
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, May 12, 2004, at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir FRED GOLLOP, K.A., J.P. (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 the Senate)

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

Senator the Hon. J. E. D. WILLIAMS, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc., M.B.A., J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of the Civil Service)

Senator I. St. C. LINTON

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

Senator Miss P. E. PARRIS, J.P.

Senator G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL

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

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

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. (Hons.) (UWI)

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

Senator A. C. FIELDS

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

Prayers were led by Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichtlow.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received apologies for the absence of Senators Barker, Grant, Nicholls and Newton.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados National Terminal Company Limited) Order, 2004;
2. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Natural Medicinals Incorporated) Order, 2004;
3. Value Added Tax (Refund) (People's Cathedral) Order, 2004;
4. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Cane Vale Seventh Day Adventist Church) Order, 2004;
5. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police Incorporated) Order, 2004;
6. Valued Added Tax (Refund) (JGL Hotels Limited) Order, 2004;
7. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Carleton Court Holdings Limited) Order, 2004;

8. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Limited for the year ended June 30, 2003;
9. Report on the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2003;
10. Report on the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2003;
11. Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporation (BTII) for the year 2002;
12. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the years, 2000 and 2001;
13. Instrument Adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at its 91st Session held in Geneva, on June 19, 2003;
14. Annual Report of the National Assistance Board for the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002;
15. Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 2004;
16. Special Development Areas (Savoy Properties SRL) Notice, 2004;
17. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Evco Limited) Order, 2004;
18. Value Added Tax (Refund) (United Holy Church of America) (Barbados) (Incorporated) Order, 2004;
19. Annual Report of the Community Legal Services Commission for the year ended March 31, 2003;
20. Annual Report of the Barbados Vocational Training Board for the years, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;
21. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (George Griffith) Order, 2004;
22. Statutory Boards (Pensions) (Pensionable Offices) Order, 2004;
23. Annual Report on the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund for the year 2002;
24. Annual Report on the Severance Payments Scheme for the year 2002;
25. Annual Report on the National Insurance Board for the year 2002;
26. Annual Report on the Unemployment Fund for the year 2002;

27. Financial Statements of the Gymnasium Limited for the year ended March 31, 2000.

28. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Fiton Technologies Corporation) Order, 2004.
11.20 a.m.

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 this day's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

1. The Arts and Sport Promotion Fund Bill, 2004.
2. The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill, 2004.
3. The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

NOTICES OF RESOLUTION

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

1. To approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown for parcels of land situate at Queen Street, Speightstown, in the parish of St. Peter in this Island for the provision of an access to the beach.
2. To approve the grant of a sublease under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 to the Barbados National Trust of the building known as "Arlington House" situate at Speightstown in the parish of St. Peter in this Island to allow the Barbados National Trust to undertake special restoration of the said building.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – THE ARTS AND SPORT PROMOTION FUND BILL, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I wish to draw to the attention of Honourable Senators that the Bill before us is the amended Bill, which has at Section 3.2, the following:

- “(a) an amount of not more than 60 per cent of the monies derived from the revenue generated by the duties charged on lotteries pursuant to section 3 of the Betting and Gaming Duties Act.”

That replaces the section in the earlier circulated document. These amendments were made in the Honourable House when the matter was discussed there.

Mr. President, the matter which engages our attention, deals with two very important aspects or activities which have to do with the development as individuals, as well as the development as a nation. These two areas are sports and the arts.

Mr. President, in many of the developed countries, both areas provide enormous opportunities for individuals to become involved and to make careers by pursuing the areas of their choice.

Mr. President, as a developing country, Barbados has not as yet reached that stage where it is as profitable for people to get involved in these activities but we hope to make significant progress in that direction in the ensuing years. That is the primary objective behind this Bill which we are now discussing.

Mr. President, as you will notice, the Bill makes provision for the funding of activities in the area of sports and the arts. All of us know the difficulty which these two areas of activity encounter every year as the individuals who choose to become involved in these activities seek to get financial support to pursue their particular professions. Therefore, through the establishment of the Fund, the Government is seeking to provide a steady stream of resources to facilitate the development of the sports and the arts.

Mr. President, Honourable Senators would notice from Section 3 of the Bill, it is intended that up to 60 per cent of monies which are collected under the Gaming and Betting Duties Act will go into this Fund. In addition, there is:

- “(b) any monies voted by Parliament for the Fund; and
3. any other monies or property given to, or otherwise acquired by the Fund.”

Mr. President, the Act makes it clear that the Fund is to be managed by the Accountant-General.

- “5. (1) The Fund shall be kept, administered and managed by the Accountant-General under the general control and direction of the Minister.”

11.30 a.m.

A report is to be forwarded by the Attorney-General to the Minister of Finance who has oversight for the Fund. The Ministry is mandated to lay a copy of that report in Parliament on an annual basis. It is clear that the Fund will be properly managed and the managers of the Fund will be held accountable to Parliament.

Sir, as far back as 2001, the Minister of Finance in his Financial and Economic Statement indicated that he was prepared to reduce taxes on gaming and betting by 3 per cent to facilitate the establishment of such a fund provided that the three lotteries operating at that time would be merged into one. Unfortunately, this did not happen because the BCA did not see it fit to become part of the arrangements and opted to go on their own. However, the BOA and BTC were able to come to an agreement in 2001 and the reduced tax now applies to those two lotteries which are now merged into one.

The agreement indicated that the funds would be distributed on the following basis: the BOA will get 36 per cent, the BTC will get 36 per cent, the National Sports Council will get 18 per cent and the remaining 10 per cent to the cultural department. To date, approximately \$1.3 million from the proceeds of the lottery has been collected and paid over to the National Sports Council.

The sports policy which Government enunciated in 2001 sets out a number of objectives which the National Sports Council and other persons responsible for the administration of the policy are expected to pursue. When the policy was developed, it was acknowledged that there were a number of difficulties being experienced by the respective sports associations and that any policy put in place had to take care of those deficiencies in the organisation.

The policies as outlined in that document set the objectives as follows:

- “1. The development and improvement of facilities and venues.”

There is much evidence that this is an ongoing exercise.

- “2. The promotion of fostering of competitive sports.
3. The training and utilisation of proficient sports instructors.
4. The coordination of amateur and professional sports.
5. The development of a healthy and well-disciplined society.

6. The development and stimulation of an appreciation and interest in sports.
7. The achievement of excellence and national prestige.
8. The enhancement of national goodwill and standing within the international community.
9. The promotion and development of sports as an industry and productive sector of the economy."

Sir, we need to pay special attention to this.

- "10. The provision of opportunity for fulfilment of basic social, psychological and physiological needs of the individual.
11. The development of leisure activities among the public at large."

These are some of the objectives which have been settled in the policy document.

In addition, when the National Sports Council was established in 1978, its main objectives were as follows:

- "1. To develop a healthy disciplined and united society through greater participation and better opportunities in sports by all levels of the society.
2. To provide opportunities and facilities for the fulfilment of basic social, psychological and philosophical needs of the individuals, including the physically-challenged and mentally-challenged through sports.
3. To achieve excellence at the highest level in the true spirit of sportsmanship at national, regional and international levels of competition; also,
4. With a view toward enhancing the national image and goodwill."

These are the objectives of the National Sports Council geared towards the development of the individual and country.

Sir, those persons who choose to pursue a career in the area of sports can do so knowing that they have an opportunity of making a relatively decent living within our context. If they choose to embark on the international scene, they should be prepared to take on the degree of competition which exists there. This can only be made

possible if the appropriate funding is provided for the development of the facilities and the programmes which will allow these individuals to reach and achieve the maximum which they are capable of doing.

The National Sports Council starts off by placing emphasis on juniors. They take care of programmes for persons up to age 13 in the respective disciplines. After age 13, the important role of the continuing development of the individual falls to the national associations for the particular discipline.

It is, therefore, important that those associations be strong and well-managed and have adequate funding as well as access to appropriate facilities. This is why in the plans for the further development of the sporting industries in Barbados there is a proposal for the establishment of a secretariat for these associations.

This secretariat will not only provide them with an opportunity to have a place to conduct their meetings but will also assist them in developing their various programmes and organising the respective associations.

11.40 a.m.

There are 61 national associations which are associated with the National Sports Council and they cover a wide range of areas that are well-known to all of us. However, one of their major problems is financing and I heard it being mentioned recently on the radio in a discussion.

Sir, there is a common discussion where these associations lack adequate resources to pursue their particular programmes. It is envisaged that this Fund will improve that situation even if the funding is not capable of eliminating all of their problems but, hopefully, it will eliminate some of them. These associations can now be properly organised, managed and adequately funded.

The National Sports Council also provides assistance to a number of individuals and organisations as they seek to participate in regional, hemispheric and international competitions. Currently, in Barbados, despite our inadequate resources, compared to the more richly endowed countries, we have been able to reap some success in many areas. In fact, if we reflect on what has taken place over the last year we will discover that Barbados did very well in many areas. For example, cricket, on the regional scene is well-known to us. There was some success in shooting, boxing, bodybuilding, swimming, badminton, water skiing, athletics, chess, judo, netball, Special Olympics and archery. These are some of the areas in which Barbadians as individuals did very well.

Sir, because of our small population, we are not talking about a large number of persons but within our context it is a commendable achievement and we would

like to see this success continue so that we could build and expand as time goes on. Therefore, the intention is to use the funds generated through the sources identified in this Bill to create an endowment fund to be able to supervise adequate support to respective agencies and individuals.

Mr. President, when it comes to the arts, this is an area where there are many possibilities for individuals to participate and create careers of their choice. This is also an area where there is scope for improvement but we believe that with resources from the Fund, in the coming years, there will be significant changes taking place.

Government has already indicated its intention to place greater emphasis on the development of the cultural industry. This is a very important area, not only for us but for countries across the world. We speak here largely about activities which will give rise to intellectual property rights for those who get involved in those areas. Sir, this is an aspect that we have in some way neglected. It is now being taken seriously in other countries and we need to move in line.

Sir, when we look at the definition provided by UNESCO on the cultural industries, we will see that there are three broad headings. The first one refers to arts and culture, the second one refers to design and the third one refers to the media. Under arts and culture they refer to the performing, visual, literary arts, photography, craft, libraries, museums, galleries, archives, heritage sights, festivals and song. These are all areas where activities take place around us.

Sir, as individuals go and enjoy the services of those who are involved in the performances but we seldom see these areas as activities in which people can get engaged and make careers as happened in other countries. Therefore, the intention is to take this activity to a higher level where those persons who are so inclined have an opportunity to use their creative talents and reap rewards for so doing.

It is in that context that we have to go to the ultimate by providing the appropriate environment and framework which would allow them to claim copyrights and other intellectual property rights that may exist. In fact, the creative arts industry is a booming industry in many developed countries and it is one which can offer economic opportunities for us as an aspiring country to the categorisation of a small developed country.

In the area of design, we speak about advertising, architecture, the creation of websites, the development of software, graphics, industrial design and fashion. In the media, we speak about digital, software, computer services, film, video, recorded music and publishing. These are all activities which now bring enjoyment to those of us who

attend the respective performances but can create employment opportunities for those persons who have the talent and expertise to perform in these areas.

Therefore, the strategic objective of the Government in using this Fund to support these activities is to ensure that the cultural policy, which is the key component of the country's national development strategy, and to promote the creativity and the participation in the cultural life of the individuals, in order to boost the development of national identity. This is why I make the point that in developing these cultural industries, you must always pay attention to the intellectual property aspect.
11.50 a.m.

When I read the book produced by Dr. Camel Ethris who is currently the Director-General of WIPO, I notice how he speaks about the cultural industries, and the contribution which they can make to the economic development of countries in the more developed countries.

The whole question of intellectual property is an area which extends outside the cultural industries. In my view, we have not attached the kind of significance to this as we should but, of course, when we become more acquainted with the opportunities to protect the work of our people, I imagine that in due course, we will put all the mechanisms that are necessary in place, to ensure that those who labour in these areas reap their full benefit.

Mr. President, imagination feeds progress in the arts. Subjects such as music, painting, sculpture and other works of art are created by individuals who are not content with staying with the old but who instead, seek new ways to express their creative thoughts to develop products which other members of the society, and persons internationally are able to use to their advantage.

It is by encouraging our people at all levels to express themselves and use their creativity that we will bring out the best in them, and allow our country to make the greatest use of our human resources which we have in some abundance.

It is therefore my view that our full support should be given to this Endowment Fund which seeks to provide, as I said, a steady flow of funds for the development of the sports on one hand and the arts on the other, as we seek to harness all of the skills of our people.

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

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I rise to set fourth the Opposition's position on this Bill. Let me begin by saying that any effort, on the part of the Government to enhance the environment for persons who pursue their interests in sports and/or the arts, is an endeavour to be lauded.

I know that there have been some queries about the origin of the Fund. I am not one of those persons particularly troubled by the fact that the Fund is generated as a result of gambling activities, with a purpose of trying to promote positive life qualities and activities among the youth.

I seem to recall a portion of Scripture that talks about garnering the wealth of the wicked to enhance the prosperity of the righteous and sense that this can be seen as a benchmark, a plateau if you will, for such redistribution of activities. I therefore, would rest relatively comfortably in that regard.

Mr. President, I believe that when we think about sports and the arts, we think about an important mechanism in the social structure of the society that when they are twinned successfully can allow for the transformation of the culture of that society, and gives outlets for individuals to magnify the cultural heritage of any given society. The annals of history are well coloured with examples of how sports and the arts serve to build monuments within ancient societies, and promote the goodwill of mankind in that regard.

In this society, Sir, I believe that sporting activities have been used to capture the creative genius of many young people who, perhaps, may not have been able to maximise academic pursuits. Nevertheless, they were able to show a certain degree of creativity that required some intellectual agility that allowed them to promote their skills and competencies, and in turn promote the country and its culture.

When sports, the arts and education are grouped, they become an important basis for the promotion of both the intellectual side and the creative side of learning, that would reflect on the athletic skills of individuals. Perhaps, that is one of the reasons why we on this Side feel reasonably comfortable that the effort to create a Fund to grow our industries in sports and the arts is a worthy pursuit.

I have said every time since I have spoken in this Chamber that the Government has some responsibility to ensure that when a Bill is launched for passage in Both Places, there is a sufficient amount of evidence presented which clearly outlines what the problems are, what the needs are, and what the solutions must be to address those problems and those needs.

12.00 noon

I feel more comfortable when I see a document that is seeking my support on a particular point of discussion having in its bosom some relevant research that suggests to me what we are doing well, what we are seeking to promote and the areas that we must build with vigour to create the kind of continuum that would lend to whatever the

perspective is. In this particular case, I want to explore some issues here.

Mr. President, let me start with the area of sports. I have a keen interest in dealing with sports in Barbados for reasons that perhaps might be marginally immodest. I have an interest in sports because I have a tendency to closely follow someone who has a particular role to play in the development of sports and sports policies in this country.

Mr. President, I am sure you would forgive me if I seem over-anxious or over-ambitious in my pursuit of teasing out, with the greatest level of detail, those issues that would either promote the genius of him who now has responsibility or would promote another consideration of that individual.

Mr. President, we have to ask ourselves what it is the country is seeking to attain through its promotion of sports. Is it just for recreational purposes? Is it just a part of the educational curriculum of primary and secondary schools or is it just to complete or fulfil a requirement that would allow persons along the developmental course of life to have the necessary physical activity to be able to develop into healthy human beings?

Mr. President, as we enter into the world stage and as we become a global player, I would want to believe that we are trying through sports to create an environment where we can produce world-class participants. Jamaica, in spite of its per capita disparity with Barbados, has defined itself as a territory that is promoting sports and has produced outstanding international players in the various sporting disciplines. Recently, St. Kitts has been able to produce a world-class performer. Trinidad and Tobago has produced world-class performers as well.

Mr. President, let me give kudos to our world-class performers Barry Forde, Obadele Thompson and the other rising stars not to be outdone by our national hero Sir Gary Sobers. These are the incentives that should titillate the Government's interest and that should cause Government to recognise that in the bosom of this little State there is a tremendous capacity for sporting excellence and that whatever has to be done should be done not only to improve the systems that administrate sports but to develop the human capital that become so vital to sports itself. Sir, in order to do that, we would have to note some very important things.

Mr. President, what are the challenges in sports today? It is not just the refurbishment or the building of sporting complexes around this country. In many cases, persons in the communities who want to access those sporting complexes that have lights, decent looking and furnished facilities have to go through a significant number of hurdles. By the way, the lights do not come free. I hope the Fund

creates a pool of resources that would give the community an opportunity to access the playing facilities without them having to find \$10 per token to access them, but we will get back to that because that is only part of the challenge.

Mr. President, I passed by one of these sporting complexes the other day and I saw it has an illuminated sign. I thought how fantastic and I asked myself how many persons in the community have become illuminated as a result of the placing of that facility in their community.

Mr. President, I am always accused of not sleeping at nights. I am always getting around here and there in my constituency, the one that I call home and represent so proudly, not officially, of course, and I find in very many cases that the facilities... For example, the one in Inch Marlow that has been there since 2001 has a basement with tremendous capacity, but it still has a dirt floor because we are trying to promote sports only as a physical endeavour not realising that once you have a captive audience you should try to maximise your level of input in the souls, in the bosoms and in the minds of that captive audience.

This is a fantastic opportunity where the Government is going to be injecting up to \$3 million per year into this particular domain, and I want to ask the question what needs to be fixed?

First of all, let us look at some human development issues. Peak performance requires peak physical management. Holistic management involves not only the pursuit of the particular athletic endeavour, whether it is football, cricket or track and field and whatever. That facility should house an apparatus that would allow for total development.

Mr. President, if one goes into one of the newly-fashioned pavilions, one does not usually see a weight room to exercise one's arms and legs. As a matter of fact, a lot of the exercising going on in many of these places is when the gentlemen lift their drinks which, in itself, could detract from the athlete's capacity to perform both on and off the field, so if part of the Fund is intended to create a facility that promotes total human development, then kudos to the Government.

As a matter of fact, total human development in the area of sports not only involves the physical element but also the intellectual elements because athletes have to think while they are performing. One of the deficits in many of the athletes in this country is that they do not bring together their physical abilities and their cognitive strengths when they are performing their tasks on the field.

That is, perhaps, why nowadays football games can be characterised by so much violence and why cricketers can score a 100 runs in one inning and then score five noughts in

the next five innings. That is also, perhaps, why you would find that there is so much contention on and off the field among team members because there is not the kind of injection into their lifestyle that impacts upon how they perform their sporting activities on and off the field, so the whole area of human development is an area of concern for me.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the area of socialisation. Sports, as I said earlier, is an important vehicle in promoting culture. As a matter of fact, I had the honour of living in the United States of America for 16 years or so and I remember watching, observing as well as reading in much of the literature how sports was used as a neutraliser of racial differences. As a matter of fact, it was the only activity where you could bring individuals from across racial lines and give them a central purpose and watch them perform collectively to achieve that purpose, so there is at least some virtue in there relative to socialisation.

Therefore, if the National Sports Council has responsibility for moving the juniors up to a level where they go into secondary school and beyond, then the National Sports Council must have a mandate that speaks to the matter of socialisation among sporting individuals.

12.10 p.m.

Mr. President, it is important that when we talk about socialisation, that we are not talking about inter-racial or inter-gender relations. We are talking about how people perceive themselves within the context of their culture, how they understand the norms of a society, how they work together and grow socially to upkeep the norms of society and become good citizens of the nation. That is what we are talking about and, therefore, I would like to see that the Leader of Government Business would address this issue of how these funds would assist in helping to promote that particular area.

Mr. President, we have spoken about the facilities and wherever we go now we hear about the one-stop shop, where one can go, see the physician or whoever else, pick up the medication, go to another door to find one's groceries, and if one is a fashionable person, one could perhaps go down another door and pick out a good style in a suit or whatever the case might be.

Mr. President, the one place other than the Church in the community and perhaps the school, where individuals gather on the basis of leisure and recreation is the community playing fields with their amenities. Sir, I am beginning to believe that what is driving the placement of these playing fields has nothing to do with the development of these communities. It has more to do with the leveraging of political interest.

That is my view, because if one studies the dynamics of a community... As a matter of fact, before any service is placed into a community, it is advisable that individuals go in and do their exploratory studies to find out where, what and why things are happening in that society. One must study the course of the society. One must see how the society has developed over time and then, one must be willing to put systems in place that are responsive to the needs of the society.

Mr. President, let us look at the management of some of these facilities and at the manner of some of these caretakers. These are persons who have never run to the bathroom or have never kicked a ball. They have no interest in sports but are put there because they are there.

Mr. President, this is not any attempt to marginalise anybody's intentions but the point I am making is that in these sporting facilities, we have individuals who create more conflict than they add value. As a matter of fact, I am going to say this because I have already expressed it. Those individuals are now exercising some degree of preferences that could be politically biased because when certain persons attempt to use these facilities, these caretakers make it very difficult for them so to do.

Mr. President, it is more than that. The fact that we are managing these facilities for the communities and are now putting \$3 million more into the system, I would hope that rather than having to...I have recently tried holding an event at a sporting place, which I will not name. I had to "cough up" \$562 to qualify to use that environment. I had to pay the Sports Council, the Police, the Barbados Association of Musicians and Composers (BAMC), get health certificates and a liquor licence.

Sir, this is no joke and we are supposed to be making it easier for persons. It has to do with the fact that if we are looking to enabling a community to access activities and to engage in sporting development, we have to reduce the hurdles. That is the point and anybody who does not see that, perhaps choose not to see it.

Sir, when there is a youth club in a community that would like to hold a fund-raiser or an activity on the grounds of a sporting complex and, at the same time, that club has to find the money, because the National Sports Council mandates that youth club to produce all receipts to show that it has paid before it could use the facility, Sir, are we really trying to create an environment to propel people into engaging in sporting development, or are we simply trying to create another pool of money designated for sports?

Mr. President, we then go on to performance issues. Sir, I know that perhaps you enjoy a game of cricket at all

levels, and I am sure you would have gone through the same pangs that we have gone through, while observing the West Indies Cricket Team playing during the last several years.

As God is such a gracious God, He has now given us Bangladesh and I am hoping that they would be able to perhaps dash our fears and allow us to regain our confidence in their capacity to be consistent performers. Sir, in recent times a number of the members of the cricket teams on the fields have been Barbadians, and that is of significance to note.

Mr. President, one of the issues is that we cannot seem to get them to put the off-the-field and the on-the-field games together. We seem not to be able to get them to string together a series of informed performances that would give some consistency in the performance of the team. Sir, that is not only there. Let them look at the Inter-School Sports at the high school level and help me to understand the relationship between what is happening on the field and what is happening in the stands, and these are all products from the same environment.

Mr. President, I am saying that if we want to create an environment for performance, we have to inject performance management techniques into those persons. Sir, even the caretakers of the facilities have some degree of responsibility and should be trained to execute it, to add value to the process.

Mr. President, there is the area of discipline and I would like to ask the Honourable Minister how will this Fund create a better opportunity to put in place better systems to create a more complete athlete who could perform on behalf of this country on any stage, and we could be proud not only of that person's behaviour off the field, but also on the field.

Mr. President, it is a part of the package, and sports development in this regard must take into consideration these important elements. Sir, the Fund is supposed to be given to sporting organisations but I would like to ask what has become of clubs? Sir, must clubs continue to go cap-in-hand at the beginning of every season to get sponsorship? I am not a person with much means but from time to time I have had to bleed my own pockets to assist.

Sir, recently a most embarrassing situation has occurred in my area where a primary school team could not even get shirts for their sports day, and they had to be given different colour shirts.

Sir, we have this notion of trickle down, and that once we put it at a certain level, it automatically would get where it needs to get and would penetrate the real areas of needs. That does not work in this society. Often there is a clog somewhere up there that hinders the trickle from getting down.

We have a number of large sporting clubs with talented athletes who would like to know that at the beginning of every season, there would be some kind of support as a result of Government's consideration for the development of sports. Therefore, I am asking what and how would these teams be able to benefit.

12.20 p.m.

Players' insurance is another thing which I hear young people, particularly in football, speak about because young men who are involved in these sports sometimes get their legs broken and must then stay at home or beg. I want to know if part of the thinking of the powers that be is to create an environment where, at least, some of this money is set aside to assist players who have talent but do not have the financial base to move on to another level.

Sir, maybe Spartan and other fine sporting clubs in this country can get money from the private sector but then there are small clubs like the Inch Marlowe Cricket Club, Parish Land Cricket Club and other clubs who need this type of assistance. This weekend I saw a young gentleman, affectionately known as "Airplane", at Sheraton Mall with a group of Under-13 football players who are in a competition and won a game on Saturday. He told me that he could not get any support to help with these young players but every Saturday he somehow finds money to buy lunch and pay transportation in order for them to attend these competitions.

Sir, it makes me anxious that while Government is pronouncing these great policies that persons who need to be directly impacted by them are often left on the outskirts of the policies. Perhaps, this is so because those persons doing the preliminary research do not understand what the issues are relative to the people involved in these activities.

Mr. President, we have basketballers in this country with great talent that could be recruited by any university in the United States of America, but they are playing and practising on cement pavements which will eventually rip their knees apart. Sir, after two or three years their knees are bad, yet we talk about the development of sports and we must address this so that some of these players can achieve a university degree through these sports.

Mr. President, the conditions under which they practise are not good because hard courts have become fashionable and individuals are pounding their muscles and bones on cement pavements which cannot be good nor beneficial in their area of sports. Sir, I want this to be a matter of consideration because we must find a way of twinning sports and education. The United States of America has done it successfully for Afro Americans who are star athletes in the world and who would not have been able to get a university degree if they were recruited for their athletic prowess.

Sir, if this country wants to be a world player, it has to find a way of using sports to be a conduit for many young people whose families do not have the financial means but they can receive the skills to be able to achieve those kinds of exploits. We have to think beyond the ball and boots and about the total development of the individuals.

Sir, if the Bill responds to those challenges, we can see improvement over time because there is the consistent measurement of the impact of the Fund. When the Government says it is going to create a fund to create an outcome, we should be told what mechanisms will be put in place to test whether or not those objectives are being met and what can become the threshold for excellence.

Mr. President, this is important because five years from today, there will be a need to move sports to another level. Sir, someone should collect data and monitor the system so we can know if these things are working or not and for the desired impact to be achieved.

Sir, under human capital development, we must look at lifestyle practices and teach our young people to engage in the most suitable practices to achieve their academic and athletic outcome. We must look at the development of the relationship because I am told that poor performance is linked to conflict in relationship with team members and also outside of the dynamics of the team. There is a team psychologist who seems to enjoy the game more than anything else because he does not understand the impact of that science on the players.

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: I am not offering myself but I am available. Sir, I would like to ask who is doing research, who is informing the Honourable Minister responsible for Sports. I want to know who is giving him the necessary information, who is working out the intricacies of this process, who is informing the State that where it is injecting its funding that it is working and whether or not more monies should be given to the programme. Sir, when the powers that be make their case, they must speak to these particular issues because the public must know about these things.

Mr. President, there is the issue of financial management. We have young athletes who have been thrust into international sports like young Fidel Edwards who practically walked off a grass field in Barbados, is now a formidable fast bowler for the West Indies and is earning well. Is there any system in place relative to the development of sports to teach these young athletes how to manager their resources?

Mr. President, is it not true that if someone comes into financial success without the requisite capacity to

manage his finance that the finance rather than becoming a good can become a vice? Is it not true that once vices begin to develop that they can contaminate the sportsman or sportswoman and, therefore, distract from their capacity to performance at the level... that they would wish to perform at every time on the field. Sir, my admonition is, that that must be part of the structure of what the State wishes to do in that regard.

12.30 p.m.

Mr. President, the injection of the funds is great for sports. On this Side, we believe that any such injection is good for the development of sports. When we seek, not to antagonise the system on its endeavour, we seek to antagonise the Bill to ensure that at the end of the day when we lend our support, we feel satisfied that our queries have been answered because this is the obligation of this Side in this most hallowed Chamber.

We must antagonise issues to get out the truth. If someone, without having the right to speak on this Floor at this time wishes to answer those questions, I am obliged to them because we need answers and the answers must come. It is important that these answers come and come at this time.

Sir, I wish to pay a call to the arts. One of the best ways to promote culture is through arts because arts give the capacity for individuals to be creative in their expression of their identities. If a man believes that at the heart of who he is, is this tremendous transformation of his soul through the virtues of the society, then give that man an opportunity to express that reality and he would teach many of his triumphs as a man *en route* to his destination.

Mr. President, the truth is, when we think of arts in this society there are certain areas of cultural expression that are thriving. Every year we are treated to Crop-Over and we experience some of the greatest talent in music in this country. Sir, what concerns me is that there is no school for the Creating and Performing Arts in this country and yet the doors of the Barbados Community College are being bombarded with students and growing students' needs.

I embrace the point made by a politician recently. Let me give the honourable individual who made a most articulate and strenuous call for the creation of a school for the creative and performing arts. I was most impressed by the degree of authenticity that emanated from that call and the relationship between the reality and the call that was so evident. I can clap hands without the other one when it is necessary and appropriate.

Mr. President, when I heard that presentation I asked myself, who else was listening? If you want to perpetuate the virtues of your culture, you must find an outlet suitable for most individuals who are interested to have the

opportunity to that expression. Cultural agility is the capacity to take one's culture and present it in various forms to be able to sell to the other person who observes, whether they are indigenous or otherwise, that the culture has within its body a story to tell and that story can be told through the presentation of arts performances.

I join that individual, and for those who do not know who it is, you should listen more often in making that call because, in my view, if you have persons coming out of high schools who have an interest in the creative and performing arts, find an outlet for them to pursue their interests. Whether it is a marriage between the public and private sector, it is a matter for the system to work out.

If the private sector wishes to make a contribution, then kudos to the private sector. It is the State's responsibility to charter the course that will give us the opportunity for persons to develop the diversity of areas in the arts, film, production, photography and other forms of art production. The Honourable Minister mentioned a number of them.

Mr. President, we need a place because a lot of our young people are leaving the island to go to other places where they can study and many of them will not come back in haste because they are looking for an opportunity to expand their area of interest.

Sir, we are going to spend \$3 million by putting it in the hands of various organisations. My question is, how is it going to impact upon the development of such a concept, a concept that is shared on the lines of politics? It is a question that should be answered. Therefore, I would also advise that while we seek to channel these funds into the various outlets, please, I urge you, please, I beseech you, to give some consideration of creating an environment that allows our talented young people, who can act and do so many artistic things, a place where they can develop their skills and talents.

Mr. President, to do this, we have to look at what our priorities are and what are the symbols in our society that say we have a commitment to the arts. The National Cultural Foundation? Okay. What else? We hold performances at the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium? Where else? What about the old Empire building? Has anyone passed there recently?

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: A monument of classic architecture. A place where I frolicked at the karate movies.

Mr. President, there had been talk about creating a national symbol. If you visit any city in the United States of America there is some national symbol of the arts. It

is usually in the place where the arts are performed. There has been talk for the last six years about the refurbishment of the Empire Theatre and I would have loved to hear a commitment being made. Perhaps the Honourable Minister would be able to enlighten us, because this building is deteriorating daily.

It is uniquely placed in the City and I believe that if we are serious about the arts, the arts must have a home. Therefore, if there is going to be any funding or thinking about the development and promotion of the arts, there must be a place where the arts can call home, not only in terms of a home for the performance but in terms of the house for the performing of those particular performances.

Mr. President, I have no difficulty with the Bill in terms of its stated intent but I do believe that these areas were areas that were necessary for me to represent as we put our support behind the concept of the Bill.

I am much obliged, Sir.

Her HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, this Bill speaks volumes for a Government of imagination, creativity and feeling, one which recognises that in spite of the importance of sciences and technology in today's world, a country lacking in the arts is arid and less than human. The concept of this Bill is wonderful.
12.40 p.m.

I cannot help using hyperbole, and should do a great deal to help with the development of the arts and sports. As a child and later as a young woman, I knew of the interest which was shown in various forms of culture generally, in schools and in the community in Barbados.

Though that interest may have ebbed at one stage, CARIFESTA in 1981 marked recrudescence of interest and performance in the arts. Indeed, CARIFESTA was one of my most memorable experiences and I have heard people, not only in my age group but much younger, express the same view.

For the purpose of this Debate, I wish to turn my attention to music, dance, and the literary arts, and if I have time, although much has been said already by the Leader and by the last speaker, to sports.

Mr. President, if anyone were to be asked what this world would be like without music, that person would perhaps be unable to articulate, or even find it inconceivable. John Dryden in one of his poems, in a most pointing and lovely stanza begins with the words, "From heavenly harmony this universal frame began," the idea that the world

began with music. Indeed, he says at the end of the poem that it will end with music.

He goes on to pose this question, what passion cannot music raise and quell? He refers specifically to the cello, trumpet, drum, flute, lyre, violins and the organ and their effect on listeners, but oh, what art can teach? What human voice can reach the sacred organ sprays notes inspiring holy love, notes that wing their heavenly waves to mend the choirs above.

This brings me to what I consider to be the state of music in Barbados today, and which some people far better qualified than I, although I have done some teaching in singing and music over the years, also feel.

One might say that it is fairly good and, indeed, generally, there is some good talent around, in terms of performances and in various bands. However, there is room for improvement. There are talented people who are trained, but in some instances, they are only partly trained. It limits what they can do in putting on performances, and in original compositions.

Of course, there are those who are highly talented and qualified, some overseas and others here who have grasped the basics quite well. The very highly qualified ones, I am always a bit afraid of naming people but since these are the obvious ones, like Dr. Christopher Atherley, Janice Millington, Doris Provencal, Hit Spencer, Faith Forde and Peter Mayers and, of course, Victor Pilgrim, the Barbados Community College with their Associate Degree Programme, will help, I think, to provide the foundation.

There are a number of organists who also help to maintain standards and we have a few trained choirs and they are excellent. For instance, there is the Cavite Chorale, St. Michael's Cathedral, the Cecilian Singers, Bel Canto, fairly young but a first class choir, and there are many young people in the Barbados Police Band which is one of the best to be found anywhere in the world. Our Youth Orchestra does us great credit, and in some of our schools there are playing bands.

Piano playing is very popular and it is interesting to observe, I am not getting into any gender debate but that there are more girls than boys who pursue this, probably a ratio of 60 to 40. Conversely, all the keyboard artistes are men, and they seem to lean towards modern music.

Our hope for the future of music lies in the education system. There is a music curriculum for primary schools. They are examined in theory, signing and recorder music and this curriculum is supposed to be for every class in the school. Presently, however, there is a need to train an adequate number of teachers for this purpose. They just are not there and the authorities are giving attention to this

but in the mean time, I think there needs to be a peripatetic type of approach to this situation.

Mr. President, no child should leave school without having been exposed to music, even if one is not going to be a musician. As an adult, everyone should be able to appreciate good music. I still meet students from time to time who come in from overseas and they recall the enjoyment of music, singing at secondary school – I may not say which school.

In addition, I should like to see a Barbadian audience that can discern and be selective in the kind of CDs or DVDs they buy, whether it is calypso, dub, reggae, classical or religious, and from whatever country. This can only be acquired through education at an early stage. Research has also shown that the child who does music performs better at other subjects.

This research even goes further and says that the unborn child who is exposed to classical music is better at sciences and mathematics. When I heard that I said maybe that explained why I was not better, although I did start learning the piano from my mother at a relatively early age.

There are too many people in Barbados who have no hobbies. Hobbies can make one a better person, if they are constructive and elevating. I think a Fund like this could be used to encourage more people to hold events and thus develop an audience which can be more appreciative. I note the radio stations play their part but all cannot be left to them. I think that it might help if the musicians, using some of the Fund, could have competitions among themselves and that might also encourage them to go on and do further training and then, I hope the Fund would assist with sponsorship.

Now, I turn to dance. There are many qualified dance instructors now in Barbados. There are also young ones who have trained overseas. Some are trained locally and they have a good grasp of the basics. There is a teacher at the Barbados Community College who has been trained in the Cuban technique, for instance, and he studied in Jamaica.

Already there are positive results from the classes at the Barbados Community College, and there was a show recently which demonstrated this.

12.50 p.m.

There is another dancer trained in Caribbean folk music. Some were trained in Caribbean folk dance and others in African dance. There are two schools of ballet. I would like to emphasise here that ballet is a basis for all dance, and the dancers who have ballet training stand out. There is a lack of ballet teachers in Barbados. Dance Place has had to bring in one from abroad. I think it is a pity that

more boys do not show more interest in ballet. I think the reasons for that are fairly obvious and so I am not going to mention that, but they do tend to shy away from dance.

Dance, as we all know, gives good posture, carriage, muscular toning and strength. Dance should inspire people to appreciate the beauty of form, movement, grace and the discipline that Senator Dr. Lowe mentioned which is so important in life especially nowadays. As with all arts, it gives us an opportunity for self-expression, which is something Senator Dr. Lowe mentioned, and of course, the opportunity to entertain others.

I think there needs to be greater interest in dance by the general public. Although the future is bright for it to be completely successful, you need an appreciative audience and I do not think it is there. When groups from overseas come in, sometimes the audience is pretty scant. It is felt by some teachers of dance that attaining more funds would help to bring in tutors more often to conduct courses in different forms of dance and at the same time bring in more dance groups of international repute.

Sir, advanced training for advanced dancers is also needed. The Barbados Dance Theatre gives scholarships and Government has helped to send people overseas. I hope that as a result of this Fund more people would be able to further their studies abroad in order to create an environment in which music and dance will continue to flourish and to have a competitive edge and to ensure the continuity of what is good. In this regard, perhaps the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) could help by showing more of the tapes of dance in Barbados and also to obtain videos of world-class dance groups. I believe that CBC will rise to this challenge superbly as they have done before in other areas.

Mr. President, the literary arts is in a fairly good state although opinion on it is divided, however interest is there. There is the voices group which meets at the Museum. The National Cultural Foundation has reading sessions on Sundays and I understand that these have become very popular. It has been going on now for about three years in the various parishes where they read poetry and prose and there is an open night session which has also found great favour. The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, along with the English major course offers two classes in creative writing which are optional, but they are well subscribed.

They also hold summer workshops at which visiting artistes lecture. We have had such distinguished ones as Lawrence Scott and Earl Lovelace. The Frank Collymore Literary Endowment Committee has sponsored one or two writers. Dr. Richard Allsopp has described the purpose and activities of the Literary Endowment Committee as being unique. It is one of three such committees in the Caribbean.

It has been conceptualised and set up by the Central Bank of Barbados.

As some Honourable Senators may know, it is to perpetuate the name of Frank Collymore. It is promoting excellence, encouraging literary artists and awarding valuable prizes thereby drawing winners to the attention of publishers. I happen to have the honour of being a member of that committee and it is really doing good work. There are some accomplished writers who have won prizes, among them are Esther Phillips, Margaret Gill, Claire Ince, Winston Farrell, James Carmichael and Tom Cross.

Mr. President, drama is a difficult area. NIFCA has a good record of widening the approach to culture. NIFCA is playing an important part in exciting interest by grown-ups and children and producing some excellent performances. The standards for NIFCA are high and material of an international standard is required. I think NIFCA is a good way of encouraging the development and creativity in the arts. Furthermore there is attention to different age groups.

Mr. President, I should like to touch on a rather delicate matter here by saying that our African heritage should not be forgotten even though I do believe in the universality of the arts. I think that in any interpretation children must not be given the impression that the African culture is corporeal. I think Senator Crichlow mentioned that when he talked about below the waist, but I think that is something we should remember.

Mr. President, in the little time I have left, I want to touch on sports. I think as everybody knows nowadays, to quote that programme with apologies to Janette Layne-Clark, that I am mad about sports. Over the years I have spoken about it at length in this Honourable Chamber. I am very happy that this Fund would also benefit sports.

It can do so in many ways such as the construction of new facilities and improvement of existing ones, to provide training for coaches generally and athletes in various sporting disciplines and to give assistance to organisations and individuals to participate in regional and international events. Such exposure is invaluable for our athletes to improve their skills and techniques.

It would also assist in developing new programmes for the benefit of our sportsmen and sportswomen and would assist the national organisations to improve their administrative capabilities. I think that this Fund would encourage more youth to be involved in sporting activities which would have an effect on some of the anti-social behaviour which is shown by some of our youth.

There are a large number of national associations with approved status under the Betting and Gaming Act. Cricket, football, basketball and cycling are the most popular games

played in Barbados. I would hope that the Fund would encourage new developments, new talents and new faces and not only or merely those who have already made a name for themselves. Generally speaking, it would help to maintain and raise standards.

Mr. President, I know that the question of intellectual property has been well-presented to see sports and the arts as an industry, so I am not going to go into that. Therefore, it is with the greatest pleasure that I support this Bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.
1.00 p.m.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for one hour until 2.00 p.m.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, the Bill outlines very carefully the purposes of the Fund, the resources of the Fund and lotteries. It explains very carefully the administration and management of the Fund to be created. It outlines the respective roles of the Accountant-General, the Auditor-General and the Minister.

Mr. President, as you know, many persons are attracted to gambling, which can involve very large sums of money. Therefore, the tight financial controls and the strict reporting requirements of the Act are to be highly commended in the interest of the public.

Sir, previous Senators have commented on the objectives of the Fund, and they are all very noble in terms of arts and sports. Therefore, in my presentation, I do not want to go over that ground but to focus more on the operators of those gaming and betting establishments. I think the public would be interested in getting answers to some of the questions that I am about to ask.

Mr. President, are all operators of lotteries licensed under the Gambling Act, the Betting and Gaming Duties Act or some other enabling legislation? Sir, for the purposes of this Act, are they all approved national organisations? How is compliance with the legislation checked and enforced? Are all operators subject to the same tight financial controls and strict reporting requirements? Do such requirements and appropriate rules of inspection also apply to all operators of gaming machines?

Mr. President, as I read this Act, and I speak subject to correction, we are dealing with lotteries, which as I understand, are games we see on television, with the numbered ping pong balls getting into position to determine what the numbers are, or games that are being announced on the radio. Does this Act also apply to gaming machines? Sir, I know that in other countries, licences to gaming machines have to be rigidly inspected frequently.

The licence determines the percentage of what is taken in that must be paid out, but unless there are other strong services, both to check that the pay out is in accordance with the licence and secondly that the machines are working properly, whether they are mechanical or electronic, there is room for manipulation. I am not suggesting anything, neither am I implying anything improper. I am just aware of how the system can be manipulated.

Mr. President, my concern is with the establishment of a fund and wanting the maximum amount of money in accordance with the Law to be transferred to the Fund for all the very good purposes that have been announced today. Therefore, I do not want to see any licensed operator of lotteries or gaming establishment – arcades or however else they are described – taking advantage of a system, exploiting the public, and depriving people from the maximum development of the arts and sports. That is my concern.

Mr. President, betting and gaming can become as addictive as alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, heroin and other drugs. Therefore, has any independent cost benefit study on gaming and betting in Barbados ever been undertaken, particularly in terms of their social costs, as well as their economic benefits?

Mr. President, we have spoken of the economic benefits, and I am not challenging that. There are tremendous economic benefits in sports and arts, which are especially directed towards the youth. Those benefits are to be applauded and maximised wherever possible but there is also a social cost that is associated with gaming and betting.

Mr. President, I remember up to some years ago, occasionally when I was getting gas at a service station, I would have got \$10 and bought a Quick-Pick, taken it home and would have presented it to my wife. I would have listened to her that evening telling me about how she was going to spend all of that money which she was going to win.

2.10 p.m.

This was good fun and I enjoyed it as one of the lighter moments. Sir, I stopped buying Quick Pick after a while when I recognised that people were buying from \$60 to \$100

at one time. I wondered if they could really afford to spend all this money when I suspect that many would have children at home deprived of books or school uniforms.

Mr. President, in that sense, I think we need to assess not only the economic benefits which we can measure but also the social cost and come to an informed opinion whether the society is better off or whether there is need for more control on these operations.

Sir, a licence to carry on betting and gaming is considered by many to be a licence to print money. Hence, the public has a right to expect high levels of accountability and transparency in all operations of betting and gaming and nothing else would suffice.

Mr. President, I recognise the importance of arts and sports to Barbados because it is very much ingrained into our culture and psyche. I support this Bill and I trust that the same high administration and management standard that it imposes on the new Arts and Sport Promotion Fund would also be rigorously applied to all persons licensed to operate under the Gambling Act, the Betting and Gaming Act or any another similar legislation.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Mr. President, I rise to give my support to the establishment of a fund to aid in the development of arts and sports promotion in Barbados. I also want to endorse the statement shared by previous Senators concerning the work that has been done in arts and sports and the long history with which the Barbados Government can be proud in terms of what it has done to facilitate the development of arts and sports among our young people.

I too wish we had the opportunity to be able to do more to take our arts and sports, develop it to the highest level and to pour the types of revenue into that area that it so richly deserves. I know that the reality of a small economy like Barbados does not allow for that type of input that we would like and that Government has the opportunity merely to act as a catalyst to develop the foundation and let the other social forces within the economy move it to its ultimate end.

Sir, I see the development of arts, culture and sports as something that requires the entire community to be involved in so as to maximise the benefit to the nation. Sir, human beings are endowed with various types of intelligence whether kinesthetic, academic or technical. I am happy about the change over the years from viewing sports and dance talents as having no meaningful value. We constantly tell our children to focus on academic and that the other things have no value.

Mr. President, I grew up in a time hearing that these things were not important and that people with bright minds did not have to pay attention to kinesthetics or technical intelligence. Persons who excelled in that area were often sidelined and felt they were less than others and, therefore, were not able to take the skill and develop it.

Mr. President, over the years through tremendous effort, we have been able to bring the value of sports and arts to another level where there is better appreciation within the community for these activities. Sir, this is important for the building of self-esteem and the celebration of the expression of what is within our people.

Sir, these talents and gifts also have the capacity for creative commercialisation. This means we can take those skills, arts and expressions to their ultimate level in which it can find appreciation by others and through them earn tremendous income.

Unfortunately, in Barbados our economy is not as highly developed to be able to support art, culture and sports in the way that it is done in other countries. This is why it is necessary to look not only at the local economy for support but at how we can export this culture in all forms so that it can find its rightful place in the world.

Sir, the investment of funds such as these into the promotion of arts and sports is a start. We need first of all to provide the opportunity for every Barbadian who has that talent to take it to its ultimate level so that he can meet world standards.

The second part of the effort has to do with the mindset of our citizens because the effective commercialisation of arts and sports requires support of all citizens to make it a reality. For example, if we are not able to get the various companies that have large investments like insurance companies and banks to see the commercial value behind arts and sports to see that they can make do with the effective marketing then arts and sports will not reach the level it can.

We gave to get parents to support their children in the development of their talents because when you speak to young musicians and artists they tell you of their despair when they are not supported by the elders in their communities. Sir, it is only with the greatest determination and the desire to see their potential emerge that this power helped them to be excellent and to withstand the conflict which they experienced. Sir, if we are to take arts and sports to its ultimate level, there must be a change in the mindset and attitude of our citizens.

Sir, other Senators have already outlined some of the key areas in which we have an advantage in terms of culture, arts and sports.
2.20 p.m.

Sir, road tennis is a sport that keeps you in good physical condition and I enjoy playing it from time to time. Road tennis is more than an enjoyable sport. It has commercial potential and it is a sport that has been developed by Barbadians.

Mr. President, cricket was commercial by simply standardising the practice, rules, et cetera. The bat was made from any kind of wood but by stipulating that the bat must be made from willow wood, it immediately created a market for the persons who have willow wood to sell and those who have the ability to make bats. In addition, by standardising the pads and what material they should be made of, it created commercial activity.

I believe that there is tremendous value in road tennis and we must not let the opportunity get away from us. We need to establish rules, standardise the bat, protective and sports gear. By doing these things, we create the commercial activity and intellectual capital.

Mr. President, it would be a good idea if investors in our country could see the commercial potential that is in road tennis and seize the opportunity. For the benefit for those who are not aware, road tennis is now being played across the world. There are several road tennis associations across America and Europe because the game is being actively promoted in those countries and if we do not move to capitalise on the commercial value now, somebody else will move in, take it and get the benefit out of something that we have created. I do not believe we should allow that to happen. Sir, I believe that the application of these funds to the arts and sports promotion of this opportunity would see how we can commercialise road tennis.

There is another area I think we have not celebrated as we should and that relates to Suki King. Sir, when we are listing the top sports people in Barbados, we forget that the world draught player is a Barbadian. He is a gentleman who has to work too hard to raise the necessary funding to enable him to participate in competition. Mr. President, he has brought so much credit to our nation and I would like to see a greater celebration and support of him so that he can again become the world champion and bring honour and credit to Barbados.

Mr. President, unless we change the mindset of Barbadians, it is going to be impossible to reap the full benefits of commercial activities in the area of arts and culture. For example, Pelican Village. How many Barbadians think about going there to purchase gifts at Christmas, birthdays or corporate occasions? Do we think of the value of promoting that and seeing the importance of it? Unfortunately, not enough emphasis is being placed on it. Therefore, Barbadians do not have the appreciation for art and handicraft.

I think if that appreciation were there, what we could see is the ability of people to buy good art on credit. We have some wonderful artists who are wedded to their art and do not like to take a copy of their art to sell to a tourist who wants to spend \$10. They want to sell quality art but the opportunity for the local Barbadian to surround himself with this is not there. We need the opportunity where people can get credit and be able to surround themselves with local art.

Mr. President, when I think of photography and graphic, there are two areas I have been promoting especially when I speak to educators and artistes. There is a tremendous need across the developing world for images that reflect our lives. Whenever I go on a computer to work and I want to use clip art, I am forced to use clip art that does not reflect our culture. Therefore, it cannot capture the essence of what I wish to say. I believe there is a tremendous commercial opportunity for photographers and graphic artistes to begin to develop CDs that provide people in our part of the world with the images that reflect our lives.

I also believe that there are people who have the skill, ability and talent for the art but very often they do not have the business know-how to commercialise it. Unfortunately, they lack business sense. The artists always try to be their own marketer, manager and accountant and because they may not always be entrepreneurial, they are not able to take the skill and commercialise it properly. Sir, those persons who do not have the accounting and marketing skills are unable to see the opportunities to marry sports and arts with their talents and commercialise the activity. I would like to see a more rigorous and deliberate attempt to create that marriage between our art, entrepreneurial and managerial skill.

Mr. President, I believe that these alliances are critical in our educational material, for example, Edutech. I am very excited about our Edutech programme and what it can do for the country. Unless we begin to develop educational material that comes from our area, eventually we would just swallow information coming from outside of our borders.

Sir, I believe that teachers and the artistes can work together to develop local material to support lessons in Literature, English, Sociology, Geography and History. This material can be used in activity and poetry books to begin to immerse our young people in the culture. If we are able to do that, we would build an appreciation for the value of our art, culture and sports. When those young people become adults, it would be natural for them to support it. It would be natural for them to buy it and prefer the local material over that which is imported.

I would highly recommend that we look at the commercialisation of our art, culture and sports. We must look at effective mechanisms that will help us to take it to the next level.

Mr. President, we at the Small Business Association have been seeking to help people to bring good business skill to a talent. I would love to see somewhere in the plan for the use of these funds that some effort would be made to help with the marketing, the promotion and commercialisation of our arts and sports for the benefit of our young people, who would be participating in it and for the enjoyment and growth of the society and for the development of the Barbados economy.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE VERY REVEREND H. E. CRICHLLOW: Mr. President, I was invited to the Gambling Commission some years ago, Senator Dame Patricia was also a member of that Committee, and we looked at various aspects of gambling. We found that the majority of the people from whom we received information stated that the majority of Barbadians prefer to engage in gambling activities as their form of recreation.
2.30 p.m.

When it was decided that this should continue, we thought mainly in terms of the money going to help with the development of sports, and I see the arts are added, so that the Bill is not strange to me. I wondered why it took so long.

Sir, I am not going to speak on it from that aspect. What I want to say is I think that although a Government should have an oversight of culture, sports and especially the arts, I think it should be left to the people to organise them. I say this mainly in connection with the annual Crop-Over Festival. Every year, almost, a few months before Crop Over, there is an uncertainty about the festival.

The event has grown very much in the last few years that people look forward to it and they plan for it, sometimes a year in advance. I think it is really unfair to them to be so uncertain that it will come off, or whether they would be able to enjoy themselves.

As we go along, I am sure it is going to become very political. I think it would be a pity for it to be political, in the sense of partisan politics, and this applies to whatever Party is in office. I am not here interested in any particular Party. I am just saying that when things become political, then they are spoilt and I think we should keep the recreation separate from our politics.

Although I think that the Ministry under which this goes should help in any way it can to support the efforts of those in several areas who contribute to this festival, I do not think that the Government should have such a high profile. Sir, because of the nature of Party politics, the festival could be sabotaged in any one year. I hope that as we go along, we will be able to get this above Party

politics and so, people will be sure that Crop-Over will take place every year.

Sir, with the talks that are going on between the NCF and the various contributors, in the end, a political decision will be made and so, the particular Party in office, the Government will be blamed if it falls apart and it will be cheered if it succeeds, and I do not think it should be left to that kind of uncertainty.

I really feel that people should be allowed to get on with the planning of the Festival, and know that every Government, whatever administration it is, will be willing to support them, if they should find it difficult to put on the Festival.

Every year I am having the same experience of disappointment about the cloud of uncertainty that hangs over this very important event, for most of our people here and abroad.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL: Mr. President, I rise to join other Honourable Senators in supporting the Bill before this august body. It is true to say that the Barbados Labour Party has done a great deal for the development of sports in Barbados and, indeed, the arts. One only has to go back to 1978 when the Barbados Labour Party Administration established the National Sports Council, which was obviously designed to develop an active, healthy and fit society through sports and other physical activities. It is within this context therefore, that the Democratic Labour Party, through its principal Opposition spokesperson on this issue, should not seek to distort the record.

The Barbados Labour Party has done more for sports, than any other political Administration in Barbados. The Bill before the Chamber is just another opportunity, certainly another Manifesto commitment, Sir, in a series of measures that the Barbados Labour Party pledged to this society and for which the electorate, overwhelmingly returned the Barbados Labour Party for an unprecedented third consecutive term.

The fact of the matter is that the issues we have to deal with in this Bill, the development of sports in Barbados, have to be looked at not only in a narrow sense but in a holistic one. The fact of the matter, Sir, is cited in Clause 4 of the Bill, and I quote:

“4. The purposes of the Fund are, in accordance with the prescribed criteria, to help finance

- (a) programmes and activities conducted by arts organisations and sporting organisations for the development of the arts and sport;

- (b) the practice of the arts and sport generally, in Barbados.”

Sir, it should be established that the Bill makes it clear that the Barbados Labour Party is setting out a comprehensive programme to further develop sports and arts in Barbados. It is true and the Leader of Government Business alluded to it earlier, that the whole arts and sports industry is a substantial industry in other major developed societies, and it is important that we recognise this area as one of great economic fortune and gain for Barbados. The benefits are numerous.

Sir, once fully developed, and with the help of organisations pooling resources together to secure additional resources for the Fund, it is clear that we will have an opportunity to create that industry. We will also have an opportunity to allow our sportsmen and sportswomen to go abroad, gain scholarships and come back and impart their training and lend to the further development of the industry.

It is anticipated through the Fund that we would yield approximately \$1 million a year, but it is important we recognise that the Fund is specifically geared towards development of athletes and the arts, and not to engage in any capital or infrastructural work and that needs to be made clear.

Sir, the Opposition's charge that we are perhaps suggesting we will be using the Funds to build sporting facilities, is not true. This still remains the plank of the Government's agenda, in terms of transforming its sport and other recreational activities throughout Barbados.

It is a fact that not only did the Barbados Labour Party establish the National Sports Council in 1978 but it is also engaged, Mr. President, in perhaps the largest expansion of community recreational facilities never seen before in Barbados, and a further expansion of knowledge-based learning, through community centres, now fully outfitted with computers, and offering Internet access...
2.40 p.m.

So it is untrue to say that the recreational centres and the community programmes that we have in place would not benefit the communities. In relation to the use of the sporting facilities, it is generally accepted that we would have to outfit them appropriately and maintain them.

Mr. President, the National Sports Council has done a tremendous job thus far in terms of developing sportsmen and women in Barbados and the additional funds through the amalgamation of funds from the lotteries will help a lot with these programmes. Indeed, I should point out that the National Sports Council will be managing the Fund. If you

have clear accountability, you would have a series of programmes presented to the organisations.

Sir, when one looks at the programme of the National Sports Council, one would recognise that the funds would be used on a phased basis. For example, the funds that are going to be used for the development of sports will be disbursed in order of priority, but all of the sporting organisations would have an opportunity to gain substantially from the funds as created.

Sir, I do not intend to be long. I just want to make the point that the National Sports Council has done a tremendous job for us. It is the entity charged with managing the funds that are to be disbursed, and therefore we need not worry about how the funds are going to be disbursed. We should also recognise that additional funds in the form of an administrative grant would be put in place to help with the administrative tasks. Sir, we need not worry about the accountability of the funds as this is made clear at section 5(1) of the Bill which states that:

“The Fund shall be kept, administered and managed by the Accountant-General under the general control and direction of the Minister.”

One could not want any clearer, more transparent operation and management of the Fund.

Mr. President, I want to add my support to this Bill. I think many Barbadians would welcome it because it goes back to a clarion call which the people made years ago for a fund to be created to help with the development of sports.

With respect to the arts, it is important. In one of the Manifestos of the Barbados Labour Party, which I believe is a document of the House, mention was made of the Empire Theatre Building. There is also a very clear programme documented in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto which speaks to the development of the arts as well, so I am not going to prolong the Chamber except to say that I welcome this Bill as it would help to propel the work of the National Sports Council in developing our sports ambassadors.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Mr. President, I too would be brief in the comments I make. However, unlike both of the other speakers, I have some reservations about this effort. Presently, financing for the development of arts and sports is the business of the Government with the exception of the arrangements with the lotteries where some of the proceeds of the lotteries would be given to sporting organisations by the administrators of those lotteries.

My reservation lies with the fact that the only new provision is at clause 39(c) which states that:

“any other moneys or property given to, or otherwise acquired by, the Fund.”

I am concerned, according to the draft Bill, that the Fund is to be administered and managed by the Accountant-General subject always to the authority of the Minister.

I believe that if you are breaking new ground, there should be a mechanism for managing this Fund apart from the Accountant-General who is doing the accounting, devising the policy and ensuring that those policies are followed. If 60 per cent of the money is derived from revenue, that money is already being collected, therefore it is not new money. That money is part of what should be going into the revenue in the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. President, it would be interesting to know what level of collection there has been since the lotteries were combined into the Barbados Lotteries so that we would have some indication of the sort of contribution to the Fund that would come from this source. The Barbados Cricket Association has its own lottery, but there should be some estimation of the kinds of revenue that have been derived from that source since its establishment.

Mr. President, if no institutional mechanism is in place, I am afraid that the Fund would not be viable unless there is a vigorous promotion of the Fund, so a third element of resources which is any other monies or property given to, or otherwise acquired by, the Fund, would be pursued to ensure that there is adequate funding of the resources for the Fund.

What I am really saying is that already the two sources mentioned, A and B, are really within the authority of the Government and that the Government is collecting these monies from the lotteries and could allocate 60 per cent or 100 per cent. Government votes money for sports and arts which does not specifically go into a fund called a sports promotion fund, so the only new source of resources will be monies given to or otherwise acquired by the Fund. I believe this should be pursued vigorously by some authority, not by the Minister or the Accountant-General.

Mr. President, if the Government is given dedicated contributions to the Fund from the lotteries, is this likely to affect the voluntary or other contributions which the promoters of the lotteries and the operators of the lotteries would be making to the same fund? When the Government is making contribution is it going to be assumed that they do not have to give so much or give at all? I am worried about that. Maybe the Minister can clarify that.

I note too that within the Bill there is provision for the Senate to be involved in the authorisation of the monies

which by resolution is advanced to the Fund. This seems to be breaking new ground and it is probably desirable, but I wonder if this squares adequately.

2.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I am asking for information, I am not laying down any points of view. If this squares fairly with the Constitution at Section 54.4 (A) and (B), and it probably does, whether it is called a resolution or a bill, it seems to me that the tenet upon which we have always operated, that is, the Senate has no authority in financial Resolutions, is being varied, perhaps desirably but I still want to be sure that we are not trespassing on hallowed ground. Maybe this point can be explained, certainly for the benefit of this Honourable Chamber and me.

Sir, in substance, there is no quarrel with the Bill, except that it seems to be incomplete in terms of the total management of the Fund, and that it would still leave so much within the hands of the political directorate in terms of disbursements and programmes that it would be supporting. This is no different from what now exists and if it is not necessary to do it, why do we do it, except to say that we have something called a Fund?

Sir, that is my reservation. As I have said, I am probably speaking out of ignorance but I still think that for the satisfaction of other Honourable Senators who have raised a number of other points and for my own satisfaction, it would be good for us to be clear on these things.

I thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, I have no difficulty whatsoever in supporting this Bill. The arts, culture and sports, are healthy activities for any nation to be engaged in and I believe should be supported. However, I have a number of concerns, I think we should be careful about what we are accepting as the arts and culture for Barbados.

If we go by what is often foisted upon us by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) Channel 8, I would consider a lot of that to be under the category of noise pollution. I think that there is a movement in Barbados called the Society for a Quieter Barbados which, I think, would support me on this issue.

Again, in some cases, some of what is called culture and the arts, I find borders on vulgarity. On the other hand, of course, we have the excellence of NIFCA and other similar events which are to be commended.

Mr. President, I trust that the powers at be would be allocating these funds and would ensure that the arts and culture which are being promoted and supported by this

Fund, would be appropriate and will uplift the society, rather than contributing to its moral decline.

Mr. President, I would like to support this Bill but I would like to see something put in place so that we would maintain proper standards in our arts and culture.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of this Bill for the establishment of an Arts and Sport Promotion Fund, to assist in the financing of the practice of the arts and sports in Barbados.

Sir, first of all, I would like to start my presentation by pointing out that I believe there are two aspects to sports and arts that should not be confused; one has to do with the cultural and social aspect of it, the other has to do with the economic aspect.

Sir, sometimes there is a confusion of the two and when this happens, sometimes it leads to a confusion as to the appropriate structures and institutions that should be used in the promotion of these two aspects of both our culture and economy.

Mr. President, for example, there is obviously going to be a difference between the promotion of culture or of art, for its own intrinsic value and the promotion of that activity for economic gain. Therefore, the promotion of the activity for economic gain might see us pressing institutions into service that might have been established in Barbados for the promotion of economic activities in Barbados, such as the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, while in terms of promoting activities for their intrinsic cultural value might be done through our National Cultural Foundation.

Sir, with respect to the cultural and social value of sports and the arts, I believe this particular Bill would help us to develop those aspects of our society that, perhaps, we have ignored for some time and which, therefore, have not allowed us to develop to the measure we would like to, in order to develop to that cultural identity which other societies have been more successful at doing. There is obviously a uniqueness to what is Barbadian.

Mr. President, often in terms of uniqueness, there are individuals who would believe that because one's culture is an amalgamation of several different cultures, that no unique culture actually comes out of that melting of cultures, but that is not so. I do not know that there is anywhere in the world that has a pure culture. Most cultures at this point in time must be an amalgamation of several different culture, which is so for Barbados as well.

Mr. President, this misunderstanding of what culture is about has led us, for some time, to be a bit diffident about our ability to achieve excellence in the area of culture. I believe that our cultural activity is a reflection of the souls of Barbadians and that in those circumstances where one is focussing on culture from that perspective, it is often inappropriate to try to attach any commercial or economic value to that aspect of culture.

Mr. President, with respect to the social aspect, I believe that the strengthening of our community organisations must be at the forefront of whatever we are going to do, in terms of establishing and utilising the resources in this Fund.

Sir, across Barbados there are many organisations that are involved in the development of sports and art within the communities, whether it is cricket or dancing. In fact, if one were to do a survey of those many organisations, I think that many Barbadians would be surprised at the numbers of young persons who are actually engaged in these activities and who need only the smallest of catalysts in order to encourage them to do more than they are now doing.

Mr. President, this extends not only to the most prominent community groups that we hear a great deal about but one of the aspects of our cultural and sporting development that we perhaps have not focussed on as much as we ought to, actually takes place in the Church, because most of the churches in Barbados have vibrant cultural programmes both in terms of dance and putting on small theatrical presentation. This has been so throughout the history of Barbados but for some reason it is not taken into account as a major part of our cultural heritage.
3.00 p.m.

I hope that this funding would go to young people who are trying to make a contribution to their own development and development of the society through these avenues.

Another aspect to this community base activity in terms of sports and arts has to do with the fact that these organisations which promote these activities make a considerable contribution to developing the life skills. For example, an individual who is a member of an organisation is exposed to its Constitution, how meetings are conducted and mechanisms for dispute resolutions. Sir, when this individual is exposed to budgeting and raising funds for the club, these are tremendous learning experiences for this individual who is able to develop himself through a community-based organisation.

Mr. President, when this individual becomes an adult and finds himself at his workplace, the issue of holding board meeting or passing a resolution is nothing new because he has seen this played out before in various organisations in his youth.

This is one of the unfortunate things about the fact that we do not have many community-based organisations in Barbados as they have been in the past. Sir, those community-based clubs in Barbados that have been able to function over the years must be commended for the important work which they have done in that regard. These clubs probably take it for granted but these skills hold persons in good stead as they develop into adult life.

Mr. President, I want to focus on economic issues. Within the context of Barbados, there are number of issues and aspects of our sports that we are beginning to recognise as being important and as having considerable value. It is only now that we hear a lot of discussion within the general population about broadcasting rights. Sir, we have only now recognised the value of the images of our sports personality, the biographies of our sportsmen and the value of a signature of one of our outstanding sports persons.

Sir, sports and arts, in my view, are two areas within the large, economic landscape of Barbados that are really buttressed in talent. This means that those with talent will come to the forefront of the economic activity. There are several other areas of economic activity within Barbados that even though a person may be talented, sometimes he is not facilitated in arriving at the forefront of whatever the endeavour may be within the economic landscape of Barbados.

Therefore, any member of the Barbadian community has a great opportunity to excel in this area of endeavour that we are beginning to recognise more and more has a significant economic value. Sir, I believe, therefore, that these two areas of economic value will be at the forefront of contributing to the development of a meritocracy in Barbados.

With respect to our intellectual property rights, I believe that Barbadians will not recognise the value of this until they begin to value their own ideas and representation of what exist. Barbadians must believe that there is an intrinsic value in their ability because intellectual property rights is about recognising early in the day that something which is intangible actually has intrinsic value and recognising this value in the particular idea or innovation before the rest of the world says to you that it has value.

Sir, often in Barbados we do not have the confidence to believe that one of our own innovations have intrinsic value unless it is confirmed by some external source by which time the value of the intellectual property is gone.
3.10 p.m.

I believe we have to have confidence to believe that our innovations and ideas can add to the world stock of knowledge in whatever area of endeavour it is.

Sir, with respect to these economic issues, I think it is important, as with everything that we do in Barbados at a domestic level, that we must put it in its global context. I believe that every step that we take at the domestic level, we have to recognise the initiative that positions us within the international economic context.

Mr. President, the issue of the promotion of arts and sports has to do with this Administration's recognition that competitiveness for small States like Barbados must be placed within the context of our creative energies.

I think that Barbados' record, for example, in terms of being able to produce world-class cricketers and bodybuilders is remarkable, given the size of the Barbados population. I believe that because of the nature of the arts, they will help to ensure that there is a certain uniqueness about the goods and services being provided and produced in Barbados.

Sir, in terms of our ability in the sporting arena, it is clear, certainly with respect to our cricketing enterprise, that we have a competitive edge. I think that the record we have in terms of being able to produce world-class cricketers is probably unmatched when you look at the fact that our population has been around 250 000/270 000 people.

Clearly, this is an area in which we have a competitive advantage and from an economic perspective, there is every need in the world to exploit that advantage that we have, both to the advantage of the individual sportsmen and the country.

It is not only with respect to the particular sporting activity or the art and cultural activity, there are several spin-off activities where, if you have established that you have a competitive advantage in the particular area, then people come to recognise that you have a certain expertise. There are several spin-off benefits that Barbadians and Barbados as a whole should be looking to promote.

Sir, there are coaching, training and educational opportunities connected to sports and art that we should be looking to promote in Barbados. I think that it is important in terms of looking at new and fresh activities that we can focus on for the further development of the Barbados economy. We must identify our core competitive advantage and then look to determine the linkages between that core competitive activity and other economic activity in Barbados, therefore, seek to exploit not just the core but all of the other related activities.

Sir, I believe that in Barbados we have made significant strides in terms of music. I believe that there are musicians and singers that are now engaged in this activity on a full-time basis. In the past, entertainers said that individuals

asked them "What do you do otherwise?" and "When are you going to get a real job?"

Sir, despite the fact that we see it is a vibrant business in other developed countries, for some time in Barbados – I do not think that the association of music and entertainment, not as a full-time basis, has totally dissipated. I believe that being involved in entertainment can be seen as an option for any individual.

Sir, some of the individuals in Barbados who have received the best education that this country had to offer have gone into the field of entertainment and I think that is to their credit. I also think that it is partly because of that, they have been able to make a significant contribution to the entertainment industry.

In terms of Barbados' economic prospects and how we see ourselves from a business perspective, we believe that Barbados can become a significant hub for the provision of services within this hemisphere.

Mr. President, let me hasten to add that it is to the exclusion of all other economic activities such as agriculture and manufacturing. Sometimes the focus on services causes individuals to worry that we will never plant anything in Barbados again. The tourism and financial services sector are the engines of growth for the Barbadian economy and we have to recognise that.

Sir, in terms of how we are seeing Barbados develop, we would want to have a situation where, as an international business or financial services centre, when individuals come to Barbados that there is a certain level of sophistication that makes it very difficult for them to determine, except for the beautiful climate that we have in Barbados, whether they are in Barbados or in a more developed country.

Sir, what often distinguishes many of the capitals of the developed countries is that those countries have paid significant attention to promoting sports, art and culture in that environment.

In many capitals of the world, they hold themselves out to be financial centres but they also hold themselves out to be educational centres, for example, London, Paris and Tokyo. They also consider themselves to be internationally recognised centres of culture and art. I believe that if Barbados wishes to promote and see itself in that context, it is extremely important that we make sure that we focus on those areas of activity as well.

Sir, I believe that this particular Bill helps to put us in a position where on a daily basis we are moving closer to our target in seeing Barbados in terms of economic activity and business development and getting closer to that idea where a visit to Barbados as a centre for business means that

Barbados will also be a centre for excellence in all of the other areas of activities that we see so prominent in developed countries.

Mr. President, I thank you.

3.20 p.m.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I rise to make an intervention on this Bill. I would like to begin by thanking my colleague and friend, Senator Lowe, for a very intelligent and eloquent contribution to this debate. I associate myself fully with what he has said. I think he has put the case for the Opposition and the Democratic Labour Party as well as it could be put in these circumstances.

My intervention is not intended to subtract from the excellence of his contribution but just so that I might not to be thought of as an artistic or philistine, I thought I might say a few words in this debate.

Art, as I understand it, Mr. President, has to do with the reproduction of images of reality picked up by human beings from day to day, as they interact with one another and nature. Because of the diversity of reality, the reproduction of these images assumes various forms. Reality, being as diverse as it is, it is not without significance and it is quite natural, I think, that the reproductive media should reflect that diversity.

Hence, some elect to reproduce these images through poetry, some elect to reproduce these images through music, some through fiction, some through sculpture, some through painting, some through dance, a versatile range of media, but all reproduction of images picked up from reality, as man interacts with nature and as man interacts with man.

Of course, if the anthropologists are to be believed, art and artistic activity dates back as far as the origins of man himself, certainly to the old Stone Age when man used stone to do most of what he wanted to do. I think this has been agreed by most anthropologists.

Sir, so far as sport is concerned, sport is also as old as the human race. I suppose the Roman poet, Virgil, knew what sport was about when he wrote so enthusiastically in his epic, *The Aeneid*, of boat races and I think it was Ovid, another Roman poet who wrote enthusiastically about foot races. When St. Paul likened the Christian pilgrimage to a race, he too would have had sport forefrontal in his mind.

Whether one is talking about sport or art, one is talking about an activity which all cultures and civilisations know something about, and have experience into a greater or lesser degree. All sport and all art is based on the possession of talent. Talent, let us be frank about it, is an asset. An asset,

the economists tell us, has use value and exchange value, and the extent to which one or the other dominates, has a lot to do with the stage of the development of human society.

For example, in the old traditional plantation in Barbados, it would have been noted that the use value of the talents of most of our people who were involved in art or in sport, was preponderating over by the exchange value, since the societies at that time were heavily agricultural, and the level of human mobility was very low.

Sir, in a modern society like Barbados, maturing day by day into a commercial capitalist economy, the whole issue of exchange becomes more important and people who formerly took their talents for granted and emphasized the use value of those talents, have now come to grips with the fact that they have an asset that can be exchanged in the marketplace. Hence, all of the hype and activity of both artistes and sports persons to ensure that their works, talents, inventions and so on are legally protected and that they get adequate compensation for what they produce.

One of the beauties of art and sport is that neither is bound by the constricting confines of national boundaries. Sports persons and artistes are perceived as people who are in pursuit of some kind of perfection. Wherever these manifest and wherever they display their talents, they claim the cheering admiration of man wherever he can be found.

Therefore, it should occasion us no surprise that for the average Barbadian, Tiger Woods is as much a treasure for Barbados, as he is for the United States of America, or any other country in the world, because when one watches him displaying his talent, he gives one a peek into that human quest for immortality, that human quest for perfection for which the sports person or the artiste is so well-known.

Small wonder too that our own Sir Garfield Sobers or our own Brian Lara should, across national boundaries, claim the reverence and admiration of people in other parts of the world. Of course for this reason, sports persons and artistes have done their countries proud by putting them on what we like to call the map internationally.

Somebody like Diego Maradona from Argentina, we would hardly think of Argentina, outside, of course, for the production of corned beef, if we had not known of the excellence on the football field of a Maradona. Or we would hardly think of Brazil, if we did not know of that glittering triumvirate of the last World Cup, Rivaldo, Ronaldo and Ronaldhino.

Therefore, Mr. President, these sportsmen and their artistic counterparts, and in a sense, the gap between sport and art is narrowed, when once one comes to grips with the fact that in this display of talent each sports person or artiste seems in a quest for human perfection.

I believe it is the Greek thinker, Pythagoras, who once said that all reality can be reduced to numbers, and by that he meant no more than to say that ultimately all human reality or all reality is measurable.

3.30 p.m.

That is why spectators of sports still distinguish between the batman who uses brute force to get the ball to the boundary and the one who rely on timing. That is the explanation perhaps of the immortality of persons like Sir Frank Worrell, Lawrence Rowe, Seymour Nurse or more recently the knighted hero of a large number of Barbadians, Sir Carl Hooper.

There is a belief that when one sees the sportsman, the artistes, the dancer or the painter at work, one is having a taste of immortality and a taste of perfection which explains the importance of sports and arts to economies and societies like ours, so any piece of legislation that seeks to promote arts and sports by providing financing for these activities are to be welcome.

Mr. President, Honourable Senators who spoke before me raised queries about various aspects of the legislation. I certainly take the query which was raised by Senator Collymore with reference to clause 5 (3) of the Bill seriously. Since it is not given to us to grant supplies to the Government, therefore, that might be an issue that would have to be revisited. However, all in all, I think the Bill is good in intention and that it deserves our fullest support.

Mr. President, recently I was quite intrigued while listening to a speech by the Honourable Prime Minister as he addressed an audience at the Frank Collymore Hall at which he made reference to the fact that perhaps we have seen better days in terms of the production of artistes and sportsmen among other categories of people in this region.

I think that perhaps we are now in a very banal era when our cricket has seen better days and when we are not producing novelists of the character of George Lamming. Therefore, this has to be a concern for policymakers if they are to bring the best out of their people and remove the cap that holds down this explosion of talent. Therefore, I think that any initiative taken to deal with these concerns is to be welcomed here in Barbados.

Mr. President, the importance to Barbados' economy through the earning capacity of sportsmen and artistes cannot be emphasised. This region is no longer the backwoods of the world so far as the production of sportsmen and artists are concerned. This region has produced two noble laureates and an explosion of great sportsmen. Therefore, I think we have to begin to take ourselves seriously and to understand

that we cannot continue to be takers from the world but givers to the world in that we have something serious to contribute to the treasury of civilisation.

Mr. President, my colleague, Senator Dr. Lowe, said that if we are going to have artistes and sportsmen taking advantage of the economic opportunities before them and being able to earn large sums of money, that it is going to be very important for them to be given advice on financial management since this has been the bane of successful sportsmen in the past.

I think he spoke wisely when he cautioned the Government about opening these opportunities for sportsmen and artistes but not providing other critical supports to ensure that they benefit fully from the opportunities given to them. This is a matter which needs to hold the attention of the Government.

Mr. President, I do not want to trespass on your patience any longer. I just thought I had to make those very brief points and assure the Senate that this Bill has the support of the Opposition.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I rise to give support to this Fund for the promotion of sports and culture despite the fact that as a Christian my culture does not give me the opportunity to help finance it. Mr. President, gambling is a reality in this world and any opportunity to get some of that money to develop persons and institutions, because sports and culture are institutions in themselves... I do not consider this Bill that is before us as a Government thing or an Opposition thing, because it is a people's thing.

I do not believe that you would find a single person in Barbados who is not connected to sports and culture in some way. Sports is an art. Sports and arts are an economy in themselves. I see Government as a facilitator of sports in Barbados, but sports is a people's thing. Government has never organised any sporting programme in Barbados. The people, clubs and communities do.

Mr. President, if one follows the history of Barbados, one would have recognised that previously sports was a class thing and a colour thing. That is not so today. In every sport, every community in Barbados calls some serious attention when it comes to the country's economy. Indeed, many countries in the world earn most of their revenue from sports and culture.

3.40 p.m.

I am going to make one of the strongest calls in this presentation today. It is time for us to have a Minister

of Sports and Culture in Barbados, since it is so important to the economy of our country. I know that others are going to say: "Another Minister?" It does not have to be another Minister but if it is, it does not matter to me.

Sir, I listen to youngsters, including my sons, daughters and grandchildren, all saying that Government does nothing for sportsmen in Barbados. I believe that all of us would say that Government does nothing for sportsmen in Barbados. Therefore, in calling for a Minister of Sports and Culture, I would want to see that in any future budget, there is a fully supported financial head, not with any money from gambling but from the taxpayers of Barbados. It is time for us to have millions of dollars invested in this country in our people when it relates to sports and culture because it can develop an economy in itself.

Mr. President, as I have said before, when we look at the history of clubs such as Spartan Cricket Club, the Empire Cricket Club, Pickwick Cricket Club or Wanderer's Cricket Club, when we look at cycling, athletics and swimming, among others, we see how people can be real people and can create an economy that, in itself, would be people oriented.

Mr. President, I am saying that it is no time now for us to be making sport about sports or about anything to be called culture and arts. Sir, I want to compliment the Barbados Defence Force Sports Programme. That Programme is responsible for one of the most promising fast bowlers in cricket, and it must be complimented. We need to put all things together. We must not disconnect and we cannot talk about politics when it comes to sports in Barbados.

It must not be a political thing. We must connect the Barbados Youth Service where young people are being trained how to manage themselves and how to have a serious look at life in this country. Those are the areas that must be complimented. We must connect this economy that I am talking about that sports can bring about in this country, with all the other things, such as the programmes on arts and music at the Barbados Community College and the scholarships that are being established for culture at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Mr. President, a Minister of Sports and Culture would have the greatest connection to the people of Barbados more than any other Minister, including the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, because that Minister of Sports and Culture would have to connect with every Barbadian. Therefore, we must be serious about our approaches to every development of institutions.

Mr. President, one of the lessons we are about to learn, and I hope we are prepared to learn from it, is that when in

2007 we will be hosting the Cricket World Cup... Sir, at this time, I must compliment all those persons who were involved in bringing together Barbados and St. Lucia in their bid to host premier matches in the World Cup. Sir, those persons who have worked out this programme must be complimented because it demonstrates the talent and ability we have in this small country Barbados.

Mr. President, as I close, I want to say that we must never, ever, be partisan when it pertains to important matters such as these. Sir, in both Houses of this Parliament, we must all stand together when it comes to development of the kinds of institutions we would want to see, and that is the basic tenets of our development.

Mr. President, I want to speak to a point made by Senator Collymore, which was also echoed by Senator Stuart. Sir, perhaps 5/3 is an omen to come because I believe that in our development, constitutionally and otherwise, that both Houses of Parliament should have full financial ability to speak to financial matters in this country and to the taxpayers' money. We want the Assembly in the Other Place and a true Senate, to reflect on the future development in every sense of the development of this country.

Sir, at lunch I made mention to the two Opposition Senators, that Barbados stands out as the greatest democracy in the world, where we can change Governments at will and can still continue the development of Barbados; that we can sit with members of other parties and can have good relationships. I would, therefore, want to challenge the Other Place to take lessons from this Senate regarding the level and manner of debates, which is an example of any legislature in the Caribbean. Yes, we have differences, but we do not fight.

Mr. President, this opportunity which is given to us must mark a poignant position that in coming together on this Bill to support the sportsmen and those persons with the talent and skills in Barbados, I think it is time that we honour Ronald "Suki" King in this country. He is an outstanding man of art in his field, and it is time we put him where he ought to be.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution which is before this Senate.
3.50 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I too rise to give my fullest support to the Bill before the Chamber and to say that because of the hour I will speak specifically to matters raised that impacted on the Ministry of Culture for which I have some responsibility.

I want to begin by saying to Senator Lynton that I know in his enthusiasm to make his point he did suggest that Government had done nothing for sports. However, he

went on to identify the good things that are happening in the area of sports and, therefore, Government should be given the credit for that too. I want to tell him that in this year's Estimates there is \$14 million budgeted for the National Sports Council to develop and promote Government's sports programme. Similarly, \$2 million is budgeted to the Gymnasium which also goes toward the development of sports.

He alluded in his presentation to the coming World Cup in 2007 and Government has already indicated that it is prepared to put millions into the effort and, again, this is the development of sports.

Mr. President, Senator Lowe in a most spirited and lively presentation ranged far and wide. He raised a few matters that I am obliged to respond to as they relate to the Ministry of Culture. He spoke of the need for a school for creative and performing arts because he has not heard about this.

I want to refer him to the Estimates for 2004/2005, Subprogrammes 212 and 626 where \$500 000 has been allocated to look at the preparatory work for the establishment of the creative design centre, fees for consultants and to do a feasibility study to advise in the setting up of our national performing art school. There will also be a joint public/private company as well as a media commission and actual integration of businesses and entrepreneurship within the school.

I want to say to Senator Lowe that we are looking at setting up a national performing art school and that provision has been made with respect to doing the first part of the feasibility study for the school. The school will facilitate dance, music and theatre which will be developed and fused within the proposed University College of Barbados when it is established.

I also want to say that a dance studio has already been commissioned at West Terrace which is part and parcel of the effort to see us having a performing arts school and putting the infrastructure in place from now. There has been talk about a second studio but this first studio is impressive and there is a feeling that this will suffice for a while.

The other point made by Senator Lowe has to do with the Empire Theatre. It is recognised that accommodation will have to be sought for the non-practical programmes and activities and this is where a facility like the renovated Empire Theatre will come into play.

It is envisaged that the theatre will be restored to its former glory. We will see a state-of-the-art theatre cum cinema where dramatic production and performances can be staged. This, of course, is in keeping with Government's

intention to ensure that we encourage artistic expression in terms of the further development of the cultural industries in Barbados.

Sir, initially it was envisaged that a renovated Empire Theatre could become the home for the national company for performing arts, the national school of dance, the national symphony orchestra and the national youth orchestra. As we speak, there is a study being done and Cabinet will soon have the benefit of a paper looking at what is the best way forward with respect to the Empire Theatre.

Suffice it to say, as far back as 2002, some work was done through the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture where technical assistance was sought from a Cuban consultant to advise on the restoration of the Empire Theatre. Sir, it was determined that it should be done in four phases. The first phase was carried out in February and a study was done at that time to ensure that the original features of the building would be retained. Sir, a detailed report was done on each aspect of the building. On that occasion they looked at the areas of deterioration of the building and made recommendations to arrest any further deterioration.

Phase 2 is the implementation and Phase 3 is the restoration and the installation of equipment will be done in Phase 4. Cuba has indicated that in those areas where we have no technical expertise, they would be prepared to make a team of experts available to assist with restoration. Sir, in 2002 a conservative estimate for the full restoration with all the associated equipment was placed between US\$10 million to US\$15 million.

We also believe that the Empire Theatre provides an opportunity for a joint public/private sector partnership arrangement so that the private sector can assist with the restoration and thereafter the management of the theatre. There are a number of options available and we will have the best advice shortly how we go forward. Sir, all Barbadians would like to see the full restoration of the Empire Theatre because it will help in the development of the cultural component of Barbados.

Incidentally, when I speak about the Empire Theatre, it brings to mind the situation with the Queen's Park Theatre. We are looking at the restoration of the Queen's Park Theatre and the entire complex. We cannot be simply saying that we want to promote the development of culture, particularly in the performing arts, and not make the facilities available to sporting. Sir, Senator Lowe's point is well taken, as far as I am concerned.
4.00 p.m.

Sir, in terms of the agenda for 2004/2005, I made reference to the preparatory work for a creative design centre to give potential to the design element in producing

high quality products for Barbados. We believe we should be able help our producers, at the end of the day, to offer the finest quality product because we are not only selling locally but are exporting. Again, we will have the benefit of a consultant report in 2004.

Sir, one of the things that was identified in the Task Force Report, in terms of our cultural industries and the way that our goods and services were reported, had to do with the need for us to be able to market our products better regionally and internationally. We are again looking at a joint public sector/private sector company to market Barbadian products. A detailed study is required and part of the provision for that is made in this year's Budget.

Mr. President, the same thing goes to the Film and Media Commission. We believe that Barbados has a tremendous potential to develop a film and media industry in this country. We have contracted the services of a consultant. We expected that the report would have been in at this time now but we are hoping to get that final report shortly.

Mr. President, I heard a report today which made reference to Jamaica's film industry. They are receiving approximately \$850 million from that industry. I am not sure if it is Jamaican dollars or US dollars. That is only the foreign exchange component of it.

We believe there is potential in Barbados for such an industry and the mandate of the commission, when it is established, would be to market Barbados as a location of choice for film and video makers to market our cultural products overseas and to coordinate the management of the local film industry. Again, we should have the benefit of that report this year.

I want to briefly comment on a point made by Senator Crichlow. The Senator spoke about what he regarded as the uncertainty of Crop-Over at the beginning of each year. He said that Crop-Over, in the future, could become a very political event. He went on to suggest that with respect to the impasse, and I quote, "In the end a political decision would be made."

Sir, let me say that no political decision would be made. The National Cultural Foundation has the responsibility for negotiation with the artistes and at the end of the day I am satisfied that good commonsense will prevail. I wish I were in a position to be able to speak more fully to it but as a person who has been involved in industrial relations for many years, I do not believe that you can negotiate in public and in private at the same time without impacting negatively on one, or the other, or both.

Mr. Speaker, I feel, just like Senator Crichlow, that the time should come when any apparent or real controversy

associated with the Festival should become a thing of the past. There are many organisations and entities that look forward to the Festival and people want to know with a measure of certainty what will or will not happen.

It is equally true that my experience tells me, I am using my experience as an industrial person, that you seek to use an opportunity that will get the best possible result that you want. Mr. President, in the case of Crop-Over, that is not an unusual thing. There are many other industries where people would wait until a particular time to negotiate to get what they believe would be the best result. It is a question of timing. I am hopeful that reason would prevail and whatever decision is arrived at, it will be in the interest of the artistes and all the stakeholders involved.

Sir, I want to say that I trust and hope that we will reach a point where the apparent uncertainty is something no longer associated with the Festival. I believe that the Festival has been placed on a strong footing. Much has been done to allow it to be where it is and to develop it to the level it is at. I do not believe that the stakeholders would do anything inimical to the interest of the Festival continuing.

I am not too perturbed at this stage but simply to say that I would have hoped that this year we would have seen a different approach being taken to the Festival. As I said, I would not go into details because negotiations remain delicate and I am not going to do what some people like to do, that is negotiating in private and public. I would not be part of that.

Mr. President, I want to underscore the point with respect to creative and cultural industries. Barbados has embarked basically on articulating a policy and framework which is aimed at nurturing and harnessing the creative talents of our young people. As recent as the last Economic and Financial Statement, which was presented by the Prime Minister, much attention was given to the creative economy. We see the fusion of arts, business and technology as something that can propel the growth of our economy.

Mr. President, from the outset we wanted to ensure that we got everything right. I made reference to something that came out of the initial draft report but suffice to say that with the benefit of the Task Force that looked at our cultural industries, we were able to look at the strengths and weaknesses and to come up with recommendations how we should move forward.

Sir, I noticed that Senator Lowe made the point this morning that we need to have information why we are at a particular point in time and why it is that we are taking a certain course of action. I believe that he meant the methodology that we are using to finance sports and the arts. Suffice to say that we have identified a number of

strengths, particularly that our products were distinctive and they showed creativity in their imagination in terms of quality.

Sir, one of the weaknesses is the lack of financial options for creative industries which, in itself, limits the growth of the industry. Therefore, there had to be a mechanism whereby financing could be made available to support not only the sports but the development of the arts. 4.10 p.m.

There are, of course, a number of threats, particularly in terms of international competition through technology. Therefore, we need to ensure that we have a cultural instrument or convention that will deal with cultural products, goods and services going forward in the future.

I just want to indicate the importance of cultural industries, not only just for ourselves but for other jurisdictions, and to show why tremendous importance is being given by Government and other countries. They have seen the benefit of the growth in the cultural industries, both in terms of revenue generation as well as employment generation.

For example, in 1999, the core copyright industries in the USA contributed an estimated US\$457.2 billion to GDP, which represents some 4.94 per cent of GDP to the US economy. Note that those are only the core copyright industries, but if you take the total copyright industries themselves, that represents some \$677.9 billion or some 7.33 per cent of GDP.

Sir, what they found is that during a 22-year period, the cultural industries were growing at some 7.2 per cent, while the other sectors of the economy were growing at 3.1 per cent. Clearly, they have placed tremendous emphasis on developing the cultural industries.

When we look at the United Kingdom (UK), there is an equally impressive position. In 2001, the creative industries in the UK represented some 5 per cent of GDP or some estimated £112.5 billion sterling. You can see the rate that it is growing internationally, when in 1998 it stood at £57.5 billion, so between 1998 and 2001, it doubled.

Sir, Jamaica's music component contributes some US\$1 billion annually. In Canada, they saw their industry in 1994/1995 reaching some CAN\$20 billion which represented 3 per cent of GDP, and one can imagine what it is today. Singapore follows even a similar pattern.

In our case, we should ensure that we have the kind of statistical information available to allow us to understand what is the true impact of the cultural industries at this moment. We know, for example, that in 1995, a study was

done to determine the total economic benefits of Crop-Over, and it was estimated that it was at some \$9.6 million.

If you look at the total gross foreign exchange for Crop-Over where there is a tourism element, people coming in and filling the hotels, et cetera, that was placed at \$30.7 million. Therefore, we are not talking about small numbers but an industry that has tremendous potential to earn us foreign exchange, create jobs and make a significant difference with respect to the economy.

I mentioned earlier about the importance of ensuring that we maintain our cultural products, because of the technology we have now, and the fact that when we start to open up markets other people's products are going to come in, which are going to impact on our own cultural products, goods and services. Therefore, this has both social and economic implications for our human development, particularly in an increasingly global world.

Sir, may I say that our diverse cultural expressions represent who we are and there are, indeed, important elements of our creative potential. Our challenge, therefore, in a global economy is how we encourage people to be resourceful and innovative and for them to generate new ideas. Therefore, we are talking about creativity being the link to survival in the new economy, and that is what the development of our cultural industries is all about.

We felt, of course, Mr. President, that if the Ministry is going to have effective oversight, there was need to make sure we had the kind of system and structure in place to support that, and we have already appointed a Director of Culture. We have also advertised recently for a Senior Cultural Policy Officer and a Cultural Policy Officer to support the efforts of the work of the Director of Culture.

One other point I would like to make has to do with the National Cultural Foundation (NCF). We believe that the NCF should be separated into a development component and an event planning component. The NCF has a developmental role and sometimes when you deal with the two things together, you become de-focussed.

One of the things I would really want to see this year, and we are planning for, is the Events Planning Bureau established to deal with putting on an event, whether it is NIFCA, Crop-Over or whatever. The NCF will then continue to focus more on the development of the cultural industries in Barbados.

Sir, there is an upgraded business development section at the NCF. This is very much related to the Bill before us, because when people come up with creative ideas, projects and so on, the NCF, through the Business Development Section, would be able to appraise and analyse any

particular project or idea, to make sure that it is of a developmental nature, and that the monies actually go in that project, rather than somebody wanting to put on a show at the National Stadium by bringing in some international artiste from overseas. It is not about that, but about developing and offering opportunities to our people, indeed, to help fund their creative ideas and talents, in whatever product or service they want to offer.

Mr. President, I am happy to see that a truly bipartisan approach has been taken to this Bill. I believe that no longer, particularly in the area of sports, the people should have to rely just on the benevolence of one or two people to be able to fund activities, but there is a mechanism in place where people can go and be given assistance. Therefore, it is not after the person has been able to fight the odds and then you offer assistance, but where a person has the ability that you are able to support them up-front.

Too often, you see, for example, companies recognising that somebody might have won something and is now of international fame. At that juncture, they want to associate the company with them, when there were times that the person could have done with some assistance. What we are saying is that we are not leaving it up to the benevolence of anybody. We are putting a system in place to develop sports and arts in Barbados. We are not leaving it up to the benevolence of anyone.

4.20 p.m.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I wish to thank Honourable Senators for their respective contributions. I think it is safe to say that they have all agreed that we need to create the type of environment in our country that would allow persons who are engaged in sports and the arts to pursue their particular objective, not only to provide entertainment for those who attend the performances, but also to enable them to make a living, if they so choose, to pursue careers in those areas of activities.

Mr. President, the Bill which we have just discussed in detail states at section 4 that:

“The purposes of the Fund are, in accordance with the prescribed criteria, to help finance

- (a) programmes and activities conducted by arts organisations and sporting organisations for the development of the arts and sport; and
- (b) the practice of the arts and sport generally, in Barbados.”

I note carefully the words “to help”. I say that because I got the impression that some persons have interpreted that

the creation of this Fund was in some way to substitute for the normal budgets provided to the National Cultural Foundation and the National Sports Council. One would observe, if one examines the Estimates of Expenditure for 2004-2005, that the combined budgets of those two organisations come to approximately \$20 million. This Fund is a supplement to that and not a substitute.

Mr. President, if one looks at section 2 of the Bill as well, one would notice that reference is made to both the National Cultural Foundation and the National Sports Council. Those are the two institutions which are to relate to the national associations to assist them in developing their programmes for their particular areas of activities.

The work programme for the National Sports Council for 2004-2005 includes assistance to the respective national organisations to help them to manage their business well, to train coaches, to develop the skills that are necessary and to assist with seminars and training programmes for physical education teachers and other people who are going to be involved in the delivery of the programmes.

In that context, I take note of the plea by Senator Lowe that the caretakers should be taken under that umbrella and be given some additional preparation for their task, although I must say, that they will not be expected to play the role of the coaches as they are simply caretakers.

Mr. President, the establishment of this Fund is to supplement the resources which were there before and does not in any way preclude contributions from private persons or prevents them from establishing their own fund into their own bank account or into some other bank account.

Mr. President, when the proposals were first made that there should be a merger of the three lotteries, the incentive that was offered to encourage that merger to take place was that the normal tax rate would be reduced to 3 per cent and the difference between the new proposed tax rate and the original rate would be used to pay into the Fund.

The reason a merger was being encouraged is that those funds developed at different times, but they all reached a stage where there was such intense competition between them, that one was going ahead and the other was falling behind, so the overall collection of revenue from them was not increasing.

One of them was about to fall by the wayside and it was suggested to them that it would be better if they came together and establish one lottery instead of competing with each other. The idea of the proposal was to get the three lotteries to come together and create one lottery, but that did not work because the Barbados Cricket Association chose to go on its own.

The two which eventually came together are the Barbados Olympic Association and the Barbados Turf Club, and the new rate of 3 per cent applies to them.

Section 3 of the Bill which speaks about the resources of the Fund says that:

“An amount of not more than 60 percent of the moneys derived from the revenue generated by the duties charged by the lotteries...”

It is true that those funds were intended to go into the Consolidated Fund, so if part of those funds now go into the Endowment Fund, it is not new money. If it went into the Consolidated Fund and it was not added to the budget of the National Cultural Foundation or the National Sports Council, it would not have been available to support the efforts that we are speaking about.

Mr. President, Government has decided to put some additional money there. That in no way precludes the national company, about which Senator Williams spoke, from raising funds or any benefactor from making monies available, not necessarily into this Fund, if he or she is afraid to deal with the Accountant-General for whatever reason.

There are sports organisations and national organisations. The organisations that deal with the arts would relate to the National Cultural Foundation as envisaged by the Bill and the sports organisations would relate to the National Sports Council in terms of the allocation of the money, so the presence of this Fund does not, in any way, prevent anyone from donating funds to any of those national associations. Therefore, Senators do not need to have any fear about that.

Mr. President, the involvement of the Accountant-General is simply for the management of the monies that goes into the Endowment Fund and for management in terms of accounting for receipts to the Fund and the disbursements to the two agencies, the National Cultural Foundation and the National Sports Council, which will then deal with the respective organisations which will develop the programmes. 4.30 p.m.

Mr. President, as I said, they will develop the programmes and will assist them in their usual way.

Mr. President, the point is that this is a deliberate effort to assist our sports persons and the various artistes to develop their talents to the fullest and to be able to ply their trade or performances both locally and internationally, if they so choose, because they would have been provided with the appropriate support to have allowed them to reach the highest level of excellence.

Sir, I have to take legal advice on the issue raised by Senator Collymore about the section of the Bill which speaks

to advances to the Fund, if there are any situations where there is a deficiency and whether or not that conflicts with the Constitution. What I would say is that already the Appropriation Bill... and that the Final Appropriation Bill will come to the Senate. Therefore, it does not seem to be a big issue to me, but I will take legal advice on that.

Mr. President, as I have indicated in my opening statement, to date \$1.3 million has been collected, to be passed on to the National Cultural Foundation.

Mr. President, this Bill which seeks to create this Endowment Fund to support the development of sports and the arts, is one which I think will result in great benefits to Barbados as a nation and to the individuals who are involved. Therefore, I have great pleasure in supporting this Bill and in moving that the Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into Committee for further consideration of the Bill, Her Honour SENATOR Dame Patricia SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 10, inclusive, were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Arts and Sport Fund Promotion Act, 2004.

ORDER NO. 2 – THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the matter before us is what appears to me to be a fairly straightforward amendment to the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Cap. 117(A). It seeks to alter the date for the submission of the report of the Judicial Council to the Attorney-General.

At present, the requirement is that the report of the Judicial Council should be filed by December 31. However,

that requirement has created two problems, one is that in order to meet the deadline of December 31, the statistical information would have to be cut off at the third quarter of the year so that the last quarter's information would be excluded to make the deadline.

Secondly, the experience of the Council has been that at that time of the year, the Government Printery is very busy with the production of information for Independence, et cetera, and therefore, the printing of the reports would be delayed.

What is being proposed here is that the deadline be extended to March 31 of the following year, which would allow the Council to capture all statistical information for the entire proceeding and to have the report produced for the first quarter of the new year and presented by March 31.

On that basis, Mr. President, it does not appear to me to be one on which Honourable Members should have any serious objection and, therefore, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

4.40 p.m.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, there is no need to detain the Senate on this Bill. The Honourable Leader of Government Business indicated that it is an uncontroversial amendment to facilitate the Judicial Council in submission of its annual report to the Attorney-General.

The Judicial Council, established under Section 93 of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, is generally responsible for the formulation of policy in relation to all matters affecting the performance of the courts, administering the Legal Aid Department and preparing the annual budget to the Minister of Finance, *et cetera*.

Sir, the Judicial Council plays a very important role in the administration of justice in Barbados. The Third Schedule to the Act sets out the composition of the Council. It is chaired by His Lordship the Chief Justice and all the other Justices of Appeal sit on it, including the Solicitor General, a magistrate appointed by the Governor-General, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, the President of the Bar Association, three Attorneys-at-Law nominated by the Council of the Bar Association and two persons appointed by the Governor-General from among persons who, in his opinion, are capable of representing the interest of the community. It is this body that takes care of the administration of the courts of Barbados and the justice system.

It is important that the Council and Judiciary be kept satisfied and their requirements met because when citizens of Barbados have lost faith in everything else, it is to the courts they turn and they should be able to do so with confidence. It is in this regard, that I remind the Senate of some concerns expressed by the Chairman of the Judicial

Council, His Lordship, the Chief Justice, Sir David Simmons as he addressed a special sitting of the Supreme Court on October 6, 2003, to mark the commencement of the legal year 2003/2004.

His concern at the time, which was published, was that when he wanted to get approval for judges to go abroad for judicial training, application is ordinarily made to the Cabinet and that on many occasions, Cabinet was tardy in indicating its approval or disapproval with the result that the delay tended to affect the morale of the Judiciary and that this struck at the whole idea of the independence of the Judiciary.

Mr. President, when the Chief Justice raises that concern, it should not be fluffed aside. It is true that ever since his appointment, this Chief Justice has rendered sterling service in terms of ensuring that the Judiciary receives adequate training and brought up-to-date on the Law and administration of justice. It would be very unfortunate if the tardiness of the Cabinet had the effect of obstructing his very noble work in that regard.

Since his concerns were published, there has been no published response from the Government although, to my certain knowledge, there has been whispered rage from members of the Cabinet. I hope that by now the fury has abated and that the concerns of the Chief Justice, insofar as the ability of the Judicial Council to function properly, are being addressed so that citizens of this country can be assured that the Executive, as His Lordship said, would have been given favourable consideration to a change in the procedure that would allow for the fullest expression of the principle of the independence of the Judiciary which is the cornerstone of democratic Government.

Sir, I make that point because the Chief Justice is dealing specifically with the functioning of a subcommittee of the Judicial Council, the ability of the Council to get its work done, to plan its programme properly because of the tardiness and failure of the Cabinet to get back to him on time in terms of the approval or disapproval of applications for judges to travel overseas on various types of training, or to attend events designed to further judicial training. Sir, as I said before, the Judiciary is too important to the Constitution of Barbados to allow for these areas of doubts and concerns.

Mr. President, all in all, I think that Barbados has a judicial system of which we can be proud. I think it is still the case in Barbados when people before our courts, even when decisions go against them, that they are satisfied that justice was done and that they have been given a fair hearing so that if our criminal and civil justice system maintains the high reputation they enjoy up to now then, when these concerns are raised, it is important that they be speedily addressed.

The other areas of the justice system that one could legitimately raise in this debate is that if the criminal justice system is to function optimally and provide the kind of satisfaction which aggrieved citizens think they are entitled to, then at every level of the system people must be able to give full expression of faith to the procedures followed.

Mr. President, recently in this Senate, I expressed myself strongly on my concerns about the manner in which sometimes the Royal Barbados Police Force has gone about its responsibilities particularly in dealing with the poorest and disadvantaged sections of this community. Little did I know when I spoke that events would have quickened and that there would have been a virtual Niagara of complaints about the kind of treatment meted out to poor citizens when searches are conducted at their homes.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I want to make it quite clear that the Democratic Labour Party is fully committed to the maintenance of law and order in Barbados. The Democratic Labour Party is fully supportive of the Royal Barbados Police Force in the lawful discharge of its national responsibilities. Let there be no mistake about that. Having said that, it needs to be made clear that when other professionals in this society fall short of public expectations, for example the legal profession, the public is unsparing in its criticisms in these shortcomings. Sir, you do not hear the legal profession saying that people do not like lawyers. We accept the criticism we get and we try to do better. Sir, doctors are criticised, they accept it and they try to do better.

Perhaps one of the most harshly criticised segments of this society is the construction industry, persons who manage project houses in the construction industry. They have to take the criticisms, do some introspection and tell themselves to do better. Therefore, it cannot be acceptable when members of the Royal Barbados Police Force are criticised by the public, it is being interpreted that the public is against the police or that the critics do not like the police and are not supporting the police.

Mr. President, Barbados is not yet a police state and as long as the Constitution of Barbados remains in force, people are entitled to raise concerns if they think that their fundamental rights and freedoms are under threat.

The preamble to this Constitution makes clear, that the belief of the people of this country, that individuals and institutions can remain free only if that freedom is founded on moral and spiritual values and a commitment to the rule of law. As long as that remains the ideal of the people of Barbados, people have the right to raise concerns if they think that their fundamental rights and freedoms are under threat by police action.

Since I spoke in the last debate, I have received complaints from across the country. I can immediately think of some very anxious complaints from residents of the Farm Gardens, St. Philip, and others from Deighton Road, St. Michael. I also read of complaints from other people in the newspapers, especially young women complaining about a crude invasion of their privacy at ungodly hours and hostile things being said to them when people were carrying out their duties in a way that is bereft of any semblance of humanity.

I do not fashion the things that I have to say in the hope that I would catch the wings of popular favour. I have passed that stage of my life. Therefore, I do not perceive myself as being in any popularity contest. Therefore, I am not afraid to say what I think has to be said if I think that the Constitution of Barbados may be under threat.

Therefore, I want to take this opportunity on this Bill to call on the Royal Barbados Police Force again to revisit the methods it has been using as it tries to tackle the vexed problem of crime in Barbados. We all want a crime-free society or we all want crime controlled if we cannot get a crime-free one.

Sir, it is not a question whether or not we support the police. We do support the police but we also support the Constitution of Barbados and the ideals to which that Constitution has given such elegant and eloquent expression. Therefore, we hear the complaints of marginalised and dispossessed people with sympathy and urge that methods be used in dealing with these people who are, for the most part, innocent. The persons being searched for cannot be found and the persons who have to deal with the police perceive that they are being treated very badly.

Last Sunday, while driving I listened to a replay of the encounter of the meeting between the top-brass of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the residents of the Pine, after the May Day exercise in the Pine and the expression of anguish, anger and dissatisfaction were palpable. Sir, to tell the truth, the exercise clearly did not produce the results contemplated.

Sir, if so carefully planned a swoop on that area, based on reliable intelligence, failed to produce what it was intended to produce, it is clear that the real culprits in this exercise have available to them intelligence as reliable as the intelligence available to the police and the police could do well to find out where that intelligence is coming from.

I cannot imagine that we have so carefully planned an exercise, after the police held a press conference indicating what their concerns were and the fruits of that exercise were so nugatory.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, as usual, I hate to interrupt you. You have made your point but I think that you are

drifting quite substantially from the matter which is before us, a rather minor amendment to a Bill dealing with the submission of the report of the Judicial Council.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: I am obliged by your ruling, Sir. It is just that I was dealing with the concerns expressed by His Lordship, the Chief Justice, the question of independence of the Judiciary and basically the entire justice system. I am obliged by your ruling and I have no problem with that.

Mr. President, in conclusion, it is the position of the Opposition that the Judicial Council of Barbados plays a critical role in the management of the...justice system of Barbados and that it should be given all the support and flexibility it needs to secure the ends of the administration of justice.
5.00 p.m.

As I said, and I repeat in conclusion, the concerns of His Lordship the Chief Justice so far as the functioning of the Judicial Council is concerned, ought to be speedily addressed, if they have not yet been addressed, so that the very good and noble work which the Council is doing can continue unobstructed by the niggling concerns to which the Chief Justice referred, when he addressed the special sitting of the Court last October.

The amendment sought has our support. In fact, Mr. President, I believe that in His Lordship's speech, he also indicated that the Report for the year 2002, had been submitted on time, in spite of the challenges to which the Honourable Leader of Government Business referred. If, in the face of all of those stringencies, the Council was still able to get the Report submitted on time, then any additional cooperation that the Council needs should be forthcoming. Therefore, we on This Side support the Amendment.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved into Committee on the Bill, HER HONOUR SENATOR DAME PATRICIA SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act, 2004.

ORDER NO. 3 – THE INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the Bill before us is seeking an amendment to Part II of the Second Schedule of the Insurance Act. Part II of that Schedule limits the amount which insurance companies which are involved in motor insurance or long-term insurance can invest in real estate or leasehold for the production of income.

This is important, Mr. President, because the Actuarial makes a distinction between investment in real estate for purposes of earning income and investment in real estate for the provision of a service.

While 15 per cent might have been adequate several years ago, because of the changes which have taken place in the value of real estate, it has now reached a point where a number of the insurance companies involved, are at the point where they are likely to be in breach of that requirement of 15 per cent.

In addition, the National Accounting Standard 40 which was introduced in January 2001, deals with the question of the measurement and disclosure of property, and requires that investment property should be disclosed at fair value or cost. The result is that those companies which follow the approach of fair value are the ones which are more likely to be in breach of the requirement.

The proposal here that the limit be moved from 15 per cent to 25 per cent, is in keeping with what happens in a number of countries in the region and some outside of the region. In Trinidad, for example, the limit is now 20 per cent for long-term business and in Jamaica, it is a similar limit as well, 20 per cent for long term business and an additional 10 per cent for owner-occupied property. In Canada it ranges between 20 per cent and 30 per cent.

Therefore, the proposed new limit of 25 per cent is in keeping with what happens in the region and these countries are all members and follow the standard to which Barbados adheres. It seems to us that it is appropriate, taking all matters into account, to move the limit from 15 per cent to 25 per cent to create an environment where the insurance

companies have greater flexibility to put some of their money in real estate.

Now, at present those insurance companies which are involved in motor insurance, and long-term insurance are allowed to create a statutory fund. They are permitted to use money from that Fund to invest in bonds, debentures and stocks in Barbados, and in a number of countries which are identified in Part 1 of the Schedule.

At 2002, there were nine companies registered to write long-term business, and 18 to write general business. The investments by the companies carrying on long-term business in 2002 total \$426 million having moved from \$342 million in 2000. Investments by companies carrying on general insurance business in 2002 total \$331 million having moved from \$257 million in 2000. The assets of the companies making up the industry at the end of 2000 stood at \$1.728 billion.
5.10 p.m.

Mr. President, it is clear from all the information that the local insurance industry is a sound one and is managed by persons who are exhibiting great capability in doing so.

Thank You.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, the Opposition supports the amendment as we accept the reasons given by the Honourable Leader of Government Business. However, there is one brief point I would like to make. Since we are talking about raising the limit from 15 per cent to 25 per cent and since we are talking about real estate, I should draw attention to the fact that insurance companies might, in greater degree than is now the case, pay some attention to the fact that low income housing in Barbados is an area of great demand.

Mr. President, at the heart of insurance practice is an understanding of persistencies. I think the insurance industry understands better than most the commitment of the people of Barbados generally to paying their debts and discharging their obligations. With this increased flexibility, it seems to me that the area of low income housing might be a useful area in which to direct some of this new flexibility to solve one of the most pressing problems facing the people of Barbados.

I, therefore, hope that some suasion would be used to urge them in this direction because clearly Government cannot do it alone and it is going to be very important that private sector entities step in to assist as best as they can in producing affordable housing thus relieving a pressing national need.

Apart from that, Mr. President, we have no problem with the amendment, and it has our support.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 2 were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read third time and passed and cited as the Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2004.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

5.16 p.m.

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2. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Natural Medicinals Incorporated) Order, 2004;
3. Value Added Tax (Refund) (People's Cathedral) Order, 2004;
4. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Cane Vale Seventh Day Adventist Church) Order, 2004;
5. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police Incorporated) Order, 2004;
6. Valued Added Tax (Refund) (JGL Hotels Limited) Order, 2004;
7. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Carleton Court Holdings Limited) Order, 2004;
8. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Limited for the year ended June 30, 2003;
9. Report on the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2003;
10. Report on the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2003;
11. Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporation (BTII) for the year 2002;
12. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the years, 2000 and 2001;
13. Instrument Adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at its 91st Session held in Geneva, on June 19, 2003;

14. Annual Report of the National Assistance Board for the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002;
15. Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 2004;
16. Special Development Areas (Savoy Properties SRL) Notice, 2004;
17. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Evco Limited) Order, 2004;
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19. Annual Report of the Community Legal Services Commission for the year ended March 31, 2003;
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23. Annual Report on the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund for the year 2002;
24. Annual Report on the Severance Payments Scheme for the year 2002;
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27. Financial Statements of the Gymnasium Limited for the year ended March 31, 2000.
28. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Fiton Technologies Corporation) Order, 2004.

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2. The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill, 2004.
3. The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

NOTICES OF RESOLUTIONS

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1. To approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown for parcels of land situate at Queen Street, Speightstown, in the parish of St. Peter in this Island for the provision of an access to the beach.
2. To approve the grant of a sublease under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 to the Barbados National Trust of the building known as "Arlington House" situate at Speightstown in the parish of St. Peter in this Island to allow the Barbados National Trust to undertake special restoration of the said building.

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