
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

THE SENATE

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS, D.B.E., G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (P.G.C.E.), J.P. (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH, G.C.M., J.P. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development) (Leader of Senate)

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, LL.B., (Hons.) LL.M. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)

Senator T. E. BARKER, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Econ.), J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator R. W. GRANT, B.A. (Econ.) G.Dip. M.A. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and International Transport)

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW, G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (Dunelm)

Senator I. St. C. LINTON

Senator Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS, B.A. (Hons.)

Senator G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL

Senator G. P. B. NICHOLLS, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B. (Hons.)

Senator F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.

Senator Dr. D. S. LOWE, Ed. D., MED., B.A., Dip. Theology

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN, K.A, M.A.

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

Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A., G.C.M., B.Com., F.C.A. (Hons.), LL.D. (Honorary) (U.W.I.)

Senator A. C. FIELDS

Senator Dr. F. L. CHANDLER, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Hons.)

Prayers were led by Reverend Father Errington Massiah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received apologies for the absence of Senator Williams, Senator Newton and Senator Parris.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is in session.

PAPERS

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

1. Exchange Control (Authorised Dealers and Depositories) (Amendment) Order, 2004.
2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Whitepark Development Limited) Order, 2004.
3. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 2004.
4. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 2003.
5. Annual Report of the National Petroleum Corporation for the year 2002.

6. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Eckler Partners Ltd.) Order, 2004.
7. Betting and Gaming Duties Order, 2004.
8. Annual Reports of the Child Care Board for the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001 and April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002.
9. Value Added Tax (No. 1) Order, 2004.
10. Gambling (Approved National Organisation) (Amendment) Order, 2004.
11. Green Paper entitled "Towards A Society for all Ages – A National Policy on Ageing".
12. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Rural Development Commission for year ended March 31, 2001.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move the First Reading of the following Bills:

1. National Insurance and Social Security Bill, 2004.
2. Caribbean Community (Movement of Skilled Nationals) Bill, 2004.
3. Final Appropriation (2003-2004) Bill, 2004.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 – CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (MOVEMENT OF SKILLED NATIONALS) BILL, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, for decades Caribbean leaders and people have recognised that they must work together in order to cope with the sometimes unfriendly but always fiercely competitive, global environment in which they exist. That is why the leaders in 1958 attempted to join countries in a Federation of

the West Indies. Naturally, the failure of that attempt was in many ways a setback, in my view, to the political, social and economic development of the region. Fortunately, that failure was not strong enough to suppress the quest of the people in the region to find ways of co-operating and collaborating in an attempt to raise the standard of living in all of the respective countries.

11.20 a.m.

Therefore, in 1965, we saw the establishment of the Caribbean Free Trade Association, formally referred to as CARIFTA, which though limited in scope, produced a number of benefits to the region from the point of view of the expansion of the inter-regional trade.

In 1973, the leaders of the region, while recognising the benefits that had accrued from the CARIFTA arrangement, at the same time recognised that were it not for the constraints that existed, the region could have been more advanced. Therefore, they sought to carry the level of integration to a higher height. We had in 1973, the establishment of CARICOM, the Caribbean Community and Common Market.

The objectives of that, Mr. President, were basically to improve the region economically and socially by various measures of co-operation. All of us today speak about the significant contribution that has resulted from the establishment of the University of the West Indies, and about the benefits that we have derived from the existence of the Caribbean Meteorological Service and other forms of co-operation that have taken place over the years.

Sir, we recognise that in this era of globalisation and probably by a large degree of liberalisation that unless the countries in this region work together and create the type of environment which would allow the people as individuals, but as persons involved in businesses to pool their resources, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the individual countries in the region to overcome the challenges which lie ahead.

CARICOM has worked well. If you want to see how well it has worked from the point of view of the expansion of trade in the region, all you have to do is to look at the trade statistics. Today, Barbados, in spite of all the difficulties which it has encountered has been able to expand its trade across the CARICOM region, especially within the OECS countries, in a significant way. Of course, there is always room for improvement but we must not always focus on the negative side but look at the positive.

However, the present CARICOM arrangement has its limitations. This is why in 2001 the Heads, having agreed

on the nine Protocols, proceeded to amend the Treaty of Chaguaramas that will eventually lead to the implementation of the common single market and economy.

Mr. President, this is an attempt to establish an environment which would allow businesses to set up across the region, will allow individuals to move, and will allow capital to move. In other words, labour and capital will be allowed eventually to move freely across the region, although at the moment, there are certain restrictions in relation to labour.

Persons will be allowed to have access to land in other parts of the region. The ultimate objective is to allow the free movement of labour and capital and to allow people to have access to land and other resources, the same way that they would have in their particular countries.

Of course, Mr. President, the movement towards the ultimate implementation of the CSME, will bring a number of hurdles and challenges which we will have to overcome. We are dealing with sovereign States and States which are at different levels of development and persons who have various ways of going about their particular type of business. These are things that have to be taken into account.

In co-operative ventures, it is often the case that the movement as a whole cannot move faster than the pace at which the slowest member is moving. In the interest of solidarity, it is prudent to be patient with this law of movement. In this case, all the countries in the region have committed themselves to the full implementation of the CSME by 2005. Even though they are at different stages from the point of view of the implementation and enactment of the legislation, they are all committed to moving in that direction. In fact, all of us would have heard recently, coming out of the Heads meeting that a number of countries have indicated that they would spend a lot of time for the remainder of this year, focussing on things that need to be put in place to facilitate the implementation of the CSME.

I know, Mr. President, from hearing all the discussion on the various radio programmes that people have a number of concerns. They feel to some extent that persons will leave their homes in their respective countries and gravitate towards areas where they see greater benefits. That is a normal reaction to expect. However, I do not for a moment feel that there is going to be an influx to the degree being mentioned by some people.

I have studied the evolution of the arrangements between the European countries. I say, evolution, because all of us know that where Europe is today, that did not happen overnight. The systems in the European countries evolved over time and they are still going through the process. They have not yet reached the ultimate objective. They are still

talking about a number of issues such as a single currency. The United Kingdom is still going the route of the Pound, while a number of the other countries have gone the route of the Euro.

When their system reached the stage where ours is at the moment, a number of people also had the fear that there was going to be an influx of the weaker countries to the stronger countries. In fact, that is still a fear in Europe because of the recent enlargement with the additional number of countries coming into the system particularly those countries which are not as well off.

11.30 a.m.

Mr. President, we have a number of lessons to learn from what took place in Europe. I am pleased that our Prime Minister who has responsibility for the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy has been putting forward to his colleagues a proposal for the establishment of a regional development fund similar to that which exists in the European setting. In Europe they have a number of funds which are intended to provide assistance to disadvantaged regions and countries in the group which are not as well off as the more advanced countries. That was always an issue I had to raise with the representatives of the European Delegation of the World Trade Organisation. Whenever we raise the issue of special and differential treatment for the CARICOM countries, they certainly did not know what we were speaking about when we refer to small economies. I have knowledge that they were using funds from within Europe.

In our case we were asking for some special arrangement that would facilitate our trade and provide some technical support to increase our capacity to be able to take advantage of the trade opportunities that would emerge from the negotiations. I had to remind them that in their own arrangement, countries like Spain and Ireland, especially Ireland that is so far ahead of Barbados in terms of per capita income and other economic or social indicators, benefitted from the funds which they created so as to enable the countries that were less advanced in their grouping to move to a more acceptable level that they would be comparable with the more advanced countries in the grouping. I had to remind them that in their own arrangement that was special and differential treatment so that the concept that we were proposing was not so unfamiliar as they were making out this week.

Mr. President, CARICOM leaders have recognised long ago that we are talking about countries that are at different levels of development. Even in the setting up of CARICOM, there is provision for the lesser developed countries in the grouping to get special and differential

treatment because it has been recognised that they need to be given the opportunity to raise themselves to a higher level to become more competitive with the more advanced countries in the grouping. Therefore, when such a fund is created and is used to develop the lesser developed countries in the region, I would find it a little difficult to believe that persons would still be moving lock, stock and barrel from their respective countries to go to other countries. Yes, we would still have some movement because of other reasons.

Mr. President, people move from country to country from time to time not necessarily because they are looking for better economic opportunities but because they developed other attachments and so on and that will continue. That is how life is. However, that is not an influx. An influx would only come if conditions remain bad for a long time, because if it is a temporary matter I do not see why people would move lock, stock and barrel in any large numbers to give up all of their possessions. They will also have sentimental attachments, so people would not move willy-nilly, they will move temporarily.

Mr. President, Barbadians leave here and travel abroad and no matter how long they stay abroad whenever you talk with them they would tell you that they are looking forward to coming back home. They might have left with the intention of going for a short while and it might end up being a long time but they always talk about coming back home. I met a gentleman yesterday at a funeral who told me that he lived in England for 14 years and after that he went to the United States of America for 25 years but he has now decided to come back home. He thinks that he has made enough to be able to settle back home. That is always the intention, so even if people move here the only way they will stay forever is if they have other attachments or if things remain so bad in their country for their entire lifetime.

Mr. President, any integration movement of the kind about which we now speak that allows a number of countries to remain in that state would not be a successful movement. That is why the idea which our Prime Minister has put forward for the establishment of a regional development fund, which is similar to the fund used by the European Union, is the way to go. The European Union also has other forms of assistance and other funds such as the social fund the intention of which is to create social and economic cohesion among communities across nations.

Mr. President, we in the region as we seek to move to the stage where we fully implement the Caribbean Single Market and Economy would have to do similar things. People grow up at a different level. We do not have the resources that the countries in Europe have but within our means we will have to do similar things so as to accommodate those countries that are not as advanced at this stage. Ultimately, the objective would be to bring everybody

to the same stage or as near as possible because only then would we as a region reap the full benefits of the integration.

Mr. President, under the Caribbean Single Market and Economy the proposal is that there will be movement of capital. Barbadian businesses would now be able to set up in other countries and they would be able to expect the same treatment as the nationals of those particular countries and *vice versa*. Individuals would be able to move from country to country for business purposes and to set up businesses wherever they want.

Mr. President, at the recent Council on Trade and Economic Development meeting the focus was essentially on agriculture. Barbados put forward two Papers to that meeting in which it identified two areas in agriculture where there could be regional co-operation and therefore benefits to the region by working together on those two areas. One of them is West Indian Sea Island Cotton and the other is sugar. There are a number of aspects of those two areas that could be enhanced by the region working together, certainly West Indian Sea Island Cotton is a clear case.

Mr. President, under Chapter 4 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which deals with the policies for sectoral development, Barbados as well as the other countries would have to identify the kinds of activities they would like to be involved in to benefit from the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

11.40 a.m.

Mr. President, Chapter 4 deals with industrial policy. There is also a section dealing with services and with the implementation of the common agriculture policy. Sir, it was in that context that we at the last Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) meeting, put forward two proposals to the countries in the region as to how we, as a region, could work together to the advancement of the agricultural sectors.

Mr. President, there has also been much work done on the expansion of the capital market across the borders of the region. That is being promoted and in due course persons who are involved in that area of activity will be able to expand their operations beyond the shores of Barbados.

Mr. President, there is work being done, even now, on common standards. There is an organisation established within the region called the Caribbean Agriculture Food Safety Authority (CAFSA), which is developing programmes which it will then extend to the respective organisations of the countries in the region, which are responsible for agriculture, health and food safety. Therefore, the region will be implementing common food standards with regard to agriculture, health and food standards.

Mr. President, there is also the organisation which deals with common standards. That is the regional organisation that will embrace the domestic agencies such as the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) and others, so that common standards will prevail across the region. Sir, these things are all necessary if we are going to implement successfully the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, there are a number of other things. We have all heard about the proposals for the Caribbean Court of Justice, which, contrary to some of the popular belief, is not essentially about capital punishment. It is intended to be the organ that would give the interpretation to the Treaty of Chaguaramas and would make decisions when there are disputes, and there will be disputes.

Mr. President, I have never been able to succeed in preventing my teeth from biting my tongue at some point in time. There will always be disputes and, therefore, the Caribbean Court of Justice would have the responsibility for dealing with those disputes and for settling them amicably. It does not mean that countries would be at war but there would be disputes over settlement.

Mr. President, not so long ago this Honourable Chamber debated and passed the Barbados Accreditation Council Bill, 2004, which is another institution that is being set up. This Bill will be replicated across the region and there will be an overall body to ensure that they are all following certain common practices and standards because as skilled persons move from country to country, it will be necessary for an assessment and a determination to be made on whether or not these skills are appropriate and applicable. Therefore, this Bill before us today is yet another step towards the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, we are talking about the movement of persons with certain skills. Yes, it is limited but in my view, it is better to take it one step at a time rather than by biting off more than we can chew. This does not mean that ultimately there would not be free movement. As the process evolves, I am sure that it is where we would end.

Mr. President, for a short while I lived in Geneva and was able to travel across Europe on the strength of a visa from one country, and since France was nearest to where I lived, I always got a French visa. When I travelled into Italy, Germany, and other parts of Europe, all I had to do was show that French visa because France was one of the Schengen States and that visa was acceptable to every other country.

Mr. President, I saw the Europeans moving even more freely but I certainly did not have any encumbrances. In fact,

although Switzerland is not part of the European Union (EU) I marvelled when I first went there because as I disembarked, I told myself that the airline personnel seemed to have forgotten to give me an immigration card and so I approached the immigration officer with some fear, only to discover that they do not use any immigration card. All I had to do was to show my passport, which the immigration officer did not stamp but simply looked at it to see if it was a valid passport and that was all.

Mr. President, that may be a peculiarity but to move across Europe, all I needed was a visa from one State to move freely from one State to the others. Sir, I am sure that ultimately, that is where this integration movement would take us but at the moment, they are discussing the issue of CARICOM passports and other related items. Those issues were discussed at the last Heads of CARICOM Meeting when I was in Trinidad and Tobago not so long ago. It was discussed at the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) meeting and are still being discussed from the point of view of finalisation.

Mr. President, what we are proposing here in this Bill which is before us, is that persons possessing certain skills would be allowed to come into Barbados to be employed. These categories of persons are the ones that would be allowed in the first step. Ultimately, we would move in the other direction.

Mr. President, what I have noticed from the various discussions is that people are saying that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy will not be of any benefit to Barbados unless all persons are allowed to move freely. Sir, yet these very people are talking about an influx. That tells me that those persons are not genuinely concerned about the issue but are only focussing on the negative aspect. There will be negatives and positives and what I think we need to do is to focus on the positive.

I am sure that Honourable Senators here who are involved in the various activities in Barbados will agree with me that in the same way that Barbados has so far been able to achieve good results from the existing CARICOM arrangements by shipping their goods, especially in the area of processed foods, *et cetera*, into other countries, that there will be a number of additional business opportunities, with which Barbados can avail itself.

11.50 a.m.

There is a company in Barbados that has established a business in another CARICOM country which was done outside of this arrangement of which we speak. Sir, there will be further opportunities for businesses to be established from place to place. Last week I received a telephone call from someone in Canada who was interested in setting up an operation in Barbados in the area of agriculture. As we

discussed the issue, I realised that it would take us a while to generate the quantity of raw material which the operation would need. Therefore, I raised the issue with the gentleman of using Barbados as a base but importing the additional raw materials from one of the neighbouring countries where it exists in great abundance. Sir, there will be opportunities like these for people in Barbados to get involved in other activities. Sir, while there may be negatives our efforts should be to take full advantage of the positive side.

Mr. President, the Bill before us is seeking to remove the restrictions on entry into Barbados of CARICOM skilled nationals who qualify under Article 46 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. It speaks about media workers, sports persons, artistes and musicians. These are the categories that are being afforded this privilege at this stage but this does not mean that the list will not be extended as the integration movement continues to grow.

The Bill makes provision for persons to come to Barbados for six months and seek employment so it is not necessary to find employment before coming to Barbados. It also makes provisions for certificates of recognition and sets out the criteria which the applicant has to meet to get the certificate of recognition to work in Barbados.

The Bill empowers the Accreditation Council to issue certificates of recognition to Barbadians who wish to enter and seek employment in other CARICOM countries.

It also sets out the number of offences which would contravene the Act and gives the Minister responsible the authority to make specific regulations to give effect to the Act.

Mr. President, I am convinced that unless CARICOM countries are able to move to a higher level of co-operation, they will find it impossible to cope with the challenges that confront them in the global marketplace. Therefore, the correct thing for the region to do is to move towards the implementation of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy and create the opportunity for citizens across the region to move to a higher level of social and economic development.

Therefore, I have great pleasure in supporting this Bill before the Chamber.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I rise to present the Opposition's position on what I consider to be a critical piece of legislation to be implemented. It is coming at a time when there is much debate in this country about the degree of leverage at which it should move forward in accommodating the requirements of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. While we believe it is a natural progression in the matter of co-ordination in the region, we

also believe that before we can plunge further along the continuum of co-operation that we need carefully to examine the gains or losses incurred as a result of the CARICOM agreement and ask ourselves how we can move forward in a manner where we seek to create a greater level of comfort within the region among ourselves as regional States as we face the prospects of globalisation.

Mr. President, as these discussions continue, the country is waiting with some measure of hope that there will be a level of illumination.

12.00 noon

Sir, I have been trying to follow keenly the expressions of the public as to the level of comfort they have with the principle of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, given the fact that the development of our people in Barbados, particularly in the post-1950s, has been to cement their sense of determination and to build as a human hub the reality that speaks to how well they are able to engineer a path of success, not so much controlled by competing forces in the region but dictated by what has been established as the standard for development in Barbados especially as it reaches out to the other States.

Sir, today we stand in a position where the Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados has been designated as the lead to help us in the region to accomplish this monumental undertaking, which none of us believe will come without challenges, trials, errors and successes. Today in this Chamber we are asked to contemplate a Bill that would give permission to regional nationals within a category so that they will be able to move with some flexibility in and out of Barbados.

Sir, the first question that I ask myself is, what are the challenges we face in terms of the effort to create a single space for the region around economies and social realities. I tend to believe that while we can manipulate economic principles, that social realities within the context of integration present a more difficult undertaking in terms of seeking to bring people together to believe certain fundamental principles that guide how they live and do their business.

In this region, there is a certain diversity that exists and the CARICOM effort has not been able to neutralise those diversities, not to say that it was its intention to do so, but at least the time it would have run its course would have given it some time to understand what it is that is required in terms of neutralising some of the diversities if there must be any at all.

Sir, the region is a diverse region based on its economic differences. I heard the Honourable Leader of

Government Business talk about the fact that the strong must not move at a pace which is discomfoting to the weak and that, therefore, we must move together through some development instrument that would allow the weak to be able to remediate their weaknesses and come on par with the stronger countries. Sir, that is a very ambitious view.

I am not sure that it has been demonstrated by the Other Side that there are mechanisms which were studied, tested and tried that would be able to provide the kind of remediate services to those States that have demonstrated some elements of weakness both in their economic and social quality of life's journeys. Mr. President, there is the whole issue of the economic differences in the region that I would like to put on the table as part of the platform of what we must discover and discuss as we go forward in this Debate.

Sir, the region is also diversified based on its cultures and there are still those who believe that because we are a Caribbean people that we have similarities so rich in the culture that it actually nullifies the distinctions that exist in the Caribbean cultures. Any one of us who has travelled the Caribbean knows that there are some specific, definable and measurable distinctions in how we live, move and demonstrate our being in the Caribbean.

Sir, I am not sure that we have placed on the table for the public's consumption any antidote as to how these issues are going to be addressed. While there is diversity in the standard of living in Barbados in terms of the affluent versus the disadvantaged, I still believe that there are some defining cultural similarities that exist that make us a people of Barbados, which cannot be defined with those other States that are still grappling with their own cultural and social development in their own respects.

Mr. President, I am speaking to the diversity of the region that must be spoken about in order for us to be able to create a comfort for the public that we are going to be able to demonstrate that this whole Caribbean Single Market and Economy concept is going to work, not only at the economic level but certainly at the social development level.

Sir, there are standard-of-living issues. I believe that those standard-of-living issues must be addressed because if we are going to ask Barbados to lead the charge on helping to create this Caribbean Single Market and Economy and when it is fully known that Barbados has been blessed to advance the development of its people to an extent where it has outgrown other members of the region, then we must tell the people that our efforts to bring the region together will not disadvantage the gains that we have made as people in this country.

Mr. President, I do not believe that is an unreasonable asking on the part of the people of this great nation. There are economic, cultural, standard of living differences and in the area of human growth and development.

Sir, I believe that all of us in this Chamber will agree that this country had been able to make significant social and economic gains because of the contributions made by all political parties that have been able to be in the forefront of the management and governance of this country.

Sir, of course, we accept that all Governments make their contributions to the national development effort in different ways and times and we all agree that the journey of this nation has been one so coloured with moments of advancement that others in the region have envied the journey of Barbados and no wonder, perhaps, that Barbados now stands at the front of this effort to push for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, it is a fact that once we have been able to satisfy the curiosity, though guarded, of the people of Barbados, that nothing gained will be lost as a result of creating this social and economic melting pot where we all share the same economic platform, that the Barbadian people will be happy to embrace any Caribbean national who comes to these shores to seek opportunity.

Sir, I wish to make the point at this time that CARICOM arrangements have done well but there are still significant deficits that have not been eliminated. In Barbados there is still a significant imbalance between exports and imports in the region. We still have in Barbados a significant difference and, perhaps, dispute between Barbados and Trinidad relative to a fishing agreement. One would have thought that these things could have been achieved and be part of the legacy of CARICOM to date but they have not yet been accomplished.

I am only raising the spectre that if over this long and coloured journey of CARICOM regionalism we still struggle with some fundamental agreements, then one must ask oneself whether or not the pursuit of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in the region, as it stands today, is an attainable goal or whether or not it will plunge this region into any element of chaos. These are questions that I believe the Honourable Leader of Government Business and Minister, certainly would be able to respond to as he winds up this Debate.

12.10 p.m.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask what will the free movement of skilled nationals within the specified categories do for us? What needs are these persons intended to meet? What comforts would be given to us in terms of

national development, as a result of the influx, to use the Honourable Minister's term, of persons in this country so given accord by the law, as it would be implemented? Is it, Sir, that we have a shortage of skilled persons in this country? I seem to think not.

As a matter of fact, Mr. President, at the last two graduations at the University of the West Indies, I believe I would have heard persons speaking on the behalf of students expressing grave concern at the numbers of persons graduating in skilled areas and not able to find work in Barbados. I will go further. There is every effort now to expand the Barbados Community College, there is every effort to beef up the work of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, institutions that are noted for their production of young, skilled persons in this society. I am asking what degree of comfort will they have, once this country pursues the course that it intends to pursue.

Sir, I am not saying that we must not diversify our skills market to include persons from other territories. I am saying that as we pursue that course, it is our fundamental responsibility to ensure that those nationals of Barbados, those citizens of this State, have every single comfort that they would be able to find a place in this society in the workforce.

No, we talk about influx and the discomfort. I heard the Honourable Minister talk about the fact that there will be no expansion of influx of workers. Mr. President, I hear that and accept it as a genuine comment by the Honourable Minister, but I have a difference with that view because at present, there is a concern in this society about influx. Sir, no special arrangement has been made but I know that the society now stands ajar, because there is a tremendous influx of workers, skilled and unskilled, who have created some discomfort among the population because of the swelling numbers of individuals.

I am of the view that while we in Barbados should never become so insensitive as not to give rise to opportunities for others, I still believe in the principle that home drums must beat first and must beat loudly. I believe that every Honourable Member in this Chamber will agree with that, and we have a case of influx now where we have not been able to quiet the public's concern.

I want to ask the Honourable Minister, as he begins to tell us in his concluding speech what specific needs would be addressed through this arrangement and what specific issues will be answered or will come to the fore relative to this issue. I would like to know what in fact is the overall master plan to police this pilgrimage of persons, once this legislation becomes law.

The Honourable Minister talked about breaking the law

and that there is provision for response but that is only in terms of breaching the arrangement. It has nothing to do with some of the challenges that we may have to face as a result of infractions to the laws of Barbados, but I will get to that a little later in my presentation.

Therefore, what are we responding to? Are we responding to a diminishing stock in our human capital, relative to skilled individuals? I would say the answer is no. Are we responding, Mr. President, to a workforce that has now become shiftless and lazy? I say, no. As a matter of fact, there was a view held by some social scientist, years ago, in describing black Americans that they were shiftless and lazy people who did not have the capacity to come into contact with good work ethics, that they were the engines of handouts, or the recipients of handouts.

Sir, a view is sneaking into this society, and if I make only one point in this presentation, this must be it, there is a view, and I am asking the view relative to this debate, what will this piece of legislation respond to? Is it a lack of human capital relative to skills and attributes? I believe the answer is no. Is it a lack of persons who embrace a level of ethics towards work that is not suitable for productivity? The answer has to be no. Barbadians continue to be persons who pride themselves in being able to own their own. When people of all walks of life in all spheres of life can speak in such glowing but disgraceful terms about the quality of the Barbadian worker, somebody has to stand up and arrest such a malign view.

Mr. President, you know, you have raised your children with such ethics, where they take great pride in their work and their capacity to sweat by their brows, and to work with their hands. I am most discouraged when I hear people, particularly people who are involved in the political directorate of this country, make such comments characterising Barbadian workers as shiftless, lazy and lacking in ethics, and then use that as the justification for creating a conduit for the same influx of workers that the Honourable Minister just said will not happen once this piece of legislation goes into place. It is a disgrace.

Those of us who work hard every day in this Chamber to ensure that we fulfill the requirements of our responsibilities in earning our keep, know that it must be heard. The problem with worker attitude is that the conditions of work are not always in place. We have persons, for example, Sir, who are appointed in positions to manage people who are technicians and they do not understand how to create a workforce responsive to the facts of work.

We have other persons, and I could cite, for example, expatriates who come to this country, Mr. President, and

enjoy wonderful and bountiful experiences, many of whom live on the outskirts of luxury or in the bosom of luxury. At 12.00 p.m. or 1.00 p.m. they leave their offices somewhere in a tower, and go to the Golf Course, and ordinary Barbadians are asked to stay and work under strenuous conditions to make sure that they provide that organisation with every opportunity to be a productive and profit earning organisation. Then, people would get up and question the ethics of the Barbadian worker. I make the point again that there is no deterioration in the concept of Barbadians loving to work.

As a matter of fact, Mr. President, I would like to challenge every single person in this Honourable Chamber who has an opportunity to hire people that in my possession right now, Sir, I have résumés of young men and women who have graduated from the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies, in search of an opportunity and cannot find one in this country. Yet still a Leader could give the impression that the workers of Barbados have lost their juices for being productive. I refute that with the greatest level of passion that I can find in my body.

12.20 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please! Every Senator would be afforded the opportunity to speak. Senator Lowe, please continue.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: The problem is that the Government is not prepared to put the legislation in place to protect what persons can earn. As a result, we have some honourable persons from different CARICOM countries including Guyana who are coming to this country and subjected to working conditions where in some cases their travel documents are being seized and they are forced to work in conditions for wages that are substandard to what Barbadian workers know they should get, but for their own economic journey and experience they are prepared to get as much as they possibly can from this country. The problem is that Barbados needs a minimum wage bill so that a minimum threshold can be set so that whether they are Guyanese, St. Lucians, Trinidadians or whomever, once they come to these shores a true plain of competition can occur because the wage standards would be the same for all including Barbadians.

Mr. President, I would like to voice today to every single foreign worker in this country that they should demand that the best conditions are provided for them so that at the end of the day they can work in this country without any antagonism. What is happening now is that there is growing animus between Barbadians and foreign workers because of some of the views espoused by some lawmakers

and by others. So there is now becoming an antagonistic relationship between those who come from other territories to look for employment and find employment and Barbadians who are sitting by on the sidelines.

Mr. President, if Honourable Senators do not know that persons are out there looking for work, I know that they are out there constantly looking for opportunities. My doors are knocked on daily and I am sure the Honourable Senator Eastmond could probably say the same. The view that Barbadians have all of a sudden become so shiftless in their psychological make-up and so puny in their ambitions that they are just about liming day in and day out must be expelled and pulled out of this place forever.

Do you know how that makes me feel, Sir, knowing that my parents and my grandparents have toiled in this country for many years as well as my brothers and sisters all of whom are gainfully employed some for themselves and some for others? Sir, do you know how it makes me feel to be here discussing an opportunity for other persons to come in and work in Barbados which they should have once the conditions are right but at the same time and in the same tone hearing those who drive this opportunity tell me as I sit in the corner that I am no good, I am shiftless, I am lazy and I have bad work ethics?

Mr. President, in this country there is a problem with labour relations. Sir, if you are talking about work, you would have to talk about labour and if you are talking about bringing in people to work you have to talk about labour conditions. There is a growing concern that even the same political directorate we call the Government has been having problems in resolving many of the labour disputes in its ranks. Over the last nine years there have been Government agencies such as the police and nurses who were walking out complaining about conditions of work.

Sir, at a time of plenty when there are such great economic returns we are still having problems with the relationship between the State and its workers. Public sector reform is still in the process of reform. We may become transformed before that reform is attained, yet we want to bring people into this domain to look for opportunities. Those questions must be answered because the public is saying that they do not understand how we can make other people happy and not our own. So what does it respond to is my question.

Mr. President, there is no shortage of skilled workers in Barbados. If, according to the holy rites that the strong must bear the infirmities of the weak, then let it so be. However, in the process of bearing the infirmities of the weak let it not be a case where the strong become weaker

than the weak. Mr. President, while this particular piece of legislation points us in a direction that many have concluded is a future reality, I still believe that there are some fundamental questions that must be answered in that regard. The Honourable Leader of Government Business has given us the assurance that there will be no influx of workers. He does indicate however that there will be an expansion of the category of workers who will come under the umbrella of this piece of legislation.

Mr. President, I suppose the Honourable Minister defines influx as a deluge of wandering individuals who happen to land on the shores of Barbados. That happened when Christopher Columbus was in search of the new world but in that case there was no influx. There was a present generation whom he came and found. Then the only influx would perhaps be if he would permit an efflux of those persons.

Mr. President, how can we be assured that there will be no deluge or no rush? People are known to come to Barbados because they see Barbados as a place where opportunities are plentiful and now they are being encouraged to believe that the opportunities are plentiful because Bajans do not like to work. That is the reality. What is wrong with that?

Mr. President, only on Sunday morning I was sitting in my office on the main road of Chancery Lane responding to a hurting constituent who wanted to talk with some immediacy. So while others may have been busy in church I was out in the highways and byways as Jesus commanded that we be.

Mr. President, I visited my office with a couple of persons but while sitting a gentleman passed who happened to be of Guyanese descent. I know the gentleman. Sir, I am sharing this story because it is important. There were a couple other Guyanese workers in the area ploughing the land. I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture may well know that because he frequents that area in passage. Sir, something most remarkable occurred that bit me to the core of my spirit. I heard the gentleman say to the other two workers, "Well boys, you out there doing what you suppose to do cause the so-and-so Bajans ain't want no work, them ain't care bout nothing so. So whatever we could get, let we take it up." He did not see me. I heard those persons make those remarks and I quickly opened my window and when the gentleman saw me, knowing who I am, he moved along. You see we could laugh and play. We could think that some things are just ordinary expressions but this is cutting at the core of who we are. This is biting at the reality of our identity as a people. We have always identified ourselves around principles of pride and industry, craft and the capacity to work hard to earn.

Sir, as God blessed those of us who have, some of us have been able to obtain a certain level of living in this country that offers this comfort. However, I know that there

are people out there on the corners and in their homes in the districts, both low-income areas and affluent areas, who are hurting every single day.

12.30 p.m.

That is why I have made the plea to any Honourable Senator in this Chamber who has the capacity to hire. I have résumés here that I would like to give them, for these Honourable Senators to find work for these persons. It is of critical importance that we do that because these are our citizens and the bounty of this country has been built on the blood and the backs of their foreparents and they deserve to have the honour of being assisted in the process. It is not that these persons have not searched, it is not that they have not been out there but if the country is being told that Bajan workers are shiftless, why would Bajan employers want to be anxious about hiring them? That is the question that needs to be answered. It is important because as we move along this continuum of fiction in this country, making it fit for a Single Market and Single Economy, we have to be able to address those fundamental issues.

Mr. President, the Honourable Leader of Government Business did not take us outside the parameters of what is stated in here, except to say that there is some development fund that would be made available to countries to help them improve their circumstances, to be able to be retrofitted for the Single Market and Single Economy.

Mr. President, I do not know where the fund is going to come from, there is no information to that. I do not know who is going to borrow. I do not know who is going to lend or who is going to give but at the end of the day, if Barbadians come to believe that in order for us to achieve this monumental, political and regional objective, it would not mean a distraction but a weakening to what we know to be our standard and quality of life, then that is a question that should be answered. Sir, I hope that before this Debate is concluded, those persons who are so seemingly eager to talk, would answer those questions because the public listens, and are waiting.

Mr. President, I am convinced that while intentions may be good, that actions can be weak. We need to provide the public with the information required to make it rest comfortably about what we are doing. Sir, the public cannot get up in here and speak. They have put us here and in the Other Place, so that we can speak for them. It seems as though some people are more concerned about speaking for themselves than they are concerned about speaking on the behalf of the public.

Mr. President, a poll does not have to be scientific for its results to be considered, particularly if those results

mirror the journeys of the people. I know that we all read well and would have seen recently a number of concerns raised in the public domain about what is to be attained. Sir, let it be known that we in the Opposition understand the importance of moving towards attaining this Single Market and Single Economy if in fact, it is geared towards creating a strong bloc of countries that would be able to work consistently to achieve collective goals as they pursue their global objectives.

We also understand that we cannot live in a vacuum, and that we must work with our neighbours as much as possible but that those realities would never negate the responsibility of the State to tell us what it is that we are troubled by. Sir, the crux of this argument is that there are questions to be answered and while others may sit around and try to heckle, they need to be contemplating the concerns of the public. They need to stand up and represent the public as the public requires representation.

Mr. President, as for me, that is my role in this Honourable Chamber and as long as I am honoured to be here, I plan to represent the interest of the people. I, therefore, ask again, please help those persons who need help, and while providing a passage for others to join us in our ranks in this country, please ensure that the fears and concerns of all and sundry are arrested and settled because of the willingness of the Government to give us the answers. If Government does not have the answers, tell us they do not have them and whether or not the answers are still in the making. If the answers are still to be crafted, then please accept our advice and slow down this vehicle. Let Government give the answers and the opportunity to proceed implementation because too very often we implement things and we do not have a plan where the public could then evaluate whether or not the objectives are being met.

Sir, I would like the Honourable Leader of Government Business to be assured that as long as those answers are provided, that perhaps the Barbadian public would be able to rest comfortably.

Mr. President, in conclusion, I am one of those hard-working Barbadians who is hurt by certain mouthings in recent times. A few of them have asked me to convey this message to this Honourable Chamber, that is, perhaps before we criticise those of us who pride ourselves in working hard, please take some time to ask us what is wrong with our working environments, ask us what are the solutions to this deteriorating work ethic? Can we simply criticise without solutions? What are the solutions?

Mr. President, I have not heard any other Caribbean leader pouncing on their workers in this kind of way. Therefore, if we are creating an environment to accommodate workers from other territories where their leaders respect and promote them as being suitable for us,

how then do we face the public in the face of such harsh and cruel mouthings? Let us fix the climate and give people the chance to be loyal to the institution. Give them good institutional leaders. Give them persons who understand how to manage people and not just systems. Let us work with those institutional leaders who believe that they have achieved tenure and do not care about the workers because their positions cannot be touched. I appeal to those bodies in this country that have responsibility for representing the workers and encourage them to go on and to fight on because if the workforce is compromised, then more Barbadians would be out of work and foreign nationals would be hired.

Mr. President, I do not know if it is 30 000, 40 000 or whatever but in closing, I would like to suggest that while it is important to hunt down and to publicise the names of those persons who violate immigration laws and overstay their stay in this country, that it may be practical for public consumption that we put information in the public domain that would give individuals a sense of who we are giving permission to work in this country. Let us do like it is done in North America, before any position is applied for, it is announced throughout the country for some time. This is required by the labour department. The hiring has to be done within and if no one can be found, then those institutions are permitted to go out and recruit externally.

Mr. President, I believe that has to be practised in this country to the extent that there is no animus between those who come in to work for us because they would be duly qualified and because the space would have been created for them, and for those persons who exist within the country as workers. All we ask is that information would be provided on the answers to these very critical questions.

Mr. President, I am much obliged.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I think that people who are listening to this Debate, both outside and in this Honourable Chamber, will recall hearing at some time or other that however loyal we may be as Barbadians, however much we may boast about our motto: "Pride and Industry", that not only standards in language but standard in behaviours and attitude to work have declined in recent years. Some of you might be a bit too young to remember or realise what the impact might have been but I recall very well when the former and late Prime Minister called civil servants an "army of occupation". I remember teachers being called "gully boars" and "hogs"; and there was silence. Sir, I heard it with my ears and I hope it is not unparliamentary because I am just quoting what I heard.

12.40 p.m.

Sir, our present beloved Prime Minister is doing so much to see that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy becomes a reality for us to survive. He quite rightly said that work ethics are not what they used to be but some people for political reasons are obviously going to deny it. I do not think I need say anymore about that but thinking, well-balanced people would realise that there is a great deal of truth in what has been said. One just has to examine oneself because it does not apply to all workers but certainly applies to some of our workers.

The leader of the Senate, in his usual, practical well-expressed manner said at the beginning of his presentation, it has been recognised for many years that we cannot survive as small units. In these days of globalisation, integration is an economic necessity as well as a psychological and emotional test. There remain many mountains to climb but it will take time, patience and as Senator Lowe said, cultural exchanges to reach the peak.

What we have done for CXC, the University of the West Indies and to some extent cricket which are the major symbols of success, will have to be done in other areas. I would concede that fears of dispossession and loss of jobs exist but they must and can be diminished. We have to be positive and accept that in some ways our term has come.

Sir, if all Barbadians who have emigrated over the years were to return, we would sink under the weight. Many Barbadians have done very well abroad and I do not have to elaborate because Honourable Members know of Barbadians who have succeeded, made a name for themselves and have contributed to the country of their adoption. Similarly, people who have come here from the Caribbean and other countries have made a great contribution to education, medicine and music.

I can certainly speak for those who have made a contribution to education. There are teachers with a great sense of duty and dedication that come from other islands and who have done this country proud by their teaching skills and devotion to duty. Sir, when it comes to cultural differences, those people who are here have enriched this country.

Mr. President, with a high standard of education we need not fear once we make use of our opportunities and continue to give our people skills. I am confident that Government will ensure that Barbadians are not disadvantaged. I must disagree with the Senator who just spoke when he said that all our people are skilled. In fact, too many of our women are unskilled and although women stay at school longer, men are earning more and women are at the bottom of the services centre. I know the Bureau of

Women's Affairs is addressing this problem and implementing programmes to deal with it. It is also hoped that Skills Training would devise programmes for women, particularly single parents and the unemployed.

Mr. President, perhaps the greatest hindrance will be a lack of knowledge of other territories, the fear of threats to jobs and social services; but education will help to overcome some of the things that obstruct progress.

Mr. President, we have to be careful about the things that we say which will inflame rather than bring us together because there are more things that unite us than divide us. At primary level, children and their parents visit other Caribbean countries to experience life there. At a higher level, children as part of their school base assessment in geography have to go to Caribbean countries on field trips. Thus, teachers can begin with those at secondary level to teach them why the Caribbean needs to function as a region.

Sir, the placing of videos in schools along with tapes explaining what the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is about, what it hopes to achieve and the people at all levels that it would benefit would also be a wise step.
12.50 p.m.

Sir, I know that there are booklets that have been distributed in some schools. In this way children can influence and teach their parents. Teachers can all be educated; their approach then would be to focus sessions with our young fifth and sixth formers and students of the Barbados Community College, Samuel Jackman Polytechnic and the University of the West Indies. We should seek and listen to their opinions and then let it trickle down because they are the ones who are doing the subject areas where the Caribbean Single Market and Economy becomes a natural topic.

Mr. President, it is an easier concept for them to understand because they would soon be leaving these institutions and looking to further their studies and work abroad. Sir, interesting talks would be needed to stir their curiosity and it may help us to bring out the pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit in some of these students.

Mr. President, perhaps there is a need to feature Barbadians living abroad in other Caribbean territories. I think that some people would be surprised to know how many Barbadians are married and living in other Caribbean countries and doing extremely well.

Sir, I spoke about our acquiring skills. Where information technology is concerned, Government is correct by starting with the community. In addition, the EduTech

programme is one of the best ideas in the world. It is an area that male students, I understand, are attracted to and they should be encouraged that when they leave secondary school to continue training in information technology, programming and software development which we need in Barbados.

Sir, if we do not have problem solvers, our young people will not be able to find solutions to our problems and our region will degenerate. We have to nurture innovative and creative skills. These are going to be the foundation of our society. We must be proficient in these areas so that we should not fear when others enter our country.

Sir, moreover, although we are coming along well, we have to ensure that more people have access to computers in their homes. In other words, we have to be prepared. In a wider context, some islands would need to be helped so that they can become more developed and the Leader of Government Business has already dealt with that. However, that will be one of the ways in which there would be less likelihood for there to be any great influx of non-nationals into Barbados.

Mr. President, the late Sir Harold St. John often referred to himself as an unrepentant federalist. He saw Barbados as part of a wider West Indian nation using its resources to propel its people to prosperity among the developed countries of the world. The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, in his distinguished lecture on April 23, 2004, a brilliant, rousing thought-provoking lecture, stated that the creation of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy will unquestionably be the most complex. I repeat that, Sir, the most complex... we are not being promised a rose garden.

Asides.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: It is the most ambitious and difficult enterprise ever contemplated in our region. What are the alternatives?

Sir, we have also been told in a lecture given by the National Insurance that the liberation of unskilled labour will not affect the social security scheme and that is another area that we do not have to fear.

Mr. President, I am saying that some of the fears being expressed and prejudices are natural but the alternative is too bleak and dire to contemplate. We do not have an option and as I said at the beginning it is an economic necessity. All people of member countries and all individuals will have, in their own way, to be in the words of A. J. Seymour, "architects of this new age".

Mr. President, I very much support the Bill and am obliged to you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.05 p.m.

The question that the Sitting be now suspended until 2.05 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.57 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I rise to give my support to this very important Bill that is before us. I do so noting the fact that this Bill is a result of Barbados signing the Grand Anse Declaration in 1998 which was an important turning point for the whole CARICOM region. The Leaders of the Caribbean saw the urgent need for them to move the integration process to the next step to form the Caribbean region as a single market and a single economy.

Sir, the leaders in their wisdom recognised that the changing world order required that the small States of the Caribbean which have so much in common, pool their economies and really fashion it as one economy. This was necessary for their very survival because the world had changed. The process had started and the demands on the Caribbean were such that it was a serious case of united we stand, divided we fall.

Sir, we on this Side were not the Government then but we have always supported the move by CARICOM countries to further integrate their economies. Rather, we saw it as a necessity. We saw as a *sine qua non* for further and meaningful development of our separate economies. The situation was such that the separate economies could not withstand the assaults of the new international countries. We felt that together, our 1/4 million of Barbados and more than seven million of CARICOM, with that size we would stand a better chance of surviving in the new world economy.

We on this Side, even when we were in Opposition, supported the measure.
2.10 p.m.

Sir, it is noteworthy that when Barbados was given the lead responsibility for bringing the Caribbean Single Market and Economy to fruition, the Prime Minister then was Sir Lloyd Sandiford. So the process started way back then even before we came into Government but we fully supported it and we still fully support the move toward the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I see it as a necessary step on

the road to this region fulfilling its potential. Sir, I believe that this region has great potential. When we are 20 or 30 years down the road we will see the wisdom of further integrating all these economies because then we would be in a better position to exploit the economic environment and make use of our natural resources, including some of the best weather in the world. That as we all know is a source we can fully exploit. So we support the Grand Anse Declaration and the coming into fruition of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Sir, this Bill is a direct result of having taken that step. So when the Opposition is here criticising the free movement of labour, they are criticising what they themselves signed in 1989. That is a fact.

Sir, it is my contention, I could be wrong on this, that the free movement of labour and capital can only redound to the benefit of Barbados. However, to a large extent we are constrained by our size. We have developed very far and I thank all our past leaders for putting things in place, but now that we are poised to go to the next step, size and the labour market become a constraint. What was to our advantage in the past given the new reality of the world order is now a serious constraint so much so that we in this small country have been unable to manage effectively the labour market, that is, equating demand for labour especially in certain key areas in five years. Sir, this is not something that Barbados alone is going through. A lot of countries in the world have gone through the same process and are in the same process.

Sir, in the 1950s and the 1960s after the war when the development process started and Britain was on the move, they had the same problem. After the war there were inefficiencies in the labour market and the society was not producing the jobs that Britain needed to propel it further on the road to greater development. The result was that they imported labour from the Caribbean, Asia and so on. They did not import labour because they had any special love for the region but rather it was a necessity. In order for them to develop further their economy, they had to get the labour situation sorted out. So a lot of our people went up to Britain to take advantage of the fact that the economy there was expanding and required workers.

After the war, the same thing happened in the United States of America. That economy started to expand and the demand for labour outstripped the supply of labour and as a result a lot of immigrants from the Caribbean and other areas went to the United States of America and participated in the economic activity there.

Sir, I want to suggest – I am not becoming a historian, but I have a view of these things – that development helped not only England but the Caribbean because in the 1950s when we down here could not provide economic opportunities for our people a lot of them went to Britain, the United States of America and Canada. The result was that

the remittances came back into the economy and assisted with the development of private schools.

In the 1950s and 1960s there were about 20 private schools developing large rolls. The Modern High School had about 1 000 students and then there was the Federal High School, the Arlington High School and many others. Many of the students of those schools got their fees paid because of the remittances from their parents, uncles or whoever because in those days when a fellow sent home £5 and given the fact that the pound was \$4.80 and goods and so on was cheap, that £5 would feed a whole family for almost a month. That is how our society developed and benefitted in a very tangible way. So a lot of us in here got the opportunity because of the fact that some relative or some father or whatever went to the United States of America or Britain and sent back the remittances. So those countries benefitted from having labour and Barbados and other Caribbean countries benefitted from the remittances which came back and were used in a meaningful way.

Sir, migration is a part of the economic history of the world because whenever the economy expands that sort of way it is always difficult to match supply and demand and labour. Sir, the sort of emotion we are having here reminded me of what happened in England in the 1970s when it was said that people came to take away the people's jobs which never happened but which was used by politicians in those days to further their own narrow political interest.

Sir, I humbly submit that Barbados is at the stage now where we do not seem able to match supply and demand. Sir, there is what we called a training deficit which has manifested itself in the shortage of skills in certain critical areas. So what do we do? It is not easy to train people overnight. It is not an easy thing because you would have to expand the institutions and so on. It is not the easiest thing to train people, I am talking about skilled jobs. So if in the short run a vacuum is there, well then just as Mexico is filling the vacuum created by the expansion of the American economy, it would happen in Barbados.

Sir, Britain benefitted from having our labour and we also benefitted, so in my view, it is a win-win situation. Sir, what would have happened to our agriculture and to our construction industry if it were not for migrant labour? That is the important question. Would it not have curtailed our development? So we must not only see this in terms of a person getting a job, we must look more so at the benefits to the local economy that have resulted from migrant labour.

Sir, another factor that we must bear in mind is that whenever demand outstrips supply, then equilibrium occurs at a higher price.

2.20 p.m.

Mr. President, let us not forget that this is as a result of the building boom, where people are now building and improving on their homes. Let us look at what could have happened if the price of labour had gotten out of hand.

Mr. President, let us remember Trinidad and Tobago in the late 1970s and early 1980s. When their economy expanded, there was a shortage of skills and the price of labour rose tremendously. The implication that resulted from labour cost was so severe that by 1984/1985, Trinidad and Tobago had to start making adjustments and one of the adjustments they made was to devalue their currency so that the Trinidad and Tobago dollar went from approximately BDS\$0.83 to BDS\$0.34. Sir, a lot of that can be traced to the inflation that was created by dislocations in the labour market.

Mr. President, we, therefore, have to watch these things because what happened to Trinidad and Tobago was not to their economy's benefit. As a result, they had a downturn for many years and by devaluing their dollar, had increased the price of labour. As a result the labour cost as it were, remained in Trinidad and Tobago dollars but the international relativity ditched and made their industry more profitable, given the fact that they had a cheaper supply of energy as a result of their petroleum industry. Therefore, when we have labour scarcity, we have to be careful that the attendant inflation would not cause serious economic problems.

Mr. President, my submission is that there is a benefit to Barbados that could be derived from the free movement of skilled labourers, because we are in a position to benefit more than most economies because of our state of development.

Mr. President, while we acknowledge that there is some benefit to this, there is also a downside, so that we want to record the call by a prominent political leader who would want to encourage Barbadians to treat immigrant workers better, as this could be seen to be a case of exploitation.

Mr. President, I am surprised that the Opposition did not raise that point in this debate but have instead raised another. Sir, we have a moral obligation to ensure that migrant workers are treated at no less terms than our own workers. What we do not like for ourselves, we should not do to others.

Mr. President, the point must be made that our West Indian people have gone to Britain and to the United States of America and have lived in conditions that were sub-optimum because they had a mission in view. In other words, persons would go to England and two or three of them would live together in a house because they had a larger view of things and would, therefore, undergo the present difficulties in order to gain the greater good. Sir, a lot of migrant

workers from all across the world have made the same move. They say that to go back home, there would be nothing for them to do, therefore, they would live in sub-optimal conditions.

Mr. President, I do not believe that we should be offering sub-optimal conditions because that would be considered to be taking advantage of someone. It is incumbent upon us as decent Barbadians, to ensure that equality is meted out to our sisters and brothers and that we should treat others in the same way that we would want to be treated when we go to a foreign country.

Mr. President, migrant labour is a fact of life. We are not going to get rid of it. We can talk from now until the cows come home, we need it for our own development. Sir, in the same way that Barbados has benefitted from migrant labour during the 1950s and 1960s, other countries can benefit. When they benefit, when we benefit, to my mind, that is integration at its best when all countries can benefit from such a situation.

Mr. President, why should we be free to move capital from country to country and not people? People should be the essence of our existence, the human being should be at the foundation of every movement. If the CARICOM Single Market and Economy does not relate to people, then we might as well give up. People must benefit and if it is Guyana's turn now to be in the doldrums, in another 10 years it might be some other country and for Barbados, we do not know what the future would bring.

Mr. President, Barbadians feel that we would be forever in the position in which we are in but we cannot look into the future. Therefore, this is but one way of protecting the future. We have to make sure that whatever happens, that we belong to a group of like-minded nations who are singing from the same page because their focus is on the development of the people of the Caribbean.

Sir, this is not something to be used for political mileage. This is too serious an issue to be used for narrow and political, short-term gain. We should see the broader picture. What are we doing for the region? The region has suffered as a result of the 1964 breakup of the Federation. We would have been much further if that Federation were allowed to grow and to bring benefit to the people in the region. We have another opportunity now of protecting the region where we can make political redress for that difficult decision which was made during the Federation movement.

Mr. President, to a large extent, that generation has now gone and most of the players in that era have gone. We now have an opportunity to understand the difficulties of the past. We understand what is being done and are determined as a people to move this region forward. We are determined that the same ideals that have caused the Federation

Movement, established in 1957, not to be successful, that those very ideals are here at present, that the same political considerations are also present, and that where our fathers have failed, we now have the opportunity to succeed. Therefore, let us forget about 1957 and look at what we are trying to achieve. We cannot have meaningful integration if the people of the region are not free to move.

Sir, what hurts me is that Barbadians do not mind being treated by a Guyanese doctor. If a Guyanese doctor treats a Barbadian, that is okay but that Guyanese doctor is perceived to be a different person from that of a Guyanese carpenter. That discrimination does not become us and is wrong. We have certain categories that we would want to welcome with opened arms and others we would want to spin out.

Mr. President, the Bill that is being discussed is an important piece of legislation, not only for Barbados but for the Caribbean. As we go deeper into this new millennium, the international demand will become greater and there will be an urgent need for us to stick together.
2.30 p.m.

Mr. President, I had the opportunity to travel to most of the Caribbean islands and the difference is only in the topography. Sir, we are basically the same people and we should focus on the million of things that unite us and not divide us. The World Cup 2007 is an opportunity to show the world that we are one because as Black Stalin says, we come on the same trip, on the same ship so we should recognise what we are doing is for the benefit of the Caribbean.

Sir, when I speak of the Caribbean, I also include Haiti because it has special significance for me. Two hundred years ago when we in this part of the world were enslaved, some black Haitians decided that freedom was a precious commodity for which not to shed blood. I am sorry about what Haiti has become but what drove the people of Haiti should be driving us today, the desire to be a people. Sir, I would love to see Haiti fully integrated because they could teach us a lot about the independent spirit in terms of how they found the way in what was a more hostile world then.

Sir, I want to commend this Bill to this Honourable Chamber. I give it my fullest support and look forward many years from now to see the benefits of the decision we have taken today.

I thank you.

SENATOR A. C. FIELDS: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill. There seems to be a level of paranoia surrounding this Bill that may be unnecessary and, in fact, I wonder if this Bill goes far enough. The Bill speaks to

allowing free access to musicians, artistes, journalists and basically people with a tertiary education approved by a body or Minister. I would like to go back to the development of Barbados which was enhanced by certain levels of migration. When I left school in 1959, I was privileged to work in the sugar industry of Barbados even though I may not know it as intimately as Senator Lowe who spoke about it a few weeks ago. Sir, the most important person on a sugar factory was the person designated as panboiler because he had to know when exactly to strike the pan to allow the mixture of sugar and molasses to be released to make sugar because if he made a mistake it would cost the factory a lot of money.

Mr. President, virtually all panboilers in the Caribbean were Guyanese who came here to work the crop and then went back home to Guyana. They supported the sugar industry in terms that cannot be measured. Similarly, in agriculture over the last two or three decades, we got to the point where we were importing labour every crop season to help us reap the sugar cane before we were mechanised.

In the last five or six years we have seen a situation where, for social reasons, we have not been able to identify enough Barbadians to service the construction industry as we need. It seems a shame that 10 per cent of our workforce is unemployed when we are inviting people to come to Barbados to work. This is a matter that has to be addressed separately.

Sir, one former Prime Minister described us as a nation of mendicants. The argument was that young people were given free medicine, education, school clothes and school meals that when they graduated they would expect a life of freeness. Possibly it is not so much that we are a lazy race but we seek to be given things which we are not necessarily prepared to earn.

Mr. President, if we were discussing free movement of labour as obtained in Europe, I would have some significant concerns about the pressure on the social services in Barbados. On May 1, 2004, I was in the United Kingdom when there were two new entrants to the European Community and in Britain there was a hot debate as to the privileges those persons could enjoy when they entered Britain. There was suggestion that they would have to live in Britain for six months and be gainfully employed before they were facilitated by the benefits of the social systems in the United Kingdom. If we were debating a situation of free movement of labour, a number of Barbadians would be concerned about the ability of our well-developed social services and systems to support the influx of persons.

Sir, at the level we are debating today, I want to put it to you that a number of these people are already employed by Barbadian companies, that these companies are employing a significant amount of persons who use the facility of the Internet and E-commerce. It means they work for Barbadian companies but live in other countries where the benefits of their labour, their tax dollars and the ability to employ other people are not benefitting Barbados. I suggest that if they were working here there would be a net benefit for Barbados.

Sir, this Government may need to look at the Singapore model where categories of skilled people are given permission to come here to work rather than people with tertiary education. It is well-known in Barbados that certain skills like masonry and carpentry and those required in the agricultural sector are dependant on people from overseas to work in those areas. Sir, Barbadians are not necessarily lazy but they are unwilling to carry out those tasks and I wonder whether this Bill should not be capturing those people already here and who we have defined as necessary to the growth of our economy rather than speaking to those persons with tertiary education.

Sir, if you look at the Singapore model, you would see that they identify skills as important and make it really easy for those persons to enter the country to aid in the development of the country. This is something that Barbados would have to address because we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there are a number of Caribbean nationals working legitimately and illegitimately in this country and helping in the process, the growth of the economy.

Sir, I would like the Leader of the Opposition to explain if we are singing from the same hymn sheet. There are many circumstances where Barbados passed legislation briefing CARICOM but the other member countries did not pass it at the same time and there is no reciprocity. I would like to be convinced when this legislation is passed today that Barbadians have equal rights, even if only those with tertiary education, to work legitimately in other member States in the Caribbean because it is often the case that Barbados will implement and abide by the letter of the law but unfortunately some other countries do not implement at the same time in a timely fashion and our nationals are disadvantaged when there are good financial reasons for them when they want to take up occupation in other CARICOM territories. I think that we should be conscious of that and should have an explanation as far as that is concerned.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. President, I would like to point out that when these CARICOM nationals come here and are registered to work, I would hope that their spouses and children will be accorded the privileges that are intended to redound to them.

Sir, currently we have a situation with expatriates who are legitimately working here with permits and their wives

and children often face significant problems when it comes to immigration. I am not accusing the immigration officers in any way of trying to be difficult. Maybe, it is that they are following the letter of the law and doing their job but they create a situation because of the existing legislation where the children and spouses suffer significant inconvenience coming to Barbados.

Sir, I know of a case where the sixteen-year-old daughter of an expatriate, legally working here, was put on a Guyana bench by the Customs officer because the Immigration Officer did not understand the address or whether that address existed in Barbados. She was then taken outside to the father and he was asked for a work permit, which he was told by the Immigration Department never to carry around but to leave safely at home. It was a long process by which the sixteen-year-old young lady was allowed into this country and even then she was only given 60 days to stay in Barbados.

I would just hope that when this legislation goes into place that proper attention would be paid to accommodate legally the spouses and children of these people who may come to Barbados to work legitimately.

Mr. President, with those few words I support this Bill.

I thank you.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I rise to give full support to this Bill and to say to this Honourable Chamber that my approach to any legislation that brings about integration is supportive because I am a Caribbean national.

Sir, I was born in Barbados of a fourth generation coming out of a matriarchal family from Ghana. My mother was the daughter of a Barbadian and a Trinidadian Asiatic and that qualifies me to speak to Caribbean integration and to view, like Moses, the promised land of a Caribbean nation.

Sir, I want to respond to some things that Senator Lowe said this morning. I cannot understand the Democratic Labour Party. On one hand you would hear that if we allow too many people into Barbados how many problems we have, Sir, for example, putting pressure on the social services and taking away jobs from Barbadians. On the other hand we hear that the first persons that we should allow to come into Barbados are the unskilled persons. I also heard that we are only putting encumbrances to prevent Caribbean people from travelling freely.

Senator Lowe, which of these does the Democratic Labour Party ascribe to?

Sir, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is a monumental task. We are telling our young people that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is a monumental task and they go away with the belief that these are difficult times.

Asides.

SENATOR I. St.C. LINTON: Those are the words that Senator Lowe used. When we say that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy will plunge, where is it going to be plunged? Is it going to be plunged into despair? The new world order and free trade have plunged us into this situation in the Caribbean where we have to find ways and means, not only for Barbadians but for persons in the Caribbean to find their way through this world and this life.

Mr. President, when we talk about home drums beat first, must I not be concerned about my neighbour? Must I be satisfied if I have a lovely home with all the facilities, more food and clothes than I need but my neighbour is suffering, is this what the Democratic Labour Party wants us to do?

Sir, I want to be like Moses and that is to view the promised land and the promised land is nationhood for the Caribbean. Every effort that has been made in the past is towards that goal. As I look back, our ten national heroes, every one of them has given us a remit to establish a Caribbean nation and to be keepers of our Caribbean brethren.

Mr. President, the only heroine, the Right Excellent Sarah Ann Gill, left a particular remit that each and every one of us in Barbados and the Caribbean should have the opportunity to freely worship the God we know and that must stand as a high priority if we in the Caribbean must live and develop together. The right hand of God has to lead us.

Sir, let me look at a few of our national heroes, The Right Excellent Bussa, Samuel Jackman Prescod, Duncan O'Neale and Clement Payne. These men stand as symbols for a freer Caribbean people, not only Barbados, to live and enjoy the Caribbean sea, its nature and its resources. I know some of them say that in 1816 there was a rebellion. It was no rebellion. It was an inspiration across the Caribbean to set us free, so that we can live in this part of the world as human beings ought to live.
2.50 p.m.

Let me look at another one of our Excellencies. Sir Hugh Springer was a man who stood tall both in political standing in this country and as an icon in industrial relationships and labour concerns. This great man decided that he will take a remit for the Caribbean people by giving up an opportunity to lead Barbados and Barbadians to go and be an icon for Caribbean education, something which we cherish so much.

Sir, by doing so, he let into industrial relations, a man, a great Excellency, a man that bestowed the industrial relation climate from Barbados through the Caribbean up to the ILO. I am talking about a giant of a leader who has left that remit to us as Barbadians, Senator Sir Roy, to see to it that workers in this part of the world enjoy their living like anybody else in the world. This is our remit in the Caribbean. He has left that.

Sir, let me come to the dying of these Excellent Barbadian icons as national heroes. Sir Grantley Herbert Adams was a man who could stand in Barbados and lead us on and strangle in travail of birth the Democratic Labour Party, but he decided in his remit to move out to establish a Caribbean Nation.

It was unsuccessful to some extent, but it has never left me and many of us to fail that remit. When we talk about Caribbean unity, integration, nationhood, trade, business and economy, we are talking about men and women who have set the path for us today and we cannot let them down.

I must speak about another. There is no doubt in my mind, the remit that has been left us for Caribbean integration in every sense of the word, and I would regard him as the champion of integration and the development of a Caribbean nation, and I speak about none other than the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. You would not hear the Democratic Labour Party talk like that about anybody in the Barbados Labour Party. We owe it to this man, this great icon, this great Barbadian, the resurgence of Caribbean nationhood, when you reach across in the free trade agreement in the 1970s with Antigua and interestingly, Guyana decided in the Federation that they had a South American destiny. Sir, there is no wonder that they have problems now, and we have to assist them. The late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow was able to bring Guyana into the breach for Caribbean development and integration and has left us a remit to establish a Caribbean Nation.

The fourth step that we are taking now as a single market and economy is now the remit of the Right Honourable Owen Seymour Arthur. It was the remit of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow.

I do not want to leave out one of the greatest men in the world in this debate. If anything at all has set us up for the establishment of a Caribbean Nation is the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, to the extent that the world now is focussed on the Caribbean, and particularly on Barbados, as we will host the world one day cricket final in Barbados. This is an example of what we can become as a people, as we unite ourselves to the task. This is not monumental. It has difficulties, but we will climb the mountain and view the Caribbean Nation, like Moses viewed the Promised Land.

Sir, not only these, but let me bring to view the remit that others upheld from these great men and that great lady, our National Heroes. The late Prime Minister Tom Adams, for Caribbean unity, went as far as to bring troops from America to Barbados to defend the Caribbean against Communism. It has been spoken already of the role that Sir Harold St. John played in Caribbean unity.

Mr. President, I want to look at some other icons. I want to salute today in this Senate, their work and commitment for more than 30 years in the development of tourism in this country, a gentleman whom I grew up with from abroad, Mr. Jean Holder. He is a man who deserves the highest Honour in Barbados. Tourism today is the greatest plank of economic growth, not only in Barbados but in the Caribbean. Sir, let me recall another outstanding Barbadian, who bestrode the Caribbean in economics, Charlie Skeete. He grew up with me in Bank Hall. I am citing these because I know who they were and what they have accomplished.
3.00 p.m.

Mr. President, I want to talk about a Caribbean development that occurred through a little fellow who I know only by the name of "Crawfie" who came here from Trinidad and Tobago in the 1950s and taught Barbadians how to make and tune the steel pan which began the development of that art in Barbados. I speak about him for the simple reason that there are those of us who work in other places in the Caribbean and there are those who came to us from in the Caribbean. When we think of that honourable lady Olga Lopes-Seale who spent most of her life in Barbados and the contribution she has made to the Barbadian society, how can we get here talking about home drums beat first.

I can also talk about a man named Val McComie who I knew as a youngster coming to Bank Hall to play cricket. He was also the games master at the Lodge School. He came here too and contributed to the development of Barbados. He also worked in the diplomatic service of Barbados at the Organisation of American States. Now, we are talking about being insular and that we need to look down on our Caribbean brothers and sisters who are in need.

The Guyanese are in need because the leader they had in the 1950s and 1960s talked about South American destiny and sought to shut out Caribbean people from Guyana. Now the Guyanese are not only clearing out from Guyana and coming to Barbados but they are going all through the Caribbean because they are in distress. They need us more than anybody else and some of them are our own blood. I am not saying that we are not to organise ourselves in such a way that we not be overrun or that systems must not be put in place to see to this as Sir Roy mentioned in the past, I agree with that. However, to tell me that if my Guyanese brothers come to Barbados in need I must tell them that

home drums beat first, when we came by the same ship and experienced the same degradation and hardship.

Mr. President, I heard Senator Lowe speak about the two Guyanese that were forking the ground and the other one that came along and said what he said. It is a good thing that those two fellows were forking the ground, if not the Honourable Leader of Government Business as Minister of Agriculture would be in serious trouble to get his programme going.

Asides.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I had a Barbadian carpenter who was doing some work at me for the last six months. He is a Barbadian by his father and a Vincentian by his mother. I still have some more work to do but because he has so much work, I cannot get him. Sir, what is in Caribbean unity, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, the Free Trade Area of the Americas or whatever you chose to call it, not for me as a Barbadian but for us as Caribbean people? Sir, Dr. Eric Williams' mathematics went wrong the day when he said that one from ten leaves nothing but the score now is fifteen. The Associated States and Caribbean States now total fifteen. Sir, are we as Caribbean people going to say to our Haitian brethren who have to risk their lives on pieces of raft to see if they could get anything out of life, that home drums beat first? That is what the Democratic Labour Party told us today but the Good Book tells me that I am to be my brother's keeper.

Sir, in my view of the promised land I see a Caribbean with great potential. Two of them are nature bound. In my view of the Caribbean as a promised land and as a nation through the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and other means of integration I see the Caribbean sea holding the greatest potential for the development of the Caribbean. What I want to see is an end to the fight of the boundary problems from one end of the Caribbean to the other so that the Caribbean fishermen and the Caribbean people could have the opportunity to get in a boat and go to any part of the Caribbean whether it is to fish, to travel and understand and know our Barbadian people or to get at the resources, minerals and oils that are untouched, that are in our seas and under the ocean, which will provide so many jobs for the Caribbean. To travel you would have to have ferries to move us across the Caribbean so that we can go to each other and talk to each other like the next door neighbour. We will be able to pool our resources, educate and train our people to the highest level and train them to know and understand what the resources are in and under the Caribbean Sea.

The leaders of the Caribbean must put the development of the Caribbean Sea at the head of the priority list. I

certainly would like to see bilateral agreements for anybody coming in the Caribbean Sea to fish or for any other exploits.
3.10 p.m.

Mr. President, we must also recognise that one of the real opportunities to get rid of the drug culture is to develop the means of security in the Caribbean Sea.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Linton, you have one minute left.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Thank you. Mr. President, it is time that we as Caribbean people put ourselves, our hands and our feet to the wheel so that Caribbean people can access wherever they want to go, whether it is by air or by sea, and to cement relationships that will never be broken.

Mr. President, that is my view from Mount Pisgah for the Promised Land of the Caribbean.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I should like to contribute to the body of this debate and from the outset to say that I would not oppose the motion.

I would wish though to make an observation that I have so far heard, which I do not attack from a position of malice but I have to make the very strong recommendation that this debate should not hinge on the Barbadian work ethic. As leaders, we have a responsibility in this community to raise our youth, to educate and to train them, and that where it is difficult to train, we must put corrective measures in place to guide them in such a way that we ought to be able to provide adequate direction regarding the future of our nation.

Mr. President, when we do not do this, and when we do not provide adequate job opportunities for them, then the alternative is going to be that we have to provide appropriate jail space. Therefore, I would wish that we take the positive approach to deal, not so much with the failings there are in people everywhere, but rather to address the much more critical issues as to where we are, in terms of our movement towards our growth and development as part of a regional nation.

Mr. President, since 1991, when I was President of the Caribbean Congress of Labour and when, as I used to do every year, that is to address the Heads of Governments of the Caribbean, I committed the Caribbean Labour Movement to the 1928 position which Caribbean Labour Leaders held at that time and which they again repeated in 1948 as a West Indies position, that is towards a single Caribbean unity. I do not believe that persons who are working persons and persons who lead working people in the region, can afford

not to think of ourselves as a single set of people. That is the very message I gave to a Cuban delegation this morning, which is the message I think we have to give across the region because united we possibly have a chance, divided, we are going to hang singly.

Mr. President, I have never agreed with special treatment for university graduates or for persons at that level, nor have I ever agreed to the creation of an elitist community. I am of the view that starting from the position of that particular group, we have less chance at integration for the Caribbean than if we start elsewhere. I believe it is those persons who are able to treat to each other without the level of the formality of their training, what Senator Fields called the tertiary level, those persons are better able to address the level of barriers that there are to Caribbean integration than I think the tertiary level people have. Of course, I understand that we have to deal with numbers and that we have to approach the question of gradualism but going back to 1991, I have always been of the view that we should start with the artisans and that we would have been doing the Caribbean a much greater favour if we had started there. I will return to this matter later on to show why I consider that we have been doing each other a much greater favour.

Mr. President, I wish to say that my colleagues in the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) and within the Caribbean Congress of Labour, see and believe in the need that exists for a Caribbean Single Market and Economy but that at the same time, we realised the significance of Senator Griffith's assertion, which is that pace can only be that of the slowest performer in the team.

Sir, we realise this is so and this is why some months ago I spoke to the need for there to be a dual carriageway, and that in the same way we wish to speak to a position where Barbados becomes a host destination, that Barbadians must be given equal freedom to be able to become visiting workers in whatever other destinations they may choose.

Mr. President, we have taken this position from the very outset and this is why I was somewhat surprised to find the level of uninformed comments from well positioned persons when I had earlier spoken to the subject of migration. This Caribbean Community (Movement of Skilled Nationals) Bill, 2004, is being considered pursuant to Article 46 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Mr. President, in the First Schedule of the Bill, there has been set down for us and for our own guidance, the very clear listing of the qualifications which are required for

the issue of certificates in accordance with clause 4:(1)(2) and (3). Sir, clauses 4:(2) and 4:(3) are particularly interesting, referring as they do to the following three things:

1. a certificate of recognition;
2. a written permit that persons are able to practise;
3. evidence that the critical person in the family is living and is working in the country.

Mr. President, I hope you would forgive me if I spend a moment to be amused. I have not heard of any 'Bacchus' or 'Singhs' or any other names attacking this section or even the wider document that is before us today. This document is only a formalisation of a movement structure that has been in place for more than 20 years in an informal basis but what it speaks to, especially those sub-clauses, is to guidance that has been prepared in this legislation and, hopefully, as Senator Fields has said, in other parallel bits of legislation which are not too far in coming to the various Chambers of Parliament. This speaks to protecting the host country first of all. Therefore, I am afraid that I cannot agree with Senator Linton because there is an element of home drum beating in this.

3.20 p.m.

Sir, you cannot save the person on the plane next to you in times of crisis if you do not first put on your own protective mask. It is always good to think that you would do well for your neighbour but you cannot help your neighbour's sheep which is in the well if you have remained without sustenance yourself. Sir, I would not argue too much because I like Senator Linton far too much to argue with him.

Sir, there is an element to protect the host country. In May when I spoke to the question of registration, I was speaking in similar tones. I spoke to registration of migrant labour to establish accreditation of skills and to protect the worker in the host country which is precisely what this legislation does. Mr. President, I went further and also dealt with the issue of protecting the workers who comes to Barbados from exploitation and that was the thrust of my submission. I hope the thrust of the argument of anybody in the neighbouring island of Barbados would be to protect Barbados labour if it were to go to a neighbouring country. Sir, this has to be at the centre of our concern.

Mr. President, I was denigrated by some senior members of the current Administration. Have I not gone further than those said Honourable Members to speak to the critical issue of growth, equity and justice for all? Mr. President, can you perceive that we can build a Caribbean Single Market and Economy in which we do not address the questions of growth, equity and fairness for all at the same levels? Is it not our responsibility as leaders to zero in on

these issues in such a way that we remove all elements of exploitation wherever they may appear?

Sir, after all, that is the purpose for which we have been called to be leaders and if we do not provide the guidance to provide the better society in which those who are least able to help themselves may look to us for guidance, then I am afraid that this region would be like a ship that is rudderless.

I wish we would come back to see the issue as not one in which the labour movement is paranoia, far from it, Sir. We have studied, are reasonable and are calling for a situation where there is the kind of treatment that we all desire for ourselves and thus are prepared to give to others.

In May when I treated this matter, I was being governed by the world's rule book governing the said important issues of equity, growth and justice for all. The rule book to which I refer to is the list of laws which we call conventions of the International Labour Organisation and is especially important for a country when once it has ratified those rules.

I will spend a few minutes to explain these rules:

This Convention in 1997 is followed by Convention 143 dealing with supplementary provision for the convention on migrant labour. Sir, together they called, among other things, for measures to facilitate and control migration movement. Sir, when this was raised before several people did not know that Barbados was committed to this and took a position to denigrate the people who were warning them that this was a necessary thing. Sir, Barbados has committed itself to establish measures to facilitate and control the movement of migration.

The convention also calls for the equality of treatment to the migrant worker, that is, treatment no less favourable than the treatment meted out to locals in the same country. It speaks to a minimal standard of protection for the migrant labour so the arrangements we have now where workers are made to give up their passports when they get to Barbados, to live in containers that are twenty or forty feet, are made to work for less than reasonable wages and if they do not work for these wages are sent back home without the opportunity to dig under the container to get the monies which they have buried there. Sir, this is what we are opposed to and nobody can blame us for being opposed to this.

Mr. President, in short, the convention calls for registration and regulations of migration. The regulation and convention are interested in ensuring that the visiting worker is not treated as a second-class citizen. If we are going to build this Caribbean region and make a reality out of the oneness of our people, we cannot have Barbadians believing that they are first-class and that others belong to another

class. Neither must Barbadians be made to feel that they are second-class when they leave this country and go elsewhere.

Sir, protection has to be fair and regulation is the only way that this can be done. If we develop the position where we create a second-class citizenry, the effect is going to be as I described before, an arrangement to justify exploitation and people, not the employers, will say that the Barbadian worker is not willing to work and that is not necessarily true.

Sir, it is better to say that people anywhere may be in a group that do not like to work. If work is made attractive, given the right kinds of environment, people are made to believe that they have a stake in the establishment within which they work and that their contributions matter, then in those cases, work becomes exciting and interesting and people look forward to it. Sir, we who manage, and I am a manager, have a responsibility to manage so as to make the work attractive.

3.30 p.m.

Sir, the point that I am making is that regulation does not have to deny anyone anything. Regulation is intended to protect. If it were otherwise, then we would have to blame the current Government with trying to deny Barbadians a host of things because they have regulated a number of issues. I thought, until now, that they were trying to protect the Barbadian worker and citizen with the regulations that they moved. Sir, if I am wrong, I am prepared to be guided.

Mr. President, since this debate started in May, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) met again in June and I did not attend many of the sessions that dealt with migration because I have other responsibilities and could not be there. There are some people who may not be very kind and you would think that I wrote the resolution which came out.

Mr. President, the Resolution is a resolution towards a fair deal for migrant workers in the global economy. I am quite prepared to let the Leader of the Senate have a copy because he might be able to pass it onto his colleagues and then they would be able to derive some benefit from it.

Sir, this Resolution sets down certain international guidelines, some of which I would like to be able to share with my colleagues in this Honourable Chamber. It would help them to understand the best practices which the Caribbean envisages towards this fair deal for migrant labour that we are speaking about. Among the items that I would like us to see and to think about are areas of the Resolution addressing the following:

1. Promoting managed migration for employment purposes.

Sir, in short, you cannot allow a situation to obtain where there is not some level of management. After all, this is what this Bill is about. The regulation and the management of it even down to the accreditation that we are speaking to. I do not think that the business of accreditation at this level makes a lot of difference. We should be talking about matters as it relates to masons, carpenters, well-diggers and pan boilers, although we do not have any sugar that would make that necessary but it is still something that we should be talking about.

Sir, it speaks to promoting decent work for migrant workers. I know that there are a few business people in Barbados, and I thank God that there are not many of them, who do not believe that Barbadians should not be seeking decent work. I am ashamed of those employers but I am pleased to say that most employers understand that decent work is a concept that everybody at every level in every nation must consider to be very important. It does not have to do with how it works now. It has to do with freely chosen work that will take care of the family and work that give people the opportunity after they have finished working and are retired.

Sir, along the further guidelines there is the question of preventing abusive practices, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. There are some Barbadians who do not want to believe that any of these three apply in our circumstances. I want to disabuse our minds because in some areas when people come down from the country to the town and they are told of the prospects of a beautiful job somewhere and they get on board a boat or plane to reach the country, they never visited the city of the country from which they came. So they have been abused, smuggled and trafficked. There are areas in this country, as I understand it, where people are made to work as domestics in conditions where they are not in control of their passports or time. We need to be able to find those people who exploit migrants and make sure that they receive the full long arm of the law.

Mr. President, the document also speaks of protecting and promoting the human rights of all migrants. Wherever Barbadians travel as migrants, they are protected. It also speaks of preventing and encumbering a regular labour migration. That is a glorified way of saying that when you want to be a migrant, you should make sure that your passport is in order, your papers are clear and you do not have any problems at the points of entry with immigration officers. Those of us who have had the benefit to travel, I am sure that at times you would see people sitting on benches for long periods and that has been so because their documents have not been properly written or that the documents were written for a fee by someone who knew that he or she had no reason or authority to write the documents and as a result there have been problems.

Sir, we are aware that there are people, some of them Barbadians, who encourage people to come to this country, they know that "they ain't straight". That is an expression that is used to say that the documents are not in order and it has nothing to do with their sexual orientation. They know that they are not correct in the level of their passport documentation but they use that very fact to exploit their presence and to get them either to work for less than they should or to work and pass remittances unto those said people and this is something that we need to be very conscious of.

Mr. President, the International Labour Organisation document speaks about promoting guidelines for ethical recruitment of migrant workers and exploring mutually beneficial approaches to ensure the adequate supply of skilled health and education personnel that would serve the needs for the sending and the receiving country.

Sir, what we are trying to do is to show that the world has a model. The 176 member countries in the International Labour Organisation are agonising over this same issue of migrant labour in much the same way as we are currently arguing. It is not something that is a Barbados phenomenon. It is not something for which we need to feel ashamed or afraid because we are addressing it and because there are public issues of concern. Senator Griffith was right when he referred to the 10 countries that joined the International Labour Organisation on May 1st. They were greeted by their 15 colleagues with a very clear warning that they should not expect to get any jobs here.

Mr. President, I do not think this is what Barbados is saying and I do not think this is what we would want Barbados to say. I am saying, on whose behalf I speak, that when we address the matter of migrant labour, we need to do so bearing in mind that the moment we describe an issue, we have to do so understanding the critical issues facing us at that time.

Sir, what are those critical issues? The critical issues are the levels of unemployment that we have in Barbados today. The critical issues relate to the conditions under which those people are looking for work or if they have not been looking for work recently, whether they have stopped looking for work out of frustration, these issues have to do with what obtains at the place of work. Is there the possibility of situations which are liable to exploitation because the man or the woman who runs the business is able to exploit the conditions in such a way as to rob the migrant worker and prevent the host worker from receiving work? 3.40 p.m.

I already had examples of that which I have drawn to the attention of appropriate Ministries in the Government and they have worked with me in an effort to correct them.

Sir, I am talking from the top of my head, because the

Government at the highest level, is aware of these kinds of exploitation. In essence, what we are saying is that in labour, we have to make sure that we attempt to create a better society for all. We have to make sure that the growth we speak about for Barbados is not lopsided. I was reading just last night of the growth that took place in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s where there was 30 per cent growth in the incomes of the 1 per cent of the American population, while 20 per cent of the American population for the same period, experienced a drop in income of 15 per cent.

Sir, that is what could happen with the GDP per capita, appearing to rise whereas the personal emoluments of the vast majority of the population can fall. Sir, that happens in the strict capitalist society, where rugged individualism can take over. I say, Sir, therefore, what we have to guard against, is a situation where we do not seek to take care of all of the people, the host as well as the migrant workers.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Bill on the free movement of Caribbean Community skilled nationals within Barbados. I listened to a lot of what has been said, not only here in this Chamber, Mr. President, but also the concerns that are being raised by Barbadians and, indeed, by other Caribbean nationals from around the region.

I just recently returned from Antigua and while there, again I heard of the fears and concerns about the free movement of people across the region and the invitation for the whole workforce. As I listened to some of the concerns and some issues that are raised by politicians, leaders and the ordinary man in the street, I realise that some people are not aware of the backdrop against which the free movement of nationals is taking place.

Sir, people seem to relate to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy as a single entity or a single activity operating within a vacuum. Therefore, questions are raised about whether it is the best thing for us and should we go forward, should we do this or should we do that and we do not like this aspect, without taking a step back to understand what is really driving the formation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the provisions that are being made.

What we are faced with, Mr. President, is the fact that the World Trade Organisation has set out certain requirements and regulations that they have asked countries to sign on to, of which Barbados is a part which sets out a certain set of rules that will govern how we do business in the future.

Part of the condition that has been placed before us, is the fact that, not only must there be free movement of capital, but there is to be free movement of labour. What does this mean? It means that the ability of many countries to be able to safeguard all of their jobs for all of their nationals all of the time will rapidly become a thing of the past. Why? Because they have the pressure of investments stating that they want to get the best returns, and they are driving the conditions and driving the regulations that are governing the trade relations between countries.

An example of that, and I have shared this with the Chamber already but I will raise it here again, the issue with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados when Barbados was looking at how to deal with the whole matter of opening certain elements of its economic activity to liberalise those areas and to allow it to compete freely in the global market. The accounting sector was regarded as one where Barbadians could afford to compete openly, and we could reduce the regulation blocking non-nationals from offering accounting services in Barbados.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants reported to a national consultation that was held at the UWI that having changed the requirements to allow non-nationals to offer accounting services in Barbados, that within the space of a few weeks, they were flooded with requests from more than 200 persons out of CARICOM wanting to provide accounting services in this little nation.

What is that saying? There is a whole movement across the world that is pressurising countries for the opening of their borders to allow for the free movement of labour. What is that going to mean for Barbados and the Caribbean? It means that within the Caribbean region, there are areas where there is a lack of certain skills, there are areas that have certain needs, and there is surplus in other areas. If we do not deploy our human resources across the region to take up the maximum economic opportunities that currently exist, if we CARICOM nationals do not fill them, they are going to be filled by somebody else. The persons may not always have to be here physically. They can provide that service via the Internet, as was shared by Senator Fields earlier.

If we are going to secure this CARICOM space for CARICOM nationals, then it is imperative for the Caribbean to come together to see what is the best way for us to take up our market space appropriately, so that we could secure the benefits for Barbadians and our CARICOM nationals so that we can improve our own quality of life.

Hence, it was necessary to get CARICOM to come together and recognise that this is no time for playing. When we were trying to do the Federation many years ago, we failed to put the muscle, heart and thought behind it to truly

make it work. In truth and in fact, if we had done what we needed to do at that time, we would have been ahead in terms of our preparation for this global environment that we are now living in. Now, we are approaching integration from a forced movement because we realise that we do not have any choice if we are going to survive in this new environment. Therefore, part of what has to happen within CARICOM is that we have to be able to maximise the human resource and allow for the free movement of Caribbean Nationals, and this Bill purports to provide that opportunity.

Mr. President, the Bill does not go far enough. It has been shared by this Government that their preference would have been for the categories to be greater to allow more persons to travel, the artisans and people in trade and other areas of activity beyond just the professional and the musicians, sports people and so on.

Unfortunately, all of our brothers and sisters across the Caribbean do not see it that way, because of the fear that we are going to lose work for our locals, we do not want everybody to move because we are scared about what will happen, let us use a phased process. So, Barbados has had to dress back its eagerness to move in that direction to keep pace with those who were not ready for such a big step.

However, Barbados because of its proactive and visionary approach to the development and the preparation of the nation for participation in a global environment, has already begun to put the necessary steps in place to prepare our population, the other persons who are not now eligible to travel to be ready when such an event should take place.

In the Ministry of Labour, we have the TVET Council and this Council has engaged in an activity which I am very excited about, because it has a lot of meaning for ordinary Barbadians and many entrepreneurs in the Small Business Association. They are putting together the National Vocational Qualifications Programme, which is looking at taking the skills, expertise and experience of persons who may not have academic qualifications to back up their practical experience, but who demonstrate a high level of skill in their field of endeavour, and they are looking at taking that expertise and converting it into a qualification. 3.50 p.m.

Mr. President, what this is going to mean is that when we are able to open, this group of CARICOM nationals would be able to move freely across the borders to try their skills and that we would have within Barbados a set of people who already hold the qualifications that can be accredited and therefore would be able to move. That is being proactive in preparing the population to be able to participate in this new environment.

Mr. President, in order to maximise the Caribbean market space, there are two key things that we would need to do. We have to be able to marshal the capital resources of the Caribbean and be able to use those to finance investment in the various territories where there are investment opportunities. To make the business opportunity work those enterprises would have to be able to attract the best labour to give the best possible result to that endeavour.

Mr. President, if we are able to maximise the use of Caribbean capital and be able to deploy it wherever there is opportunity it means that we would have Caribbean persons owning and investing in businesses that would produce employment not only for the local people but for other Caribbean nationals who qualify to work in that enterprise thus taking up that particular space. If we are able to set up businesses that have sufficient breadth and strength that they can withstand international competition, then we will be able to safeguard the profits and the employment for Caribbean people and not see that opportunity go to other people outside of our region. Therefore, maximising this opportunity is going to be important, but how are we going to get there.

This means that owners of capital and those people who manage those resources on behalf of the ordinary man and woman in the Caribbean have to begin to think proactively about how they can take those investment monies and put them into opportunities whether it is in Guyana, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua or Saba and be able to set up businesses that will be able to employ CARICOM nationals and allow us to use up those economic opportunities. We are not only talking about big businesses, we are talking about the average citizen who is putting money in a credit union and who is saving money in an insurance programme.

Mr. President, I was very pleased to see a Barbadian company, Automotive Arts, setting up in Antigua. When I saw it, it startled me slightly and I said to myself this is exactly what we need to do. There are so many more companies in Barbados that need to take the opportunity that is provided to get out there and do that. That company is therefore creating foreign exchange for Barbados. I am sure they have one or two Barbadian nationals working there but I know that they have Antiguan nationals working there as well thus providing employment for our CARICOM nationals. I think this is something that we have to encourage.

Mr. President, there are business opportunities in tourism, in agriculture, in the retail sector, in professional services, in medical services, in construction and in information technology. These business opportunities exist across the region whether they be in St. Vincent, Antigua, Guyana, St. Lucia or Dominica.

Mr. President, we have observed that if the Caribbean

Single Market and Economy is to work, unless the ordinary everyday citizen gets up and begins to put in place those activities that would allow them to maximise what is happening in the space, all the legislation that we are busily passing and all the negotiations at the political level will mean nothing if the average person is not getting up and taking advantage of it.

To this end, the Small Business Association has recognised the need to mobilise the small business grouping throughout the region for us to begin to look at how we can better respond to the opportunities in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. We will be hosting a regional conference by which we are pulling together small and medium enterprises to explore the opportunities for business within the region. However, for those opportunities to work as I indicated earlier it is going to be necessary to be able to have access to the best labour to support that investment so that we are able to maximise that opportunity.

Sir, I was privileged to attend a session which was held by one of our media houses where they wanted to look at the concerns Barbadians were expressing about the number of Guyanese in the country. An invitation was given to Barbadians who had concerns and to Guyanese who had concerns and so a nice cross-section of persons turned up at the event. A number of construction workers got up and shared their concerns about the fact that they find that they are not able to get work opportunities as they would like and so on and expressed their concerns about the fact that Guyanese labourers were being used.

Sir, somewhere in that whole presentation by persons present a young Guyanese girl rose and began to share her experiences. She said that she had gained qualifications at the Community College and had developed the necessary skills to be able to get a particular type of job but because of the conditions in her country it was impossible for her to earn a living. She said that she saved and she came here but that the way how she was treated by average Barbadians was very painful. She said that many times she wanted to give up. She said sometimes she would tell her mother that she does not know if she could take it anymore and the mother would keep saying to her, that there is nothing to come back home for, that she had to stay and make something of herself and that there are opportunities here and no matter how hard it is, she has to stay. By this time there was so much emotion in her voice and she said no matter how much we all have to cry on her back, she had to stay here because there is nowhere else for her to go, so it does not matter if Barbadians keep crying about her. She said that what Barbadians need to do is to get up and bring investment to Guyana so that they can begin to create jobs so that people would be able to earn and Barbadians would be able to earn revenue from activities in Guyana. She said that if we do not

rise up and do this now, we are going to leave the space and international people are going to come in, make the investment, reap the fruits and then we are going to start to quarrel about them having come to Guyana and say that we took up everything.

Mr. President, when the young lady finished speaking there was such a hush in the room because by this time she was crying, and so were many of the people in the room. More importantly, I think that the feeling that filled the room was the embarrassment and the shame of how we allowed our fears as Barbadians about others coming into our territory to overpower us that we had so ill-treated our Guyanese brothers and sisters. Sir, I can tell you Barbadians in that room were ashamed.

Mr. President, at the end of her speech, Barbadians, some of whom were quarrelling before, went to her and apologised for the treatment and for the things that have been said whether by themselves or by other Barbadians to this young woman. They embraced her and said they were sorry.

Mr. President, I was moved by that, because it says to me that if the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is going to work, it means that we are in this together. It means that we have, and as was pointed out by Senator Sir Roy Trotman, to look at how we treat people when they come to our shores. We have to take care of the rights of the workers who come to our shores. It is a shame that it has to come through legislation and regulation. We as Barbadians should have had such a heart, given our own background experience with migration, and be more sympathetic, more understanding and more welcoming to people who come to our shores.

Mr. President, the question of why do we need to have these open doors in Barbados was raised earlier. What is the lack or the need in Barbados for skilled workers that requires us to open our doors to other people? Sir, I want to put some things on the table. It has already been pointed out that we have had shortage of labour at the unskilled level in terms of whether it is people to pick cotton or whether it is people to work with sugar. The most important benefit for Barbadians in having this legislation pass is that unless we are willing to open our doors to others, others will not open their doors to us. We have young graduates coming from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies who are going to be looking for work.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. President, we recently had a situation where we had doctors being turned out and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital simply could not have absorbed them. We have situations in Barbados where, every year, there are a number

of young lawyers being turned out and we do not have enough space to absorb them. The only way they could be absorbed is if they had the opportunity to travel through CARICOM and be able to provide a service to the countries that have and need this Barbadian resource. Sir, we have been doing this from time immemorial and the benefit to the Barbadian is that there are young people who take time to educate and to qualify themselves so that they would have an opportunity to see some return on that investment by being able to treat the CARICOM space as their home.

Mr. President, our question would be: "What would happen if we did not integrate and allow for the free movement of labour?" Sir, because the World Cup, 2007, is so much on our minds, I would want to congratulate Barbados and the Caribbean for being so successful in their bid. I know that the Caribbean rejoice at this opportunity and I know that here is an opportunity where it could have been so easy for countries to sit and to think only of themselves, about what they can do, *et cetera*, but as I travel across the Caribbean, what I am hearing is that we have to look at other countries that may not be able to manage, and see how we could help them. When I heard that, I said this is the spirit that we would want to encourage in CARICOM because the World Cup provides a focal point from which we can look. How can we work together and use the best that the Caribbean has to offer, to make the World Cup work.

Mr. President, for example, there might be some nations that may not be able to put on the kind of security force to manage their World Cup match. Therefore, why can we not move our security personnel around the region to help each country to be able to demonstrate that our security personnel can provide the necessary security. Some countries may have a lack in marketing or may lack the managerial skills to be able to put on their particular show well. Why would we want to prevent other CARICOM nationals who have the ability to go in and to make sure that each nation puts on a good show for its World Cup match? This is what we need to do across the region and it is only the legislation such as what we are looking at today, that will make it easy for us to put on the very best show when the World Cup comes in 2007.

Mr. President, I was distressed today to hear some of the comments that were made concerning the matter with regard to the influx of workers into our market, *et cetera*, and issues such as disparities between Barbados and other island; how Barbados will lose because it is so far ahead and that if it tries to work with the others, it is going to lose. Sir, that was the same spirit that destroyed the Federation Movement back in the early days. It is counterproductive, it does not help and it does not demonstrate an understanding of the conditions with which we are faced at this time.

Mr. President, what would happen if we did not look at the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and try to form our own trading bloc? It would mean that every little nation operating as an individual, would be unable to withstand the onslaught of globalisation. Sir, presently there are persons in the Caribbean who have approximately \$1 trillion, which is more money than a number of our territories put together to take care of their nation in a year but we can have an individual in the Caribbean that commands that kind of money. Sir, when we have persons with that kind of money coming into a tiny region such as this, they can buy and sell the place.

Therefore, if one is going to protect one's shores from the power of one company coming in, calling the tune, setting the pace, telling you how to run your politics, telling you what laws to put down or how to do things so that it provides benefits only to themselves, then the only way that one would be able to protect oneself against the power of that kind of economic might, is to strengthen the capacity of the existing businesses to come together and to fill the space properly and to begin creating wealth and profit, so that we could withstand that kind of onslaught.

Mr. President, it is in our interest to ensure that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy works. Will it create discomfort? Yes, it is the same as getting on a bus. As one boards a bus and there are more people wanting to sit than there are actual seats, it means that people would have to squeeze to accommodate the others and, therefore, for some part of the journey, some people would be somewhat uncomfortable because some would be able to sit, while some would have to stand but if we are going to get to the end of the journey, it means that we would have to bear the discomfort until we get there.

Mr. President, this, therefore, is going to mean adjustments and challenges but the question we need to ask is how are we going to meet those challenges and put preparations in place to help our population to understand that this is not a situation of insulting and pouting but rather at looking at how one needs to operate differently now that there is a CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, another thing that was of concern to me today was to have heard the assertion that there is no problem with the Barbadian workforce and how it performs. Sir, Barbados has come from a proud, long tradition of hardworking people, people who would have worked for 18 hours a day and would have received little for it, but who would have taken pride and dignity in the work which they offered. They also carried themselves with a certain something in them, despite the fact that they were poor, and we called them "poor great". Sir, that ethic has not maintained itself down through the years and it has not

remained intact to this day.

Mr. President, today there are Barbadians who work hard; some who go beyond the call of duty; some who lay down their life blood for their organisations but at the same time, we have Barbadians who do not wish to work. We have Barbadians who do not understand the importance of a good day's work for a good day's pay. We have all experienced that and, therefore, for anyone to sit here and to put forward the view that every Barbadian works well, is wrong. It is to fool Barbadians about where we are.

Mr. President, I am a Human Resources Consultant, and the Barbadian workers will tell you that they know that there are Barbadian workers who work on their teams and who do not pull their weight. There are some who would say that they have to go out tomorrow and the employer would not give them the time off, therefore, they are going to take a week's sick leave. People will tell you about the ones who come to work and would dodge work. They would tell you about the ones who go out to lunch and do not return to work afterwards. They will tell you about the ones that if they do not like how someone has spoken to them, would do a number of things.

Mr. President, I have had the painful experience of working for a client and while conditions were not the best, they were not the worse. The attitudes that had grown in this group of workers was that they had worked at this place for a long time and were not "killing" themselves and that they were letting the younger ones who had come do the work. Sir, I saw senior workers standing up and watching work needing to be done, customers needing to be served, and who refused to do the work and would put all the weight on the younger ones.

Sir, the difficulty with which the employer was faced in terms of disciplining and correcting that problem was that the workers who had been there for a long time, were looking for severance pay and were behaving in ways to try to provoke a situation where they could be sent home, dismissed, or severed, in the hope that they could get severance pay. All they would say when spoken to was: "I want them to pay me out."

Mr. President, this is an attitude that some Barbadian workers have taken up and they give employers a hard time. Sir, there are some working conditions that are not what they ought to be. There are some work places that are not what they ought to be. There are managers who do not behave the way they ought to be but, Mr. President, that is not peculiar to Barbados. This can be found in any part of the world. In truth and in fact, when a person is committed to hard work, it has to do with the principle that governs that person's life. That person would have lived by a

principle of excellence, and so even in less perfect conditions, there are persons who would give of their best and who work hard. Therefore, it is not always a reaction to conditions, it has to do with a lack of commitment to excellence in some Barbadian workers.

4.10 p.m.

It is necessary that we do not fool Barbadians into believing that how they currently perform is acceptable because if there is not a major shift in how they perform, they cannot make it in another environment. Sir, unless we understand this, Barbadians will believe that how we currently function is enough to make it in this environment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, please wind up.

SENATOR Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Mr. President, less expensive labour can be attractive especially to a small business but this can be a recipe for disaster because for a company to succeed it must have the right labour. This means that the person must be able to perform the job to the standard and quality required so that the company can evolve.

Sir, a low wage bill is only a temporary benefit but if it destroys your customer base and efficiency then it puts your company in jeopardy. However, every business person has the right to employ someone at a price that he or she can manage. It is necessary that the Barbadian worker be worth every cent paid. It is only under that condition that we as Barbadian workers will be guaranteed our place in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and create a demand for our labour across the region so that we need never fear the threat of losing our jobs and livelihood.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, I have mixed feelings about this Bill, the Caribbean Community (Movement of Skilled Nationals) Bill, 2004. Although I have no real strong objections to the principles involved, I think that the necessary monitoring and administration that would be involved could present some challenges. The question must be asked whether the relevant stakeholders involved regarding the practicality of the implementation of this Bill were consulted and I hope the answer is yes to this question.

It must be recognised that the free movement of people itself will not bring about economic development and growth in the region. Therefore, the measure of control which the Bill provides for by requiring a qualifying certificate to be presented to immigrants, in my opinion, is a good step. Although it is felt by some groups that it is equivalent in bureaucracy to a work permit and, therefore, does not achieve the objective of hassle-free movement. I agree with the Honourable Minister that it must be a phased operation,

that we must not bite off more than we can chew and that the process must be controlled.

Mr. President, a columnist in one of the local newspapers a few weeks ago made the analogy of water breaking the barrier. Sir, if water breaks barriers by accident, then disaster may result since the natural water course may destroy everything in its path and create havoc for the society. However, if you carefully plan the route of the watercourse the damage will be minimised. The solution is to develop good business ideas which are oriented to the global market and ensure that the correct financial instruments are in place to attract investment and be able to finance these businesses.

The relaxation of restriction to include other groups of persons would occur and as the economy grows the manpower needs are increased and the economic pie becomes large enough to satisfy everyone in the region. If the opening of the floodgates is not in synch with the growth in the economy, although there may be short-term benefits, it will not be in the best interest of the country in the long term and the cost to the Government of supporting unemployed Barbadians could be considerable.

Mr. Speaker, we would also have to ensure that our infrastructure, for example, our road system, is updated to handle the increased load that would result as growth takes place and there is an influx of persons to satisfy the increased manpower needs.

Sir, productivity is already being affected by traffic congestion both from the point of view of time wasted as well as stress on workers *et cetera*. Also, it must be ensured that those who travel freely contribute to the country's social, health, transport and other services. This should be so whether the stay is for six months or indefinitely.

I have a few questions with regard to the content of the Bill. Sir, the rights of dependants do not seem to be clear as to whether they would receive social benefits such as education and health. Also, what is the position of a person entering under the provisions of the Act if his or her employment is terminated. Sir, to monitor this would be a major challenge.

In conclusion, I support the principle of the Bill that restricts the free movement to a specified group of persons at this time. The inclusion of a wider group should be commensurate with the rate of growth of the economy and the need for increased manpower to support this growth.

With regard to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy itself, I do not think that we can assume that it would automatically be the answer to all our questions.

Mr. President, again, I would say that I support the Bill in principle.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Mr. President, I think that I would be in competition with the last speaker in terms of brevity.
4.20 p.m.

However, I am concerned, Sir, that efforts at the formation of Caribbean institutions associations have not had a trail of success and, therefore, there is some caution in welcoming some of what will result from this Bill.

Sir, since 1947 when, in glowing language, Caribbean political leaders met at Montego Bay and indicated their desire for a quick formation of a West Indies political federation, described by the late great Norman Washington Manley, as an opportunity which if not seized upon by leaders will cause history to judge them as purblind, there have been attempts at regionalism. The Federation ended its partial reality in 1958, Mr. Manley's country having opted out of it and it had four years of existence.

Mr. President, arising out of the subsequent formation of CARIFTA a number of agencies have arisen some of which were referred to by Senator Chandler, for example, the Caribbean Food Corporation which appeared to be a charter to feeding the nations of the Caribbean, with Guyana and Belize providing all the grain and items of sustenance for our people and The Food Corporation never got off the ground.

Sir, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, CARDI, and the Caribbean Shipping Association were regional agencies. Those of us who were around during the early days of the Federation would remember the famous two ships which provided the transportation between the islands, starting from Jamaica in the north and coming to Trinidad. Those two ships were useful in providing the movement of people and goods until regional insularity helped to destroy the Caribbean Shipping Corporation. When the Federal Maple and the Federal Palm were sold the Caribbean Shipping Corporation continued to run a shipping service by hiring ships but the accumulated bill owed to the people was so large that the whole project of Caribbean shipping collapsed.

Mr. President, if there is anything that is important, it is either the movement of people or shipping or both. Sir, both of those are at their weakest in the Caribbean at the moment.

Sir, I believe that there was a meeting in Barbados last week where some effort was being made to arrive at some arrangement for LIAT and BWIA to provide some necessary

transportation for this coming year and many efforts have been made in the recent past. Therefore, I am saying that while the passing of this legislation is a good thing, the institutional framework seems to be lagging far behind in terms of realising the treaty of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy for its people.

Mr. President, let me give one instance. The question of the public service in the Caribbean was an important aspect of the implementation of any Caribbean effort and there are several services – Immigration, Customs and include social security. All of these have a role to play in this matter of Caribbean integration.

Mr. President, for example, the social security. The worker leaves one country and seeks to ply his labour in another country but there is no reciprocity among some of our neighbours for that worker to continue his social security coverage. This is a hindrance to the free movement of labour and I think that the same thing goes for other services. I do not know what is the arrangement for trade union activities.

Asides.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: This is a very important area of services which needs to be harmonised in the context of free movement of labour within the Caribbean. The public service institutions can be, perhaps, the greatest hindrance in achieving Caribbean unity.

I believe the public services of the Caribbean in the 1958 to 1962 effort played a great role in preventing the realisation of integration. Who would become Financial Secretary of the Federation and who would be Chief Secretary of Federation? The dodging, swapping and exchanging of ideas was not for any interest of ensuring that there was such a good public service as to ensure who gets the jobs.

Sir, a logical requirement to the movement of labour in the Caribbean would be the effect it could have on the national pension arrangement. I believe that in the latest pension Bill, when it is presented, that there will be some portability for pensions accrued and rights. Does that exist in any other country and will it exist as a prerequisite to this question of movement of skilled labour?

Mr. President, since 1970 the pension arrangements, like other arrangements for public servants, were identified for ensuring that the public services in the region had some form of organisation. A conference was held in St. Vincent at which a secretariat mapped out an arrangement to form a memorandum of understanding for ensuring continuity of the arrangements which existed under the Secretary of State

prior to the event, whereby public officers were moved from one country to another.

Sir, in the days of the Secretary of State, there was a clearing house and a similarity of pension arrangements under British Pension Orders ensured that each country in the Commonwealth had the same pension arrangement and was up-to-date and could not opt out.

4.30 p.m.

The British Secretary of State for the Commonwealth and the Colonies provided a clearing house for the activation of these pension arrangements. So that if you were working in Zambia and you were transferred or got a job in Trinidad and Tobago, you were assured that your pension would be carried across from your service in Zambia, taking into account the salary of your Zambian job, and your service in Trinidad at a Trinidad salary, when you finally retire. A balance was struck which the Secretary of State worked out.

The Commonwealth Caribbean now discover that this is a good thing, because some countries were not honouring their commitments to other countries. They asked the Secretariat to come up with an arrangement to provide continuity in that area. The Secretariat came up with a Memorandum of Understanding first which they circulated to all of the countries that participated in the Conference, such as St. Vincent, Jamaica...

Asides.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: They circulated the Memorandum of Understanding and the projection was that once that Memorandum was signed, all of the participating Governments would have a common draft Bill done by the Secretariat in Guyana which could ensure continuity of these pension arrangements. Sir, out of the ten or eleven countries that participated in the conference, only Barbados signed the Memorandum of Understanding. So, from 1972 until now, nothing has happened in that area.

Sir, I see this as critical to this development that we are talking about today. It must not be taken lightly because, as I said, if the public service is not in it, it will not happen. I am not suggesting that we are obstacles and we can prevent these things from happening. I think the arrangements between public service people in one country and public service people in another country, are much better than is well known and it is important for the success of this difficult agenda.

Sir, I am therefore suggesting that we should be looking seriously at what I consider are the consequential requirements for a Scheme like this. I think that for education and health facilities, they have to be reviewed and the eligibility of people coming in and their dependants have

to be wisely worked out because, as I said, because they are on our shores and they have to be treated like anybody else.

It is all right to say that in the immigration of people we treat people badly. If this is so, it is unfortunate and I think it should be stopped, but are Immigration, Customs and those sorts of people, part of this development that we are talking about today, and will they be required to implement, supervise and carry out this arrangement? Are they being trained in the various aspects and nuances of the CSME? What if we suddenly give them this to do, and they have another law which they also execute? What if this conflicts?

What is the arrangement with the Minister of Immigration as distinct from the Minister of CARICOM as distinct from the Minister of Education, because all of these will be involved in this effort? We therefore have preparation to do, and I will suggest that this must not be overlooked and treated as unimportant.

My own experience tells me that this effort will succeed only when we bring all the people involved on board and early, and not after the event. I am therefore not opposed to the Bill. I am not opposed to the whole idea of the CSME. I think it is a great thing for us who have seen the failure of the Federation. We would be glad to see something happen that will bring the Caribbean together. It is even harder now than it was in 1958.

I am obliged to you.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I rise in this debate to speak in support of the Bill for the removal of restrictions on entry into Barbados of community skilled nationals.

Mr. President, this Bill is being implemented, pursuant to Article 46, of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which was concluded in 2001. The original Treaty was in 1973. Article 46 actually refers to the movement of a limited number of individuals, university graduates, media workers, sports persons, artistes and musicians.

The particular Bill and Article 46 does not refer to the movement of unskilled labour, carpenters or construction workers from Guyana or anywhere else. The legal workers who are in Barbados, came through the ordinary immigration process, under work permits, in a system that has been in existence for some time, and is not as a result of anything that has been done, with respect to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

We are here debating this issue and one cannot help but reflect on the concerns that have been raised by a

number of individuals, some of them in the Opposition. I believe some of my colleagues have already referred to the fact that it is very difficult to get a clear understanding of the position from the Other Side on this issue. The positions vary from Honourable Member to Honourable Member.

Sir, I listened carefully because I believe that the issues which Barbadians raise with respect to the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy are genuine and they need to be responded to in a genuine way. Sir, what usually happens, I believe, is that the Honourable Members on the Other Side would say that they support the concept of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Then, the contributions made here and elsewhere suggested that they are not prepared to support the implementation of the CSME. It is always very easy to have a statement where, generally speaking, one says, "I am a CARICOM person. I love the Caribbean. We all came here on one ship." But, we are not prepared to do the work in a constructive fashion, that requires us to put the institutional framework in black and white, in order to ensure that the CSME is implemented?

If it is true that there is no debate on the fact that the creation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is good for the region, I think we have to move from there and start to deliberate on practical measures that can be put in place in order to see that it becomes a reality. I think, unfortunately, some of us seek to play to several constituencies at the same time. We do this in such a way that we ignore the principal position or that we undermine the principal position that we should be taking, with respect to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I believe this is dangerous.

4.40 p.m.

From my heart I too believe that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is critical to the region. I have a perspective as well that for all we know many of us might be related to people in the other islands because when the steam ships came here families were broken up, some went to one island and some to another. So the idea that all of us have a very similar origin is nothing that is new.

Sir, I think that the focus on platitudes sometimes distracts us from the very hard work that needs to be done in order to implement something of the magnitude of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy. It is a great undertaking. There is no other grouping in the world that is seeking to do what we are doing in this small CARICOM region. Therefore, it requires the assistance of every single person in every single field of endeavour. It is not a matter of sitting and saying let me wait and see what the CARICOM Secretariat or what the Government is going to bring next. It is not a matter like that at all. It is too massive an undertaking for any one institution to push, to implement and to oversee in the way that we need to do it.

Mr. President, I think it is important for us to go back to the rationale for the creation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. You would find the new impetus for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in the new Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the Heads of Government were lucid when they agreed to create the single market and economy.

Sir, this new initiative which is stated clearly in the Preamble has to do with ensuring international competitiveness within CARICOM in the face of globalisation and trade liberalisation. Sir, if one reads the Preamble further one would see that it refers to the fact that one of the ways we can achieve this is to ensure that we optimise the utilisation of all of our resources. Again, if one reads the Preamble further one would see that it says that it is the intention of the Heads to ensure that all of our people within the region have equal access to all of the resources of the region. The movement of labour is simply one element.

Mr. President, I heard discussions which often come from the Other Side that the Act does not go far enough. There are some who say that we are creating another bureaucracy by having to fill out some forms. On the other hand, they are also trying to create a certain degree of fear in the hearts of Barbadians that this legislation is about simply opening up everything to everybody, which is not true. As we said before Article 46 refers to university graduates, media workers, sports persons artistes and musicians. Sir, I believe that those categories were included because those are the people who already move... So this was a first step and an extremely conservative step.

Mr. President, I was privileged to be involved in some of the negotiations and there were those of us who deliberated on whether or not we would be too conservative in our approach. I must tell you, Sir, that when I hear the comments from individuals in Barbados, I believe that we took the right approach. Let us lift the people that already move anyway and let us see what are the true responses from the people of Barbados, from Antigua and Barbuda and from Guyana on this matter. We have now the true response where certainly within the community I am getting the impression that there is a fear about an influx of people, although people tell me that there are probably only ten people who call in on the call-in programmes and that is not really a reflection of the views of the Barbadian society generally.

Sir, I am never one to take lightly to fears of people. Whether or not you believe that the fear is a sensible fear or whether you believe it is a genuine fear, it is still a fear. If

the people of Barbados have a fear about what we are doing with respect to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, I believe that it is our responsibility not only the current administration's, but that of those who would wish to become the next administration if they believe in the concept of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy to explain to the people what it actually means and not try to play to the gallery in the way that they do. They should not try to stir up or add fuel to the fire in matters that we all consider to be absolutely critical.

Sir, for me the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is not something that you could do or it does not matter if you do it. My own personal experience working on CARICOM matters says to me that if we do not work together in order to defend our interest in the international community, very soon we would find that we have no interest to defend. That is what I know.

Sir, I think that one of our difficulties is that we focus too much on the emotional. Maybe I am not emotional enough, I do not know. There is a song that Bob Marley has that I used to listen to in which he says brothers you should know and not believe. I do not know how many times he said it, but for some reason it has stuck in my brain forever. I get the impression that many of us believe in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, but there is a lot about it that we do not know or understand.

Senator Lowe is agreeing with me, but Senator Lowe as a prospective leader and all of us in here should know and understand it. Certainly it should not be left to me. I have worked on the Treaty of Chaguaramas and if the Members of the Opposition wish me to do a seminar for them, I would do it.

Mr. President, we have to know from some experience that we have, I know from my experience, that we need to implement the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I do not know what are your experiences. I do not know if Sir Roy's experiences suggest to him that this is something that we must do, and something that he knows we must do but for me I know that we must do it.

Mr. President, I am not persuaded, neither am I influenced by Black Stalin's song when he sings about the one ship. I know from a practical perspective in terms of our survival socially and economically that this is something that we must do.

Sir, as I said before, I never underestimate the fears of individuals and would say quite plainly that a time would

come, if it has not already come, when a Barbadian graduate of the University of the West Indies (UWI), a Guyanese and an Antiguan, will each submit a curriculum vitae to a firm, and there is the possibility that the Antiguan, not the Barbadian, will get the job on the basis of the curriculum vitae submitted for whatever reason. That is a fact.

Mr. President, I have colleagues with whom I went to school, whether it was at secondary school or at the University of the West Indies (UWI) who are in England, in the Cayman Islands and in Canada. Those persons have also submitted curricula vitae and have gotten the job, when a Canadian, a Caymanian or an Englishman did not get it. I know that for a fact and that has always happened. Therefore, why try to make the people of Barbados believe that it has not always happened. Why try to make the people of Barbados believe that the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy has created this situation when it is not so, when these people have always moved within the region and have always found jobs across the region and the world because of the skills that they have.

Mr. President, I think it is important to tell the public the truth. The public understands. If I can count the Opposition, maybe what they need to do is to focus on the institutional and implementation issues and not try to score too many points by trying to play on the emotions and fears of the individuals.

Mr. President, I would like to speak to what we are doing in terms of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. There are a number of presentations that I have heard, and not in this Honourable Chamber because here everybody understands the issue of CARICOM Single Market and Economy. I have heard comments where it seems as though individuals do not understand that there is a difference between creating a Single Market and Single Economy and creating a free trade arrangement. They are not one and the same.

Mr. President, what we are seeking to do, ultimately... Let us think about it separately: Single Market, Single Economy, so that issues such as putting mechanisms in place where we monitor skills in Barbados and then only allow individuals who have particular skills to come in. That would not fit within the construct of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The idea is that the entire region should be producing skilled nationals.

Sir, if, for example, I had the good fortune of being young again and I were to go to study in an area which I like and which I was good at, then I graduated from the University of the West Indies (UWI) to find that I could not work in Barbados because the opportunity was not here. We would like graduates of the future or anyone in Barbados

who has a skill, to be able to say not only are there opportunities in Barbados but there are opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda and that they should feel comfortable when coming out of the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Barbados Community College or the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, they should have a brochure of job opportunities or may be able to go on the Internet to find job locations.

Sir, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is about more job opportunities for more people in Barbados. Sir, when we reach that stage, that is where we should be at, instead of graduating and wondering if someone can get a job in Bridgetown, Warrens or Wildey. Instead, one would be thinking either of going to Antigua and Barbuda or to Trinidad and Tobago, or whether or not one would want to stay for six months or for one year. Sir, flexibility is the idea, moving from one country to the other.

Mr. President, further to that, we have to talk of individuals coming to Barbados. We have to look at what we ultimately wish to construct. We wish to construct a Single Market and Single Economy, an environment where in St. Philip, for example, we do not keep track of whether or not if anyone comes there, we would not ask how long that person proposes to stay. We would allow that person to come, to stay and to work and to do whatever he or she wishes. That is the concept of a single market.

Mr. President, I think that Barbadians have to recognise that not only will CARICOM nationals be granted rights within Barbados but that Barbadians will be granted rights in 14 other countries. People will go as of right and not by the permission of any individual or Government official. The Treaty of Chaguaramas is about creating rights for individuals.

Sir, I think one of the things Barbadians have to think about in creating the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, is what is it that we are going to contribute. I know that we have a history of focussing on health care and education for our people. The truth is where we expect Barbados to be at this point is that we should have a significant pool of skilled individuals. We sought to ensure 100 per cent enrollment in primary schools and 100 per cent in secondary schools. We have provided facilities such as the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. We have provided facilities such as the Barbados Vocational Training Board. We have provided facilities for the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Sir, all of these things we have done by successive administrations, in order to prepare our people for this time. What I am beginning to wonder is whether or not all Barbadians have taken advantage of the opportunities that

were there. If we have not, we must reflect on that. We are also in an era where the focus is not on simply doing Caribbean Examination Council examinations and we do not ever have to study again. We have to think about life-long learning.

5.00 p.m.

Do not believe that because individuals went to secondary school, did not gain any CXC certificates or only gained two certificates that they cannot move on to become skilled in the areas in which they are interested because they can go on to become skilled and I hope that businesses in the private sector would seek to set up institutions that make lifelong learning a reality.

I too would like to brush up on my knowledge in certain areas but our institutions tend not to be flexible enough to accommodate persons like myself. We need to be able to do that so that individuals can work and continue to study to improve their skills. Sir, people in other parts of the world are doing this and if we want to continue to be competitive, we have to do this as well.

Mr. President, knowledge can become stale quickly these days because there is access to so much of it. I believe that Barbados has to provide skills to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and this would also mean that we have the ability to go into CARICOM, the hemisphere and the world internationally to compete and make our contribution.

Mr. President, sometimes we do not pay enough attention as we should to Article 46 which falls under Chapter 3 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. There are provisions which deal with the right of establishment which is important because it not only refer to professionals but to persons who have skills. Actually, the right to move within CARICOM and establish your own business is a right already enshrined in the article dealing with the right of establishment. This means that if an individual has a business in construction, joinery or carpentry, they have the right to move and establish that business within the region.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond, would you wind up, please.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Thank you, Mr. President. This must be seen in conjunction with the movement of labour. Sir, there is much work that needs to be done on the Treaty of Chaguaramas in terms of the institutions that must be established. Finally, I must make the point that businesses, the private sector, trade unions, credit unions, teachers and public servants must understand the Treaty of Chaguaramas because it touches and concerns everyone within Barbados and the region.

Therefore, there is a necessity for us to understand what our interests are under the Treaty of Chaguaramas and seek to pursue them in order to shape the agenda, the administrative practices and institutional framework put in place and not simply wait to see what will be done by the CARICOM Secretariat.

Mr. President, I support the Bill and am much obliged to you.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I want to warn at the outset of my contribution to debate that I have a vested interest in the success of this regional enterprise. I have been born in Barbados but believe myself to be a Caribbean national because I attended regional institutions which have shaped and created my outlook and sharpened my resolve in a way that I believe is a great opportunity for Caribbean citizens all over the region to take advantage of opening up of other markets which have been denied to them as a right.

Sir, Senator Eastmond said that this Bill creates the right to seek employment as opposed to going to a country to beg permission from the Government or administrative official to determine whether you can enter the country. It does not create the right to employment but gives Caribbean people the right to go and seek employment.

Sir, at the outset of my contribution, I want to say that if a skilled national from any part of the Caribbean goes to seek employment and successfully does so, it is because there is a need for that person's skill within the particular territory and not because any Government official or politician is doing them a favour.

Mr. President, I have also been a beneficiary of many of the cultural delights of the Caribbean civilisation. I travel to many Caribbean countries to watch cricket. I also go to the various carnivals, conferences and concerts. I sang in the Cavette Chorale when I was at the university which is made up of students from the Cave Hill campus. One of the directors is a Grenadian who has been living here from the time the Cavette Chorale was founded in the 70s and teaches folk songs from every single Caribbean country including Martinique, Guadeloupe and Suriname which the average Barbadian would not learn at school but by understanding the songs and learning the choreography and presenting the songs in Grenada, St. Vincent, Trinidad or Jamaica, we are able to communicate the expression of the Caribbean culture that people do on a daily basis. Mr. President, I remain a firm, unrepentant, iron-clad supporter of the regional enterprise for as long as I live.

Sir, today we were treated to a presentation by Senator Lowe who sought to speak about the differences that exist between Caribbean societies. I want to caution Senator Lowe

that there are more similarities that the people of the Caribbean live in terms of their experiences every day than they are differences. I seek comfort in what the Caribbean civilisation has achieved in the arts, culture, sports, music and scholarships. Sir, there are many faceless unsung heroes of the Caribbean civilisation.

5.10 p.m.

Sir, I speak of Toussaint, Collymore, Lamming, Walcott, Naipaul, Frank Worrell and Kitchener who through cricket and music, if we carefully examine what they did at that time, mirrored the whole concept of nation building in terms of the music Kitchener composed and the way Frank Worrell led the West Indies cricket team at that time.

Sir, I draw the comparison between the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers and the Mighty Sparrow who showed the world the bold and brash nature of the Caribbean personality on the world stage and the resistance movement of Bob Marley and Sir Vivian Richards, one in music and one on the cricket field, showing the world what the cultural traditions of the West Indian people and the mood of the society were at the time, in what they did, the music and the sport of the West Indies.

Sir, the works of Aime Cesaire, Rodney, Beckles, Nettleford, Noel Dexter, Peter Minshall, Tony Cozier, Reds Pereira and Pat Bishop they are all products of the Caribbean civilisation that this Bill seeks to institutionalise. Persons who have come after them must have the right to go about this region and seek employment.

Sir, this has to be the context in which this Bill ought to be discussed, not only here but as responsible persons because when we get on our hobby horse and seek to pander to political interest, we do no good for our people. While I believe that there are serious questions that have to be answered in terms of telling Barbadians what plans there are with respect to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, I do not believe that we should drive fear into the hearts of Barbadians.

Sir, we must look to the past for inspiration but not for relevance. I say that because the early imperatives of integration do not exist now. While we can draw inspiration from what happened before, when we sought to consolidate our internal markets as an instrument of development, we are now looking to consolidate job markets so that we can respond to the challenges of a very hostile economic environment. So, the imperatives of integration as existed then are not the imperatives of today.

Sir, what I want to suggest in my presentation is that we must look beyond the narrow confines of our insularity

and seek comfort in the Caribbean civilisation that exists and the opening up of all the markets as opportunities for all of our people.

Mr. President, Sir Frank Worrell made a comment many years ago, after he retired, that his aim was to see the West Indies moulded from a set of brilliant island individualists into a regional unity and he said that he had done it. That ought to be a lesson to us all of what the Caribbean people can achieve.

Mr. President, Don Lockerbie, the venue assessment expert for the World Cup Cricket 2007, in speaking at the presentation of matches ceremony, said that the bids that he saw from the Caribbean bettered many bids by some people who submitted bids for the Olympics and other international events.

Sir, the fear expressed by some Honourable Senators as for some regional institutions that failed, to my mind, is something that we should understand but we should not act as though we are motivated by fear and cloud ourselves in our own insular garb and believe that Barbados can stand splendidly in isolation and apart from the development that is going on around us.

Sir, I say that because history would teach us that in the 1950s and 1960s when Trinidad, Guyana and Jamaica were doing very well, nobody wanted to associate with smaller territories of the Caribbean. All of them said that if they integrated with the smaller countries in the Caribbean they would become a drain on the economies of special countries like, Guyana and Jamaica.

Mr. President, I remember in my early days at university, there was a cartoon depicted in the *Gleaner* newspaper in Jamaica, where Jamaica was depicted as a pig and each country in the Caribbean was a piglet nursing the breast of that pig to death.

Asides.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Then we had the famous statement made by Eric Williams that one from ten leaves nothing. Sir, his mathematics were incorrect because today the Annual Report of the Central Bank that was laid today shows that growth in the economy in the OECS territories and Barbados far outstrips that of Trinidad, Guyana and Jamaica. All the insular fears of the 1950s, 1960s and the predictions of doom and gloom have come to nothing.

Sir, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy represents a new enterprise and it represents a move from the concept of functional cooperation and harmonisation to go

rather into widening the integration movement by bringing more people on board and deepening the economic relations of the people. Chapter 3 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas speaks specifically of the movement of goods, services, people and capital throughout the region.

Mr. President, this criticism that the Bill does not go wide enough needs to be grounded in an understanding that Article 46, as was pointed out by Senator Eastmond, speaks to the movement of skilled nationals. Article 45 speaks about the movement of all Caribbean nationals and to members giving a commitment that the process ought to be adhered to.

Sir, the reason why these persons are categorised in the Bill and in Article 46 is that the Heads of Government have decided that they would create a framework in which a group of persons would move freely as a means of a first step forward in this deepening integration process. It is important in the concept of our history of Caribbean integration that we reap an early harvest as we move forward into the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, that is why university graduates, media workers, sports persons, artistes and musicians who have the propensity to search beyond their own national market for work have been identified as the persons that we determine should be skilled nationals who should have the right to seek work in any country in the Caribbean.

Mr. President, there are many young persons in Barbados who are learning to play steel pan and I do not think that it would be fair to them as young musicians if they can only play at the national festivals and hotels. This Bill gives them the right to go and seek work with Caribbean countries. I do not believe that this Bill is an ivory tower Bill and gives opportunity only to university graduates. We must be honest in our deliberations and concerns but we must let the people of Barbados know that the movement of a very broad category of person, persons who live and experience Caribbean life and culture every day, would be the best way in which we show the world that we are a very integrated and cohesive society.

Sir, there are differences. Similarly, there are people who live on the Eastern seaport who see themselves different from the people who live in Texas but at the end of the day they are all Americans, but we in the Caribbean have a great habit of, as I have said in this Chamber, creating problems for the solution.

Sir, there is a danger that the individual Caribbean countries will sag under the weight of the pressures of the international economic environment that exists. We saw a

recent example of it with the reduction, by almost 40 per cent, of the price of sugar on the world market.
5.20 p.m.

When I said in another place that we must not rejoice at the collapse of the talks in Cancun, some people said that I was a pro-capitalist. All I was saying is that we should not rejoice when other developing countries, which are not similar to us, broke up the talks and celebrated the collapse of the talks because, at the end of the day the march towards liberalisation will continue and whether we want to be in that band playing the tune or marching, is another question.

We laughed at the United States of America and the EU, but now the EU has responded to the challenge of Brazil, Thailand and Australia, without any consultation with us. Sir, that decision has a very frightening prospect because, not only does it have the ability to make the ACP collapse in terms of us lobbying for giving us a longer time frame to deal with the transitional arrangements that went on in the EU, but the scope for investment, aid and all of the other things that we have continued to plan our development on, are now under threat.

Therefore, our national policy cannot be solely motivated to achieve national targets. Our national policy must be within the context of regional growth. This is why all persons in the Caribbean now have the opportunity to move freely in search of work within the CSME. This is why I would always support a Bill like this.

The fragmentation that exists among Caribbean societies, does not have to be our natural state. Mr. President, I want to quote from Derek Walcott's lecture that he delivered when he received the Nobel Award in Literature, entitled, "The Antilles, the Fragments of An Epic Memory". Sir, to my mind, he made a very useful analogy in that lecture that we can all learn from. He said:

"Break a vase and the love that reassembles the fragments will be stronger than the love which took its symmetry for granted when it was whole. The glue that fixed the pieces is the sealing of its original shape. It is such love that reassembles our African and Asiatic fragments, the cracked heirlooms whose restoration shows its white scars. This gathering of broken pieces is the care and pain of the Antilles and if the pieces are disparate, ill-fitting will continue more pain than the original sculpture. Those icon and sacred vessels taken for granted in their ancestral places. Antillean art is the restoration of our shattered histories, our thread of vocabulary or archipelago becoming a synonym of pieces broken off from our original continent."

Sir, the Caribbean civilisation has also seen the very practical efforts at regional integration at a federal level. Our

history sometimes does not go beyond Columbus, even Independence, but there has been real efforts of federal Governments in the Caribbean that succeeded. I speak of a society of Caribbean people that move from island to island, freely in this country.

I speak specifically about the movement of Caribs in the 16th and 17th Centuries in the West Indian society, in which they assembled communities, the ready political climate of the day, when the Spanish came they moved from island to island they understood how to dodge the French and the Dutch, and they knew how to negotiate with the English. They understood all the hazards of the international economic environment of the day and we could learn from the Caribs.

Sir, in 1664 a number of runaway slaves left Barbados. They went to St. Vincent and St. Lucia. The Governor of the day, Governor Willoughby determined that the survival of the Barbadian economy depended upon the labour, and he could not brook these people going off to St. Vincent and St. Lucia. He said he wanted a meeting with the Chief in St. Vincent within two weeks. He got his meeting.

When he got there, after four days of negotiation, Mr. President, the Caribs said that they would return the slaves in St. Vincent but he had to go to St. Lucia to negotiate with the Chiefs there, but on condition that the British do not settle in St. Vincent. The agreement was made but the British reneged on that agreement. The point is that when the British were laughing because they never intended to honour the agreement, the Carib Chief in St. Vincent told them that this agreement would have to be sanctified by the Chief of Chiefs who resided in Dominica and that they would have to go to St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Grenada and all the Grenadines and all the other islands, take the Chiefs up and go to the Chief to cement that agreement. Sir, that was the first example in the Caribbean society of a federal Government working at its best.

The lesson from that, Sir, is that we in the Caribbean have always had the capacity to work together. It is no sense that we should run cap in hand to the Americans or to the EU or anybody. We have the capacity as Caribbean people, and people of a civilisation of various ancestries to work together to solve the problems of the day.

When I heard Senator Lowe speak this morning, I was reminded of a passage by the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, National Hero of Barbados, because it seems, Senator Stuart, and through you, Mr. President, let me tell the Honourable Members on That Side that since the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow died, the Democratic Labour Party lost sight of a commitment to the regional growth.

When I speak, Sir, about the Caribbean civilisation, coming together to solve their problems I quote Mr. Barrow, in his speech, at the Conference on the Caribbean held in Miami in 1986 when he said:

“It is dehumanising and false to view the Caribbean as a potential American problem. We are peoples with an identity, a culture and a history. The Parliament of Barbados will be 350 years old in 1989 and we do not need lessons in democracy from anyone. However severe the economic difficulties facing the Caribbean, we are a viable functioning society with intellectual and institutional resources to understand and grapple with our problems.

Collectively, we have the resource potential necessary for our continued development and of course we have a heritage of exquisite natural beauty entrusted to us. The Caribbean is after all a civilisation.”

Sir, that statement by our National Hero brings an end to the debate as to where we as a Barbadian society should place ourselves within the context of the Caribbean. It is not a partisan issue. I agree with Senator Eastmond that if the Honourable Members on the Other Side do not disagree with the solution, they should stop finding problems for it. What they should do is to seek to learn the provisions of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and help the Barbadian civil society and by extension, the Caribbean civil society, in understanding their role in terms of forging ahead in these new and uncertain times.

Sir, I want to end my presentation by suggesting that we have an institution in Barbados which, I think, can take advantage of the import of this Bill and that is the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I say that because when we look at the import of this Bill and where we stand as a society in terms of the goals we have committed in terms of our region, I believe the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, properly reconstituted, has the ability to promote, defend and foster the development of the Caribbean civilisation. Promotion of the Caribbean culture, art and sports should be a project taken on by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in terms of creating two or three new channels.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. President, every time you go to the United States of America or England you would see that CNN has three or four channels and that the BBC has three or four channels. I believe that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation by its name alone should take up the mantle of supplying the entire region and the entire Caribbean civilisation wherever they exist with channels showing Caribbean sports, whether it be a secondary school football competition in Trinidad and

Tobago or the Sir Gary Sobers competition here in Barbados.

It should create channels so that we would not have to worry about BET showing rap music all day and our children sitting down watching rap music. Mr. President, I am saying that we should ban the Black Entertainment Channel (BET) and the rap music. We should have the option of seeing Machel Montana, Sizzla from Jamaica, the Jazz Festivals whether it be the Jazz Festival of St. Lucia, the Creole Festival of Dominica or the St. Kitts Music Festival. All of these things are within our grasp as Caribbean people.

Mr. President, there is no need for us to be frightened for our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean. This Bill gives our own people the ability to move around the Caribbean in search of work. If the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is to capture Barbadian culture it can start as the primary institution in Barbados as part of the civil society's role – I am not talking about the Government now, this is not Government policy – in interpreting the provisions of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and in terms of moving the Caribbean Single Market and Economy forward.

Mr. President, in relation to the whole question of labour and the influx of labour I believe that now is the time for Barbados to seriously rethink its development strategies. We have come very far because of education. The Singapore model in terms of what Lee Kuan Yu did in putting more resources into education, especially at the adult education level and the tertiary education level has to be the next place that the Barbadian society must embrace.

The University speaks about creating a society where one university graduate will come out of every household in the next 10 to 15 years. We have to embrace that as a policy of tertiary and adult education so that every Barbadian worker would seek some form of certification so that we could stop the foolish bickering about people coming in here to take Barbadian jobs. I am not saying that everybody should go and do a university degree but every Barbadian worker as a necessity should seek some form of certification to enhance their capacity to work within the environment that is created by the opening up of these markets.

Sir, every day during the school term at three o'clock all the schools are shut down but still we complain that the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic do not have enough space. We need as a civil society – and I am not speaking about the Government but about all the players in the civil society in Barbados – to understand the opportunities that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy present and resolve ourselves to working toward making this country better. I am saying that the whole set of community programmes should start adult

education classes in every endeavour across Barbados so that we would not have to worry about the influx of workers coming here, we would have to worry about trying to keep Barbadians here because the Barbadians who are certified and qualified now have the opportunity to leave and go and spread their wings.

Mr. President, I close this debate by urging Honourable Senators and those within the earshot of this precinct to work with the Government of Barbados in its commitment to the development of all. We have an understanding of where we want to take this place. We are not doing it for personal gratification. We are doing it because it is our goal and it is the mandate the people of Barbados have entrusted to us.

Mr. President, I wholeheartedly support this Bill and urge all Honourable Senators to support it.

I am much obliged to you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.55 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 5.55 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
5.35 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Grant.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Mr. President, I rise to give my support to this Bill which is before this Honourable Chamber. I think that there are times when we should take a non-partisan approach to certain issues. I believe that the discussion of an important Bill such as this, the impact of which will provide for the CARICOM countries to be better able to function in this existing global environment and economic world, is a discussion where we should seek to move away from partisan ways with respect to this Bill.

Mr. President, the establishment of economic blocs is defining international trading relations in a new global environment where emphasis is placed more on market forces. That has been particularly the case since the fall of the Soviet Union and since the end of the Cold War. In this new environment, the emphasis which would have previously been placed on the developmental needs of small developing economies such as economies of the countries

within CARICOM, is no longer regarded with the political and economic importance that it would have been regarded prior to the end of the Cold War.

Mr. President, I make that point because I believe that it is, and I believe Honourable Senators accept that it has become imperative that CARICOM as a trading bloc seek to take the necessary measures to ensure that as we function in this global environment we produce in a manner which will result in economic growth, economic development and a higher standard of living for all CARICOM nationals.

Mr. President, I want to reflect on the fact that CARICOM, with a population of six million people, if one includes Haiti, a total of fourteen million people, CARICOM engages in, I believe it is 0.1 per cent of global trade, with an average per capita of US\$4 700, and including Haiti of US\$4 400, is in the context of the global environment a small trading bloc.

Mr. President, I make that point because I think that it is very important to recognise that the movement of labour, capital, goods and services, represent an integral part of the success of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. and the success of the countries within CARICOM.
6.00 p.m.

I recognise the movement of people does not necessarily become a factor in the Free Trade Area of the Americas. I do believe that we must still be conscious of the FTAA because ensuring that we engage in the efficient movement of people in order to assist in the development of the various sectors within the CARICOM Community will be essential and would assist us in a significant way when we function as CARICOM within the context of the FTAA.

Mr. President, I see the CARICOM Single Market and Economy as providing an opportunity for us to cooperate and collaborate within CARICOM. The point must be made that no single country within CARICOM can effectively compete within the FTAA. Sir, we have the responsibility to institute whatever measures are necessary that we can compete effectively within the context of the FTAA.

Mr. President, I have heard concerns raised about possible influx of labour and discussions on the call-in programmes and street corners about the potential of labour from the less developed countries within CARICOM coming into Barbados and displacing Barbadian workers. I suspect the fear is when labour comes from outside of Barbados, it will compete with Barbadian workers and the lower wages paid to these workers will have some effect on the overall wage level and on our social services in a negative way.

Mr. President, I want to say that while I understand this, I do not think that there is need for us to become overly concerned. The Honourable Leader of Government Business in the introduction of this Bill made reference to the EU and we accept that one cannot simply look at the European Union (EU) and impose what has transpired in the EU into the context of CARICOM. I think there are some important lessons that we can learn. There was an expectation within the EU that there would have been movement of labour from the countries where the economies were not as developed to countries which were rich. There was also concern about Italy's integration into the EU but the fears never came to fruition. The reason relates to the fact that people do not move simply because of financial reasons.

Sir, within the context of the EU it was recognised that persons preferred to stay in their country or move to a territory close to their country but there never was any large movement of labour which impacted in a negative way. I believe this is an important lesson for us because I do not think that persons within CARICOM are necessarily going to move in numbers from one country to another. However, I think that the movement of labour within CARICOM and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy provides the opportunity for effective utilisation of resources within the region.

It is therefore necessary to see the movement of labour within the context of creating a viable opportunity for Caribbean countries within the global environment to take advantage of the opportunities within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Sir, it is important that as we debate the movement of labour, we reflect upon how the economies of CARICOM are structured.

Mr. President, in most CARICOM countries there is continuous decline in the agricultural sector yet the proportion of agriculture as part of GDP is still relatively high. Sir, I speak of Guyana, Dominica, St. Vincent and Belize. In addition, within CARICOM there does not exist a large industrial base. When one looks at the statistics, we recognise that Trinidad & Tobago has a large trade surplus with the rest of CARICOM and this is expected because of the industrial base which exists there but when you look at the CARICOM countries, there is not a large industrial base. 6.10 p.m.

Mr. President, I think that these factors are very important because these issues speak to the need for us to ensure that we take the necessary measures within CARICOM for us to properly utilise our human resources.

Sir, the evidence will show that the services sector is the sector which has the potential for significant growth within CARICOM. A lot of which are driven by tourism. In Barbados we are very experienced within the services

sector. While we have some concern in relation to labour moving into the agriculture and construction sectors, I make the point that there are opportunities which also exist for Barbadians in other areas as well.

Sir, I think that the point must be made that there are many Barbadians who do not wish, for whatever reason, to work in the construction or agriculture sectors. The reality is that those two sectors have benefited significantly by labour from other CARICOM countries. Sir, that point has to be made and accepted.

Mr. President, with reference to the structure of the economies of CARICOM, that reference is made because it is my contention that the structure of the economy reflects, to some extent, how the labour force is constituted and that issue also needs to be discussed.

Mr. President, the debate about the migration of workers, in my view, continually focuses on challenges but I think that we have an obligation to focus on opportunities. Therefore, in the area of the movement of labour within CARICOM, Barbadians also have the opportunity to go outside of Barbados, to take their skills, expertise and knowledge, and to utilise those attributes, not only to their own benefit and to Barbados' but to the benefit of the CARICOM region as a whole.

Sir, we are functioning in a global environment which is fundamentally different to the environment which existed 25 years ago, and we must understand that labour is not a homogeneous commodity. Therefore, one would not see a situation where an unskilled worker could simply engage in skilled work or where an individual who is not properly trained engaging in accounting or legal activity. One would not see, in my view, a situation developing where labour in Barbados would be disadvantaged.

Mr. President, I will make the contention that the movement of labour within the context of CARICOM and specifically with reference to this Bill, that sports persons, musicians and artistes may very well provide a complementary aspect for our existing Barbadian environment. I believe that in the context of the full movement of labour that is very likely to be the outcome.

Sir, we have concentrated on the fact and on the expectation that once labour from outside of Barbados comes in that it will automatically displace Barbadian workers. I see it from a different perspective because I believe that if there are jobs within the country which Barbadians at this time are not desirous of engaging in, by utilising labour from outside of Barbados, we build the specific sectors and we contribute to the overall economy but, at the same time, we may be

complementing the labour force and providing for further development of labour. Sir, I am going to tell you why I say that.

Mr. President, for example, you may have a situation where a person does not want to engage in the agriculture or construction sectors and labourers come from outside of Barbados to facilitate that work, the reality is that would contribute to the economy. Sir, what is happening is, work which of necessity must be done in order to ensure that the economic activity is taking place is being done so that Barbadians shying away from work in the agriculture and construction sectors has resulted in labour coming into Barbados being of benefit to our country as a whole.

Sir, I think that we also have to look at the labour force in the context of skilled and unskilled workers. I believe that Barbados has a large degree of skilled workers. I also believe that the fact that we have a large degree of skilled workers, particularly in the area of services, provides a significant opportunity for us in the development of the services sector in other CARICOM countries. This opportunity of the increase in labour, as I said, complements Barbadian labour. 6.20 p.m.

Mr. President, I also believe that it is important, for us not simply to speak about the movement of labour but it is important that we speak about the productivity of labour. I listened to Senator Lowe when he spoke about the comments with respect to the Barbadian worker, and he talked about shiftless and lazy and lacking in ethics. I do not know where those comments came from because I never heard them.

I believe, Sir, it is important for us to recognise that while the cost of labour in Barbados may be high, that by increasing the productivity of labour, we can decrease the actual cost of labour, because the input cost is a very critical component, even within the context of CARICOM functioning within the FTAA.

Mr. President, I therefore think that it is really important for responsible leaders to ensure that if they are knowledgeable of the fact that there are areas within the labour force which should be improved, they should make that call.

I believe, Mr. President, that productivity of labour is a very important component. I believe that there must be a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. It is my contention, Sir, that the Opposition should not take out of context statements that are made with respect to the labour force. It is my contention, Sir, that we, as a responsible Government would wish that our labour force is able continually to deal with the challenges that will come within the context of a free global

environment. I think that is very important and it is a responsible action.

Many of us in here, I am sure, Mr. President, can highlight various situations which reflect on a fact that in some areas, the level of commitment is not what one would expect.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your time is about to expire, Sir.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Sir, I had the opportunity once to be at one of our ports of entry and I heard an officer speaking to someone from one of the lesser developed countries. I thought to myself, Sir, that the manner in which that person was being dealt with was not appropriate. I also had the opportunity on another occasion, Sir, to be in an establishment where the level of productivity was not where it should have been. I saw it as my responsibility to speak to that and to encourage them that we as a people need to do better.

Mr. President, in closing, I want to say that it is for me, certainly, very necessary to ensure that this Bill passes, not simply within the context of the CSME, but to provide for the continued economic viability, growth and development, not only of Barbados but of the CARICOM countries as a whole, because no one country within CARICOM alone can exist in this new global environment. We all have to work together because, united we stand, divided we will fall.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL: Mr. President, I would like to join with other Senators in supporting the Bill before this Honourable Chamber. This Bill, Sir, is another step in the creation of an economic bloc in this region, designed to maintain our economic independence as well as to continue our national development in a very competitive world economic order.

Sir, unless we recognise the importance of economic blocks, we will never understand globalisation. It is clear, Sir, that the world is moving into blocs. We have seen the European experience and if we are to survive as a Caribbean region, then we have no choice but to create an economic bloc in this part of the free world.

This region, Sir, represents significant economic development. For example, we have seen the expansion of tourism. We have seen the development of the cruise ship business because we, unlike other parts of the world, have warm weather all year round. It is a chance for us to expand this in this region in order to create our economic benefits which would no doubt redound to the success of our Caribbean people.

Mr. President, before I move into the specifics of the Bill, I cannot help but revisit the speech of Senator Lowe, who gave the impression that, obviously home drums beat first and somehow we were about to engage in some less than affirmative action in dealing with our local people.

I want to say to him, Sir, and to the Opposition that there are several Caribbean nationals who have been abroad and who have been beneficiaries of working in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. Sir, because of working in those developed countries, they have been able in no small measure to assist with the development in Barbados.

If I am not wrong, Sir, I believe that about two or three weeks ago, when we were in this same place debating the Accreditation Bill, Senator Lowe confirmed that he also worked and lived in the United States of America. Sir, were it not for the experiences of those Caribbean nationals who have been there and who worked in developed countries, some of whom came back to Barbados and brought their skills with them in order to improve our economic well-being, Sir, we would not have been where we are today.
6.30 p.m.

We have to recognise that in the same way our nationals have moved and relocated to other jurisdictions around the world that the same should apply to our CARICOM brothers and sisters. We should be proud of this. If we believe in diversity, then it is only fair that we should have a diverse Caribbean society where our brothers and sisters can relocate and live with each other.

Sir, I do not want to prolong the point except to say that to take the narrow view that home drums should beat first, would not do justice to the whole economic movement and the whole CARICOM movement towards the freedom of speech in terms of our efforts to remain an economic bloc in this part of the world.

Mr. President, the Bill before us is very clear and I would like to speak to process. It states that a community national has the right to enter and seek employment in Barbados pursuant to Article 46 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. It also makes the point that the community national is permitted to remain in Barbados only on the condition that the community national lives and engages in employment in Barbados. It also states that the Barbados Accreditation Council shall issue a certificate of recognition to every applicant who satisfies the requirements for recognition as a community national. It also goes on to speak to the right of the Council to refuse such recognition. Therefore, if we have a certificate of recognition which is issued to a CARICOM skilled national and there are vacancies in a community country there is absolutely no reason why a CARICOM national should not be afforded the opportunity to work in a CARICOM country.

Mr. President, this will no doubt help us out significantly. When it comes to the issue of work permits, we have at the moment a situation whereby there are job listings posted throughout the Caribbean region, but if we look at Barbados for example there are instances where in Barbados we might have an opportunity where we have a skilled national who can perform a similar job or perform the same position as advertised. What this Bill does now is to allow the national who is recognised under the Act to come forward and apply for that position without having to go through a formal work permit procedure. So whereas in the past the CARICOM skilled national would have had to apply to the Immigration Department for a work permit, the introduction of this Bill negates the application of a work permit for a skilled national which is a very significant departure. This Bill now puts the onus on employers as well to look not only within a particular region but to look throughout the region when they are seeking to recruit non-nationals and this is a very important step. Indeed, it is a major step for CARICOM nationals as we go forward.

Mr. President, we need not fear. It is important that we have an expanded multi-ethnic workforce. We have seen particularly in the United States of America and the United Kingdom where they have a diverse workforce that they have creativity and new knowledge-based industries. There are also expanded wealth institutions and I can go on and on, so there is absolutely no need to fear. I believe that the fear is born out of the fact that the work ethic and the attitude of some Barbadian workers is such in this society that it is creating some concern in the wider community. Sir, if workers continue to do what they have to do and perform well and maintain a positive attitude, then they need not fear.

Mr. President, another advantage of the Bill before us is the fact that we will now have in Barbados an established area of labour. Yes, it is fair to say that we should not discriminate, and that is true. What we are doing is taking a series of steps to ensure that at all times we manage the process and manage the process well. Therefore, there is absolutely nothing preventing any person outside of the definition of the Bill from coming to Barbados or through his employer to apply for a work permit to obtain a job in Barbados.

Mr. President, on this point there has been a lot of talk about a register of migrant workers in Barbados. If one peruses the *Official Gazette* one would note that the Immigration Department is charged with supplying the names and positions of those persons issued with work permits as well as those persons who have been denied work permits. I want to make the point as well that if one looks at the *Official Gazette* one would see that there is a register

published in the *Official Gazette* and maintained by the Immigration Department. If one looks at the latest *Official Gazette* of July 19th one would see the name of the employer, the name of the employee, the date of birth, the nationality, category of employment and the date the permit was issued as well as the date it expires.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, for the record, could you give us the date of that?

SENATOR G. P. I GOODING-EDGHILL: It is July 19th.

Sir, there exists a record of all migrant workers in Barbados, so I do not share the view that we do not have a register. If one also look at Section 12(b) of the Bill one would notice that there is also a requirement for the maintenance of a register of persons in respect of whom qualifying certificates have been issued, amended, revoked or replaced. So I would want to put that issue to rest on this occasion.

Sir, I go on to say that we should not believe that those persons who are issued with work permits in Barbados are not protected. As long as you are issued with a work permit in Barbados, you are required to pay your National Insurance and personal Income Tax if you fall into the Income Tax threshold. Sir, you fall under all the laws of Barbados and therefore there is protection of workers especially those who come to Barbados and work with existing work permits. Sir, there is protection through labour legislation in Barbados, so I do not subscribe to the view that there is no protection for the workers, in particular reference to the Guyanese, who come here and work legally.

Sir, I would also go this far and say that there are employers out there who manage their businesses well and they have clear compensation policies documented. If you have compensation policies out there, then there would certainly be no discrimination in terms of those persons who come to Barbados in search of employment and who obtain legitimate employment in Barbados. There is nothing preventing anyone who is issued with a work permit from joining organised labour as well. So if they join organised labour they would be part of the collective agreement. If they are members of a union or organised labour, then they fall under the same terms and conditions. Sir, in all collective agreements you would find that there is a minimum wage set out by job categories.

Sir, I do not subscribe to the view that there would be wholesale discrimination. I think we need to make informed decisions and we need to set the record straight as it relates to the establishment of labour whether they are persons working under a work permit in Barbados because we would have some persons like the masons, the carpenters and

joiners who will fall under the category of those persons issued with permits and then there will be others who would fall under the existing Bill because they are defined as skilled nationals. I just want to make that point, Mr. President.

6.40 p.m.

Mr. President, I recognise that there are some concerns. There was talk about health care cost and possibly the cost of education. Sir, my view is that if there are persons working in Barbados, and legitimately so, and are paying contributions through the National Insurance Scheme or some other scheme, those persons, like all of us in Barbados who work and pay taxes, should be properly entitled to the benefits under the system. Therefore, there is absolutely nothing wrong. I believe we have to make it very clear to all that those persons who are working and paying taxes in Barbados, ought to be given practically the same benefits as those Barbadians who perform similar roles and pay taxes.

Mr. President, I believe that through this Bill we will continue to witness an expansion of wealth throughout the Caribbean. I believe that as Caribbean people come together and work closely together, we will see an expansion of business. We have seen, for example, insurance companies being headquartered in Barbados and expanding throughout the region. Sir, they have even gone a step further and have gone into the global and international markets, competing on the behalf of Barbados.

Mr. President, I have every faith and confidence that we, as a Caribbean people, as long as we continue to work together and continue to move in the same direction, and that as a group of countries we come together and make the right decision, this region will continue to do well. Sir, the European example is a fine one. There were significant concerns. I remember the English experience when people were concerned and that was almost like a comet, it went away. It never happened and as a Caribbean people, we have to be very vigilant and have to work together in transforming this region into what can be best described as an economic Mecca.

Mr. President, in closing I would want to make the point that this Bill is another step in the creation of an economic bloc for the Caribbean region. I would hope that the Caribbean leaders would continue to work in the same spirit and that they would continue to lead by example. I hope that they would do what is right in the interest of Barbados and the other Caribbean countries. It is important because as the world becomes more competitive, our survival would be unlikely if we do not have guidance and proper leadership.

Mr. President, I am confident that as we continue on our path and as our Prime Minister is given lead responsibility in this sphere, that we will continue to do

well. There are some persons who will not see the benefits of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy at this point in time but in a number of years in the future, they will. Sir, there are some persons who did not see the importance of an ABC Highway in the economic development of a country 10 years ago but today there are calling for overheads. Therefore, it is important that we recognise the importance of vision.

Sir, we, on this Side, are fortunate that we have a Leader who has the vision to take us through such challenging periods and this is one of the areas that we have to address. This will consume a lot of our attention as parliamentarians. It will consume a lot of our attention as we secure our future. This legislation is one step in a series of steps that we have to take, in building a solid foundation for Barbados. We have come a long way, we have done well, but we cannot sit back. We have to do it, even if we have to pull along our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean region in order for them to be able to derive some of the benefits. If we continue along this path, and if we use but one example of tourism in the Caribbean, where year after year we are experiencing growth, except in the case of the September 11, 2001, in the United States of America, but we have seen growth in the Caribbean for tourism. If we can use that as one example where the services sector is growing at a very rapid pace and if we can continue, it will help our other less fortunate CARICOM countries that are not in a position to spend million of dollars in marketing their products. We can have the spinoffs and this is where we now have to use economies of might to help move those along in the Caribbean region so that there can be a spinoff.

Sir, if the economy of Dominica was an economic bloc maybe four or five years ago, I am confident that they perhaps would not be finding themselves in the position in which they are now because they would have been able to gain the spinoffs from the tourism of Jamaica, the Bahamas and Barbados.

We have seen the expansion of Caribbean-based companies, for example, the expansion of Columbian Emeralds at Cave Shepherd. We have seen that company moving into other parts of the region, and we need more of those. We have seen Sandals Resorts Limited in other parts of the region. If we pool our resources together and with the right leadership and appropriate vision, we can maintain our focus and continue as a solid safeguard.

Mr. President, in closing, I would, therefore, want to say that I believe this Bill is timely. It is a step in the right direction and that we have, despite some persons who would want to suggest disquiet in the society but to do our best in promoting this Bill, not only in here but outside of this Parliament, to ensure that our Caribbean brothers and sister could understand the importance of what we are about to do. Sir, as long as we can do a good job in explaining to them,

they will, maybe 10 or 15 years later, look back and say to the leaders who had the vision at the time: "Well done, sons and daughters".

Mr. President, I am much obliged.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, there is no need for me to detain the Senate on this Bill. Senator Eastmond has assured us that the Bill only seeks to codify the movement already existing in the Caribbean by university graduates, sports persons, media persons, artistes and musicians. She has described it as being very conservative. I do not agree with her on many things but I agree with her tonight. I did not agree with her when, about a year ago, she said that Barbados needed no Opposition.

Mr. President, I need to clear up a number of issues that are surfacing in this debate. Whether one is talking about a Free Trade Area or about a Community and Common Market, or a Single Market and Single Economy, one is talking about the integration of the Caribbean and the integration of the people of the Caribbean.

Mr. President, having said that, I am, therefore, allowed to say that on the issue of regional integration over the last 40 years, there is no political party in the entire Caribbean that has as enviable a record as that of the Democratic Labour Party. The Democratic Labour Party has been the forefront, political organisation in trying to integrate this region over the last 40 years. It was by virtue of a letter dated June 27, 1965, written by the late Errol Barrow to Mr. Forbes Burnham, that discussion took place in Barbados in 1965, which led to the establishment of CARIFTA.

Mr. President, it was as a result of the initiatives of the same Errol Barrow and the Democratic Labour Party in 1967, that a conference was held in Barbados at which all of the islands of the Caribbean that subsequently became signatories to the CARIFTA agreement, had contributed to the establishment of that Free Trade association.
6.50 p.m.

It was the Democratic Labour Party under Errol Barrow that spearheaded the establishment of the Caribbean Community and Common Market, the treaty having been signed at Chaguaramas. Barbados was one of four countries and the records would show that it was on the initiative of Errol Barrow and the Democratic Labour Party that the treaty became a reality.

The year before the signing of the CARICOM treaty in 1972, again the Democratic Labour Party committed to the coordination of regional foreign policy, spearheaded the establishment by four CARICOM countries which were then called the MDCs, the more developed countries of the

CARICOM, the establishment of diplomatic relations with our sister republic of Cuba. It was again the Democratic Labour Party in office around 1987 that proposed and saw come into existence an assembly of Caribbean parliamentarians that is to the credit of the then Prime Minister, Mr. Erskine Sandiford, now Sir Lloyd, who at his first CARICOM summit in St. Lucia proposed that to his fellow Heads of Government.

I do not understand what I heard in here today about not being able to understand the Democratic Labour Party's position on regional integration. Our record is unimpeachable and it continues. In that context, I have to applaud my colleague, Senator Lowe, for a sterling speech he made here today in spite of the criticisms made by the Government Side. I warned him that he must be careful when your adversaries are praising you because you are much safer when your adversaries are criticising you because then you have steered clear of the political convergence and you are very much standing on the ground of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. President, having said that there are a few issues which I think I need to briefly address. This Bill deals with the movement of skilled persons into Barbados. Alarms have been raised by the people of Barbados about what all this is likely to mean for the workers of Barbados and for the Barbadian society as a whole. It is true that the Bill is very limited in its scope in terms of those persons who would be moving into Barbados. Senator Eastmond quite rightly said that they are already doing that but this is just codification and formalisation of movement which is already taking place but nervousness about an inrush of immigrants into a country is nothing new in the Caribbean.

Recently I read a speech delivered by the late Dr. Eric Williams at Woodford Square on the night of January 5, 1956, when the Federation was being discussed. He spent quite a lot of time in that speech explaining to the people of Trinidad the issue of the freedom of movement of people in a federal set of arrangements. The same nervousness that exists in Barbados today on this issue, existed in Trinidad & Tobago in the year 1956. Dr. Williams made a point then which has lost none of its relevance even by the passage of time, that the way to frustrate this feared kind of movement is to spread the benefits of development more equitably. There was a fear then that there was going to be an inrush of people from the Leeward and Windward Islands into Trinidad & Tobago and Dr. Williams argued that had the benefits of regional development been spread equitably, the people who lived in Dominica, St. Lucia or St. Vincent would feel no impulse to want to leave their environments to go elsewhere in search of a better life.

Sir, on my way to the Senate today, I heard Senator Griffith made the valid point that one of the challenges

facing the Caribbean today is spreading the benefits of development more equitably so that people would feel comfortable living and working where they are. These same fears surfaced again after the signing of the CARICOM Treaty in 1973 and there is abundant writing by the late William Gilbert Demas who was then the Secretary General of CARICOM on the issue of the freedom of movement of people. Again, the issue surfaced once you talked about establishing a Caribbean Community and Common Market. Sir, the issue is not new and we are only confronting it within the context of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy while, in times past, it was confronted on other issues.

Mr. President, I do not believe that the anxieties being expressed by men and women in Barbados and people across the Caribbean are entirely unjustified. When CARIFTA was established, it had nothing to do with responding to any stimuli from outside of the Caribbean. A federation had just collapsed and from the flying debris of that shattered experiment, a collection of regional visionaries got together to try to piece this region back together.

Sir, when CARICOM was established, it represented no more than a deepening of the CARIFTA experiment but when the Caribbean Single Market and Economy was proposed and the declaration made at Grand Anse, let us remind ourselves that the Caribbean was staring 1992 in the face. The changes that were supposed to take place in Europe in 1992 were, in a sense, intimidating for the people of the region and it was thought that there had to be a regional response to this prospect.

What I find worrying today is that with all the discussion taking place on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, the discussion is taking place about the Caribbean Single Market and Economy but not aimed at the people of the Caribbean. The people of the Caribbean are not being told how their lives will be transformed for the better or how they will be touched and elevated by the establishment of a single market and single economy.

Sir, a local columnist wrote recently that the idea has not yet been sold to the people, the man and woman on the street of Barbados, and there is no indication that on the ground in the Caribbean that people are discussing excitedly the coming into being of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.
7.00 p.m.

Barbados is spearheading, as it was supposed to do as a result of the Heads of Government Meeting at Grand Anse in 1989 having been given to it lead responsibility, and one gets the impression that Barbados is out there pushing and doing everything and the other islands in the

other jurisdictions do not seem to be particularly interested. I hope that after all the jibes and the criticisms that we have heard in here today that the Government realises that this effort is not going to succeed unless the weight of the people's support is thrown fully behind it and it is the Government's obligation to open a genuine dialogue with the people of Barbados and the region, since this Government has the lead responsibility for it, to let the people know how their lives are going to be transformed by the coming into being of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy .

Mr. President, I believe that I may still be young and free enough to be able to say that once one decides to become a suitor, one becomes responsible enough for the preparing of the lunch and one gets the sense that Barbados is the suitor in all this, and other jurisdictions are not excited enough about this whole issue of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, if my perceptions are wrong, I would welcome some clarification from the Honourable Leader of Government Business in his winding up. I should like to be reassured, as, indeed, the people of Barbados would like to be reassured, that this is not a Barbadian experiment with the other jurisdictions not following closely behind. I should like to be assured that my perceptions are wrong that the people of Barbados have not yet clicked into this issue of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, for example, what can we expect to suffer in the Caribbean today from coming into a Caribbean Single Market and Economy? What does that sufferer hear? By sufferer, I mean the unemployed, homeless and socially excluded. If he hears anything at all, it is that we have to meet this deadline of 2005, the deadline set for the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the World Trade Organisation as though we are in some kind of reactive mode to what is happening elsewhere and what we are doing has very little to do with the welfare of the people of the Caribbean. Sir, that is the perception as happened with the Federation because they did not bring the people along with it but for all tactical purposes and discussions between technocrats and politicians at the top it failed and this will fail unless people are fully involved and their interests are clearly articulated.

Mr. President, the question is, who benefits in all of this? When the Treaty of Chaguaramas was signed, Mr. Michael Manley, in his speech, talked about the enlargement of opportunities and a sense of security for the people of the Caribbean, remarks directed at the ordinary women and men in the street.

Sir, Mr. Burnham, in one of the most brilliant speeches, spoke of banning unemployment, ensuring social justice and removing discrimination on the basis either of ethnicity or birth. Dr. Williams spoke of the history of the Caribbean and

basically said that there can be no new dispensation in the Caribbean that does not contemplate the integration of the fragmented economies of the people of the Caribbean, by the people of the Caribbean for the people of the Caribbean. All statements aimed at ordinary men and women in the street who were able to make contact with the changes taking place around them and were, therefore, able to support the efforts of their leaders.

Sir, I am hearing none of that today and I agree with Mr. Hoyos in his column that the technocrats and the politicians seem to have lost the capacity to communicate in a way that ordinary people in the street can benefit. There are no catch phrases or slogans on the streets that capture what the Caribbean Single Market and Economy means or will mean for the people of the Caribbean, ordinary men and women who work in this region.

Mr. President, there is an obligation for us to stop and take stock. Time is not on our side. As I said, we are in a reactive mode trying to meet deadlines which we did not set and that is where the peril is. It is entirely possible that we get to our destination without the people of the region behind us.

I hope that the Government takes this advice in the spirit in which it is given and as a matter of urgency opens a serious dialogue with the masses of the people of this region on the issue of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Mr. President, the language of commerce, buying and selling, does not do it. Sir, to tell someone that he has a larger market in which to shop and sell does not bring people together for purposes of an integration movement but this is classic of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. President, I will never forget the period between 1976 and 1985 when the people of Guyana and Jamaica were consistently, insistently and persistently ridiculed by the then Barbados Labour Party Government because on their shelves could not be found six or eight different types of toothpaste or detergents and that kind of thing. Barbados boasted then and pushed their chest up and said that you can shop in Barbados but because of the socialist experiment in Jamaica and Guyana you could get none of those things.

Sir, the language of buying and selling is second nature to those people in the Barbados Labour Party responsible for the framing of its policies but that is not going to help in building an integration movement. It is not going to establish the kind of community of which I heard Senator Husbands and others speak, that we desire in this region.

Senator Linton talked about being on Mount Pisgah and seeing the promised land of one Caribbean nation.

Mount Pisgah is a good place to be and I too look forward to the day when we could have one Caribbean nation. This region has been beset by fragmentation for most of its history and that fragmentation has been facilitated by the fact that rival metropolitan hubs have pitted all islands of this region one against the other. Of course, people in this region had to wrestle with walking the track of language differences creating their own barriers.

7.10 p.m.

We tend to forget that the Guyana of which we speak – and Senator Linton was right – as recently as 1985, Guyana was talking about a continental destiny, not looking at the Caribbean at all. Guyana was not quintessentially Caribbean until, I believe, at the end of the French Revolutionary wars when it was purchased, the Essequibo, the Berbice and the Demerara, by the British. Trinidad, in the same wars became English, taken from the Spanish, I believe, around the year 1797.

Mr. President, we had our share of fragmentation in this region so that naturally people in the Caribbean think of each other as strangers or aliens. It is still true that the Caribbean Sea, rather than being perceived as linking these islands together, is perceived as separating them from each another. This is a mindset we have to change but we cannot fail it by failing to communicate with the people in whose interest we purport to be working, and on whose behalf our efforts are being made.

Mr. President, as far as this Bill is concerned, there is really nothing that I want to criticise. I think it was correctly characterised by Senator Eastmond. It just formally codifies what already exists, with a very few minor modifications to the procedures that have to be followed. Her speech was wise in this regard that conservative as it is, and although it reflects existing reality, it has still not made contact with the people on the streets in Barbados. Therefore, there is a job of education to be done.

Sir, I am hearing asides which I should not hear, about the Opposition not doing its work, but you know, Mr. President, Barbados has one Government and that Government has to do its work.

Asides.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Barbados has a Government and it has an Opposition. There is no requirement on the part of the Democratic Labour Party, the Opposition, to do the work for the Government. At the end of it all, if this succeeds, you are not going to hear about the collaborative effort between the Government and Opposition, you will hear how great a leader is the Prime Minister and how great a Party is the Barbados Labour Party.

If it fails, let the blame go where it should but our record on regional integration has been unimpeachable over the last 40 years, and we maintain our commitment to the unification of this region and creating a community in the Caribbean where people trust one another and see each another, in spite of nationality, as brothers and sisters in the same struggle to create an authentic regional civilisation that makes its contribution to the treasury of the world civilisation.

Mr. President, it is very important from this standpoint, that at the end of the Cold War, the world became a very uncertain place and serious leadership required that steps be taken to stabilise the politics and economics of this region. We had to do some adjustments. All change begins by taking a step into the unknown, but as Michael Manley also said,

“All human progress begins with the courage to take that step into the unknown.”

Sir, it seems to me that Barbados is showing immense courage in taking this step into the unknown but, as I said, the effort is not without the assistance, support and understanding of the people whom the effort is suppose to benefit. We are not at the end of history. History has now begun.

At the end of the Cold War, a Mr. Francis Cupiano in the United States of America wrote a book called, “The End of History and the Last Man”. All of the battles that were supposed to be fought by mankind came to an end when liberal capitalism defeated socialism, according to him.

Mr. President, that has not turned out to be the case. In fact, a Harvard scholar, Professor Samuel Huntington followed that book shortly afterwards with a book entitled, “The Clash of Civilisation”, in which he argued that even though the Cold War may have been over, religious wars and other cultural wars were going to be in. Therefore, we live in a very uncertain world, and our duty as leaders of people in the Caribbean, out of all this confusion and uncertainty, try to create some kind of coherence for the people of this region that makes them feel secure and that gives some kind of consistency, and determination to their efforts.

Mr. President, as was indicated by my colleague earlier today in what, I repeat, was a sterling speech, I accept what Article 46 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas requires us to do. The legislation is in accordance with the requirements of Article 46 of the Revised Treaty.

We, on This Side have no problems with the legislation and we wish the Government well. I close where I began, a serious job of public education has to be pursued very soon.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I wish to thank all the Senators for their contributions to this debate. Let me first say that I agree with Senator Stuart that our job as leaders is to create coherence among the people of the Caribbean. I wish however to tell him that we will not succeed in doing that by playing on their fears.

Unlike Senator Stuart, when I reflect on the failures of the Federation, I recall that part of the issue there was not that the people were not interested, but certain political leaders played on their fears. They told them, I remember well from one particular country, that those people from the small islands were going to be coming here in droves, as some people are saying now, and they will take away their jobs. This was not the most constructive way to encourage the people to support the issue, because rather than focusing on the benefits which all of them knew could accrue from the Federation, they played on the people's fears because at that time, people from that particular country who were engaged in that strategy, saw themselves as set apart.

History has changed that now, and I fear that we may repeat that if we focus on this negative approach to the issues before us.
7.20 p.m.

Mr. President, I would have thought since the Democratic Labour Party had such an impeccable record in promoting regional integration that when they spearheaded CARIFTA and CARICOM they would have done an educational programme so that all we would need to do now would be to carry the educational programme to achieve the next step. Sir, part of the job has already been done by the Democratic Labour Party in terms of educating the people toward the benefits that could come from integration.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: On a point of elucidation. I need to explain to Senator Griffith that I heard in here today that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is something fundamentally different from a common market or a free trade association. Senator Eastmond said that. Therefore, if that is so, we have done our job already. This is something new and it is the Government's responsibility.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, you will recall that when I introduced this Bill I spoke about the evolutionary process. The Community which was established in 1973 says that:

"The Community shall have the following objectives:

- (a) improved standards of living and work;
- (b) full employment of labour and other factors of production;

- (c) accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development and convergence;
- (d) expansion of trade and economic relations with third States;
- (e) enhanced levels of international competitiveness;
- (f) organisation for increased production of productivity;
- (g) the achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third States and entities of any description;
- (h) enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and economic [foreign] policies; and
- (i) enhanced functional co-operation, including –
 - (i) more efficient operation of common services and activities for the benefit of its people;
 - (ii) accelerated promotion of greater understanding among its peoples and the advancement of a social, cultural and technical development;
 - (iii) intensified activities in areas such as health, education, transportation, telecommunications."

Sir, what has happened since then is that the nine protocols which have been developed and which led to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to carry it to the next stage is indeed an evolutionary process.

All I am saying is that because of the good job the Democratic Labour Party did when it promoted CARIFTA and CARICOM as means of further developing the integration movement that our job is much easier. Therefore, it cannot be as difficult as Senator Stuart perceived.

Sir, what I would say is that it would be a great thing if people, like the economist to whom he referred, would take a little time off and study the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and see the potential benefit that could result from the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and explain it to the people. I fear however that a lot of people who write about it and speak about it have not studied the document, and therefore all they do is to focus on the fears of the people by saying that droves of people will leave where they are and come here and take up the jobs which are scarce at the moment. It would be better if they educate the people.

Sir, unlike some persons who are claiming that the people do not understand, I do not underestimate the people like them. In fact, I suspect that if some of those persons stay out of the picture and allow the people to discuss the issue they may be surprised to see how well the people would get along without them.

Mr. President, I need to respond to a few of the issues which were raised. Let me refer to the issue of exploitation and state categorically that this Administration of which I am part will never condone or encourage any exploitation of migrant workers. We have an interest in protecting migrant workers because we promote schemes through which our workers go abroad and make a living. Barbados has always had a long and distinguished record when it came to good labour practices and this Administration has been part of that. Therefore, we certainly do not condone or support any exploitation of migrant workers.

Mr. President, the Bill before us is very clear. Senator Stuart is right. Article 45 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas says that Member States commit themselves to the goal of the free movement of their nationals within the Community.

Sir, it may appear that Barbados seems to be moving ahead of others, but that is not necessarily true. All of the Member States, including those ones that earlier had said they would be implementing the various pieces of legislation during 2005 to meet the deadline, recommitted themselves to this at the recent Heads of Government meeting, so all of the countries are working in this direction.

We in Barbados hear the discussion in Barbados and therefore we are tempted to presume that only Barbados is talking about it, but it is being discussed in the other member countries as well. They are all working toward the implementation of the legislation by the deadline.

Sir, Senators need not have any fears that Barbados is jumping into something simply because Barbados has the lead role for the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, Article 46 is the one which gives rise to this legislation. It says:

- “1. Without prejudice to the rights recognised and agreed to be accorded by Member States in Articles 32, 33, 37, 38 and 40 among themselves and to Community nationals, Member States have agreed, and undertake as a first step towards achieving the goal set out in Article 45...”

Article 45 is the one that accords the eventual free movement of persons. This is the first step. The Bill is seeking to put this first step into place. As the immigration

movement evolves then there would be a gradual and eventual free movement of people. That is why I was making the point that it is important during this evolution for Member Countries to take a leaf out of the European Union's book and to put in place the necessary regional development fund to ensure that the respective Member Countries are all brought to a certain level of development because that is one of the surest ways if not the surest to prevent people from moving in large numbers from country to country.

This is a matter that has already been proposed by Prime Minister Arthur who has lead responsibility for this matter. He has had several discussions prior to the recent Heads meeting with the international community to solicit support for the development of the Fund because that is vital. Therefore, I am not in any doubt that between now and whatever time we reach that stage where there is to be free movement that those various measures would be put in place. Certainly from what is indicated here there cannot be any large number of persons moving into Barbados. The discussion which is taking place elsewhere is not about these categories of workers.

7.30 p.m.

Mr. President, the discussions that are taking place elsewhere are taking place among people who are saying to the populace that all of these people are leaving their countries and will flock into Barbados and will take away their jobs.

Mr. President, I have heard some of these discussions and will say that I was not impressed by some of my colleague Senators because the discussions I heard on the “Point of Issue” programme were unfortunate and purely emotional. Barbadians are not to think that because we are proposing legislation to allow these categories of persons to come into Barbados, that we are being benevolent to the rest of the region, or that we are doing these great things for our brothers. This is a commitment that all the countries in the region have undertaken and, therefore, Barbadians in these categories will be allowed to move as well.

Sir, all the Member countries have committed themselves to this and, therefore, in the same way that other persons in these categories from other countries will be able to move to Barbados, Barbadians will be able to move elsewhere too.

Mr. President, the reality of the situation is that Barbados stands to benefit from the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy as much as any other country. It is not going to be a one-way street. While it is true that even under the present CARICOM

arrangement, as Senator Lowe said this morning, if one looks at the trade statistics, one would see that Trinidad and Tobago exports more to Barbados than Barbados exports to Trinidad and Tobago, and so there is an imbalance there.

Let us look at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States versus Barbados and one would not see the same imbalance. That is not because there is anything inherently wrong with integration movement, that has to do with other economic issues such as the difference in the exchange rate between the Trinidad dollar versus the Barbados dollar; the difference between the cost of energy in Trinidad versus that of Barbados; and the difference between the cost of labour in Trinidad versus that of Barbados.

What we have to do is to try and find where our niches reside. If one looks at the trade statistics, one would see that whereas Barbados is not able to compete when it comes to primary products, it has done quite well in relation to processed products throughout the region. Therefore, we need to be looking for more opportunities to expand our trade, and those opportunities are there.

Mr. President, Chapter 4 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas follows on from the rights of establishment which are being created in Chapter 3, and the removal of all restrictions that will now prevent companies and individuals from setting up businesses in other countries in the region and having access to that country's resources, including land and capital, which the nationals of those countries would have.

Sir, Chapter 4 deals with the common industrial policies in relation to agriculture and services. We should now be sitting down and looking at that Chapter and identifying the areas where we can take advantage of the opportunities that will exist, so that even if we do not benefit in every area, we need to maximise the areas in which we would benefit. Sir, I am not as pessimistic about the benefits that could accrue to Barbados from the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, I heard people, including Senator Stuart, saying that there is need for an education programme. I agree with that but I do not agree that the Government has not been undertaking programmes to educate the people. We, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, went to every parish in Barbados and held nightly consultations with the farming community. That does not mean that everybody came to the meeting, nor does it mean that each of them has understood to the same extent.

We went from parish to parish, including Princess Margaret, and it is a pity that the Honourable Senator did not know we were at Princess Margaret, where he could have come out and heard how we were trying to enlighten the

farming community about how they would be affected and about the steps which we thought they could take to deal with the competition to which they were likely to be exposed. In addition, we have been supplying them with literature and such things. I am sure that other Ministries have done it but I can speak to what we in the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development have done, in an effort to educate persons as to what are the implications of this movement as we go forward.

Mr. President, I will reply briefly to some issues that were raised by both Senators Chandler and Collymore, when they spoke about the failures that have so far taken place in the region. Sir, there have been failures and there have been numerous successes. I think it would be asking too much if we expect everything to succeed to the same extent. If I take the issue of the food project, it has been a failure and there have been a number of reasons for that, which I would not go into. What I would say is that since then substitutes have been developed.

When I went to the CARICOM meetings in Trinidad and Tobago, one of the items on the agenda was the Regional Agricultural Transformation Programme, which was in progress for some time, and was one of the efforts being made as a result of the failure of that project, to which Senator Chandler spoke. There is also the work being done on the development of the Information Technology System on agriculture. There is work being done by the Caribbean Agriculture Food Safety Authority (CAFSA) and by CROSCU to deal with standards. All of these efforts are being made to achieve the same objectives. Therefore, it is not like that project has failed and there was no effort made. We have to acknowledge that we are dealing with 14 other countries and are talking about human beings and that sometimes with the best of will, things do not always work out as expected.

Mr. President, what is remarkable is that in spite of those failures, the policy makers in the region are still attempting to achieve the objectives by coming up with new ideas, for example, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) ran into some difficulty, in my view, largely because the Member countries did not live up to their promises. When I was there, there was a CARDI Board meeting. Certainly, Barbados gave the commitment that we would have cleared off the arrears which we had and that we would have remained current. Sir, prior to that meeting, we sat with CARDI and worked out a programme of action for Barbados. We are satisfied that if CARDI delivers, we will benefit significantly. That is why when I went to the meeting, having had an agreement from the Minister of Finance before leaving, I was able to say that Barbados would have been taking steps in the shortest possible time to

clear its arrears because we accept that if CARDI is not given the financial resources, it will not be able to deliver.

Mr. President, having sat with the new Executive Director of CARDI and having worked out that programme, I am confident that it is going to take on a new image. I am therefore prepared to leave the past behind and to support the organisation to deliver the research and development that is critical for the forward movement of the region. We cannot go forward as a region without appropriate research and development, and I am sure that Senator Chandler would agree with me on that.

7.40 p.m.

We cannot go forward as a region without appropriate research and development. Sir, there have been failures but persons are still committed to moving the region forward and are looking for new ways of achieving the same objective.

Mr. President, I do not think I need to go on further at this stage. Therefore, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR THE HON. Dame Patricia SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 5 were called and passed.

Clauses 6 – 10 were called and passed.

Clauses 11 – 15 were called and passed.

The First Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

The Second Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

The Third Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

The Fourth Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

The Fifth Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, Madam CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as Caribbean Community (Movement of Skilled Nationals) Act, 2004.

ORDER NO. 3 – FINAL APPROPRIATION (2003-2004) BILL

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I have been advised that this Bill has been certified as a Money Bill. The custom is that it is not debated in the Senate.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Final Appropriation (2003-2004) Act, 2004.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, 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.

7.49 p.m.

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6. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 2003.
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