on August 08, 2001, it was stated that the intention was to return to the market to continue the divestment of a substantial portion of Government's interest in the bank. The Minister of Finance at that time indicated that it was Government's intention to retain, at the most, 20 per cent of the Barbados National Bank shares. He said at that time that the second attempt would not be limited to the local market but would be targeted at regional pension funds, insurance companies, social security schemes and strategic partners either regionally or internationally.

As a result of this, the Board of Directors of the Barbados National Bank established a privatisation Committee which was chaired by the Chairman of the Board and included the Deputy Chairman, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, the Managing Director of the entity and one other board member. They said they were undertaking a task of sourcing a strategic partner.

The Committee made a presentation to the regional meeting of the social security directors in May of 2001 and secured a purchase of two million shares by the National Insurance Board of St. Lucia. In addition, this Committee made a number of approaches to other financial institutions both locally, regionally and internationally whom the Committee felt could add value to the Barbados National

Bank. The Committee received responses from three entities. These were the Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, the First Citizens Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and E.L.C. Caribbean Holdings Incorporation a branch of N.C.B. of Jamaica.

The Committee did not consider First Citizens Bank of Trinidad and Tobago to be a worthwhile strategic partner because the entity was a 100 per cent owned by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and only operated in Trinidad and Tobago and was only interested in a share swap.

E.L.C. Caribbean Holdings Incorporation from Jamaica was conditional and this company had no interest in the shares owned by the Barbados National Bank in the Insurance Corporation of Barbados and had no interest in acquiring the subsidiary company, Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation (BMFC), and in addition did not wish to make an offer to all the shareholders. As a result of this, the Committee did not think that they were suitable.

1.50 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: The Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago indicated that their offer was subject to a number of concerns. These were:

1. Access to the Housing Credit Fund to ensure continuing viability of low-cost mortgage financing.
2. Waiver of stamp duties and other fees payable on the acquisition of shares.
3. The assurance that there would be no significant changes in the regulatory environment which could adversely affect the bank's profitability.

The Committee had no problem with these, bearing in mind that the access to the Housing Credit Fund was not a problem. The waiving of the stamp duty would not have been a problem because it would be paid by the vendor and in relation to the regulatory environment, there was no indication that they would change in the foreseeable future.

The Committee of the Board, therefore, recommended to the Government of Barbados that the Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago be accepted. The offer from the Bank was 57 per cent of the Bank's shares at a price of \$3.45 per share.

In recommending this to the Government of Barbados, the Committee felt that an alliance would provide the following:

1. allow the Barbados National Bank to achieve greater diversification of products and services, which would ensure that the Bank keeps up with the competition in the wake of the mergers that had occurred, especially Barclays/CIBC, and the acquisitions that were occurring throughout the industry.
2. increased growth and revenue through an increased customer base, as a consequence of the external redirecting of business.
3. allow access to regional and international markets.
4. facilitate the ability to accommodate United States Dollar financing thus enhancing customer base profitability.
5. the Republic Bank is involved in merchant banking and has developed some expertise in this area through its ownership of FINGCOR.
6. facilitate the availability of competitive funding for public sector projects.

In addition, the Republic Bank's aim was to move the Barbados National Bank from a market share of 18 per cent to not less than 28 per cent. These were some of the issues discussed and the advice of the Committee to the Government of Barbados in selling the shares of the Barbados National Bank.

Finally, Mr. Deputy President, in Senator Mascoll's presentation, there were mutterings from a troubled and confused mind. The backbone of his plan for the development of Barbados, will be a gradual reduction in income tax. This is something to which the Government of Barbados, through the Minister of Finance, is committed and has already started. Yet this modern-day Columbus plans to start today.

In the case of the Hilton Hotel Project, Senator Mascoll has said that, "not even 50 Barbadians are being employed", "No small businesses benefitted in Barbados". There is the company called Tucker-Johnson Construction Co. Ltd., which employs over 100 Barbadians. Senator Mascoll has said, "there are no small contractors". Everson R. Elcock is being contracted on the Hilton Project. Then there are other contractors such as Morris Straker Construction Incorporated; Platinum Systems Incorporated; R. J. Construction; R. L. Philips; Callender's Construction; Maurice Bourne; Victor Knight; Ally Moore and Orin Baker - All local Barbadian contractors.

In the case of tourism, he said our performance has been the worst in the entire Caribbean. Mr. Deputy President, I will quote figures from the Caribbean Tourism Organisation for the year 2002. Tourist arrivals:

Aruba showed a decline of 7.1 per cent; Bahamas, 2.9 per cent; Cancun, Mexico, 11.4 per cent; Cayman Island, 9.4 per cent; Martinique, 2.7 per cent; St. Maarten, 5.6 per cent; Dominion Republic, 2.6 per cent; US Virgin Island, 1.9 per cent; Jamaica, a decline of 1.8 per cent; Barbados, a decline of 1.8 per cent. But from Senator Mascoll, we have done the worst in the entire Caribbean.

In the case of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I have heard Senator Mascoll say there is no need for a Board and that all it needs is computerisation, which would solve all the problems.

Mr. Deputy President, I do not know if we can really believe that. What do we really expect from someone who believes that qualifications are over-rated and might be irrelevant, while still actively pursuing a Ph.D? What would you expect from someone who would extend the building of a property without first seeking Town and Country Planning's permission, then to have it removed? What do you expect from someone who is unable to state his position on a simple but significant thing, the war going on between Iraq and the Anglo-American Coalition? This is the kind of thinking.

My Honourable Colleague went on to talk about a high powered delegation that went off to Washington and the concurrence of former prime ministers seen there at a conference, looking at campaign cost and contribution. I am not going to get into that. I do not know if that has any bearing on the fact that this particular leader would be unable to make a comment, one way or the next, about this whole issue.

Mr. President, these are serious times. Serious decisions have to be made regarding the future of this country. This is a time for serious thinkers, like our present Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. This is not the time for day dreamers. This is not the time for a Latter-day Don Quixote.

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

*On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, the Bill was read a third time and was passed and cited as the Appropriation Act, 2003.*

#### ORDER NO. 5

TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228, THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN FOR PARCELS OF LAND SITUATE AT FOUR HILL PLANTATION AND FRENCH VILLAGE IN THE

PARISH OF ST. PETER IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Walcott.

SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks permission to acquire two parcels of land at French Village, St. Peter and one parcel of land at Four Hill, St. Peter, for housing development. The three parcels of land total approximately 3.88 hectares. I beg to move that this Resolution be now passed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy President, I am forced to speak to this matter.

First of all, I think that the Honourable Senate should be privy to the knowledge that this Resolution would be coming to the Senate today. I had the impression that we would have wrapped up the Debate on the Appropriation Bill and then adjourned but since the Member has introduced this Bill, I would wish to find out what kind of housing project would it be in the parish of St. Peter. Is it a low-income housing project? Is it a middle-income housing project? It is the usual typical high-end project that we are accustomed to in the northern part of this country?

2.00 p.m.

*Monday, March 26, 2003*

Senator C. A. MASCOLL: As a resident of St. Peter, I am privy to certain information.

*Asides.*

Senator C. A. MASCOLL: In order to get to my house you have to pass through the housing estate at Maynards. Sir, I am concerned as to what kind of housing stock will be put in this area and whether or not it is consistent with the housing stock to be placed near to Gordon Greenidge Primary School where we have been seeing the advertising of homes with down payments and we are not sure whether low income Barbadians will be able to access the housing place there, whether it will be a joint venture between Government and the private sector or who are the persons involved in the provisions of these houses in French Village.

Mr. Deputy President, I am asking these questions but I do not expect to receive any answers since it was an attempt by the Leader on the other side to pass this Resolution through without any debate but we need certain clarification on this matter.

SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: First of all I do not know if the Honourable Senator did not see, read or remember Item 5 on the Order Paper. As far as I know, the

land is being vested in National Housing Corporation and the type of housing will depend on the necessary Town & Country Planning permission and the conditions which they will put on it for housing suitable in that location.

I beg to move that this Resolution do not pass.

*The question was put and agreed to.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be adjourned sine die.

*The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the SENATE and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.*

2.05 p.m.

## CONTENTS

## RESUMPTION

His Hon. Senator C. L. Bolden, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Senator Miss J. C. Odle, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14; Senator The Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21; Senator L. H. McCLEAN, 14, 15, 24, 25; Senator J. E. D. Williams, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 28, 29; Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott, 29, 31.

ORDER NO. 5.....32

Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott, 32; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 32.

ADJOURNMENT.....33

Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott, 33.

## SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

**BOLDEN, His Hon. SENATOR C. L.**

**MASCOLL, Senator C. A.**

**McCLEAN, Senator L. H.**

**MURRAY, Senator The Hon. G. S. H.**

**ODLE, Senator Miss J. C.**

**WALCOTT, Senator the Hon. J. X.**

**WILLIAMS, Senator J. E. D.**

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**EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT**


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*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 ‘Tuesday, March 26, 2003’ (26 March 2003 was a Wednesday); ‘Friday, March 29, 2003’ (29 March 2003 was a Saturday). The weekday and date do not agree; printed as in the source.

**Q3. Appropriation Bill, 2003, Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott’s reply.** Senator Walcott ends ‘I now beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.’, and the next line records that the Bill ‘was read a third time and was passed’; the second reading, Committee stage and the motion for third reading are not recorded. Printed as in the source.

**Q4. Order No. 5.** Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott’s reply ends ‘I beg to move that this Resolution do not pass.’, after which ‘The question was put and agreed to.’ Printed as in the source.

**Q5. Take-slip about 2.00 p.m..** The time stamp reads ‘Monday, March 26, 2003’; the other stamps, and the masthead, give Wednesday, 26th March, 2003. Printed as in the source.

**Q6. Speech labels.** Senator McClean appears both as ‘SENATOR LeR. McCLEAN’ and as ‘SENATOR L. H. McCLEAN’, and Senator Williams both as ‘J. E. D. WILLIAMS’ and as ‘J. J. D. WILLIAMS’. Printed as in the source.

**Q7. Opening.** The record begins at the resumption, with no order number or heading for the Appropriation Bill, 2003, and no PRESENT list or Papers. Printed as in the source.

**DEBATE SUMMARY**

*(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)*

The Senate resumed on Wednesday, 26th March, 2003, with Mr. President in the Chair and later Mr. Deputy President, for the third day of the debate on the Appropriation Bill, 2003.

His Hon. Senator C. L. Bolden supported the Bill and contrasted the Government’s record with that of the

Democratic Labour Party, mentioning tax increases after the 1986 election and the sale of businesses to the Barbadian company GEMS; he called for a reorganisation of the Licensing Authority and clearer road markings for visitors. Senator Miss J. C. Odle reflected on Barbados’s sovereignty, declared herself opposed to the war then under way, and spoke on the advisory council on gender, the Status of Women Commission and support for children with disabilities; Mr. President reminded her not to anticipate a matter likely to come before the Chamber.

Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray criticised Senators McClean and Mascoll of the Democratic Labour Party, saying Senator Mascoll, as President of that party, should have condemned the war as his colleague had done, and attacking the view that qualifications were overrated. Senator McClean rose on points of order that his character was being reflected upon; Mr. Deputy President ruled that this was not a point of order. Senator Murray also spoke on abstinence in the Government’s policy and the new Public Service Act being drafted.

Senator J. E. D. Williams spoke on the Port, on small and medium-sized enterprises that were improperly capitalised and found commercial banks unwilling to lend, and on productivity schemes begun in the early 1990s. He was interrupted by points of order from Senator McClean and from Senator C. A. Mascoll, who said he had called academic qualifications overrated only in the context of the Fisheries Department; Mr. Deputy President ruled that Senator Mascoll’s intervention was a new speech and ordered him to stop.

Winding up, Senator the Hon. J. X. Walcott answered points raised by Senators Rickinson, Laurie, Rock, Collymore and others, and set out the sale of shares in the Barbados National Bank: in November 2000 the Government had offered 50 million of its 96 million shares, and a committee of the Board had recommended the Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago’s offer for 57 per cent of the shares at \$3.45 a share, with the aim of raising the Bank’s market share from 18 per cent to not less than 28 per cent. Quoting Caribbean Tourism Organisation figures, he said Barbados’s 1.8 per cent decline in arrivals in 2002 was not the worst in the Caribbean. The Bill was passed as the Appropriation Act, 2003.

Under Order No. 5 Senator Walcott moved the Resolution under section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, for the compulsory acquisition of about 3.88 hectares at Four Hill Plantation and French Village, St. Peter, for housing. Senator Mascoll, a resident of St. Peter, asked what kind of housing would be built; Senator Walcott said the land was being vested in the National

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| Housing Corporation and the type of housing would depend on Town and Country Planning permission. The | Resolution was agreed to and the Senate was adjourned sine die. |
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