
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 2008 – 2013

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 11.10 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour SENATOR Dr. B. M. TAITT, M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.), B.A. (Hons.), D.H.L. (Honourary), (President)

Her Honour SENATOR Miss K. F. IFILL, M.B.A., B.Sc. (Hons.), (Deputy President)

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, M.A., M.B.A. B.Sc.,(Hons.), (Leader of the Senate) (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office)

SENATOR the Hon. H. LaV. BENN, J.P., E.M.B.A. (Marketing), (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

SENATOR Rev. P. A. V. MILLINGTON, M. (Theol.)

SENATOR D. McD. ALLEYNE, M.A., B.A.

SENATOR P. W. B. GILKES

SENATOR Miss P. I. INNISS, B.Sc. (Hons.)

SENATOR D. K. A. GRIFFITH

SENATOR Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD, K.A., G.C.M., B.Com., F.C.A. (Hons.), LL.D. (Hons.) (U.W.I.)

SENATOR the Hon. Mrs. V. E. NEWTON, S.C.M., F.L.A.(Gt. Brit.),M.A., LL.M. (Hons.)(U.W.I.), B.A. (Spec. Hons.), L.E.C.

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

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE, M. B.A. (Hons.), M.A. African Studies, B.A. (Hons.)

SENATOR J. A. C. HUTSON, B.C.H., M.R.A.C.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received apologies for the absence of Senator the Hon. D. W. Boyce and Senator the Hon. A. B. Walters who are on Government Business, Senator Sir Roy Trotman who is attending an International Labour Conference, Senator Mrs. V. I. Sandiford-Garner who is out of the country presumably on Government Business and Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow who is indisposed and would not be here for this Sitting.

11.30 a.m.

PAPERS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

1. Excise Tax (Rate of Tax) Order, 2009;
2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Remit) (PreConco Limited) Order, 2009;
3. Annual Report of the Barbados International Business Promotion Corporation (Investment) (Barbados) for the year 2008;
4. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 2008;
5. Annual Report of the National Productivity Council for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR
SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY
A MINISTER

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Bills be read a first time:

1. National Insurance and Social Security (Amendment) Bill, 2008.
2. Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
3. Liquor Licences (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
4. The University of the West Indies (Guarantee of Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
5. National Insurance and Social Securities (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – SECOND READING OF THE LIQUOR
LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, in the 2008 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals of the Minister of Finance, it was indicated that the Liquor Licences Act at Cap. 182 had not been reviewed since the 1980s. It was felt that in terms of the contributions to the Treasury, the licences paid by proprietors of businesses selling liquor should be increased come September 1, 2009. Sir, to make this possible - and this is an amendment to give effect to the requirement in the Budgetary Proposals previously mentioned - there is a requirement that two minor amendments be made to the Liquor Licences Act, Cap. 182.

Mr. President, the first Amendment speaks to the replacement of the word "druggist" to be replaced with the word "pharmacist." The second Amendment makes provision for the payment of the licence fee imposed in two instalments. This Amendment is, therefore, one which is straightforward, one which facilitates the implementation of a budgetary proposal and from my perspective, it needs no major debate. In fact, from my perspective, it needs no

debate. As the Honourable Senate, we are seeking to facilitate the work of our public entities which are charged with the responsibility of enforcing provisions within the Law and, certainly, the provisions set out or the impositions of the Budget.

Mr. President, with those few words, I believe I have established the necessity for the Amendment.

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. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 3, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT 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. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Liquor Licences (Amendment) Act, 2009.

11.30 a.m.

ORDER NO. 2

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE OF THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL SUM OF \$50 MILLION AND INTEREST THEREON TO BE BORROWED BY BARBADOS PORT INCORPORATED FROM BNB FINANCE AND TRUST CORPORATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING A PORTION OF THE COMPANY'S EXISTING DEBT AND ITS ONGOING CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the Barbados Port Inc., formerly known as the Barbados Port Authority and prior to that an amalgamation of the Port Contractors, a private entity of the Port Department of Barbados. Sir, if my memory serves me right, this entity, the Port Authority, came into existence in late 1978 or late 1979. Sir, while I do not remember the

exact date, I can tell you that I know of its creation because I happened to have worked in the Port Authority, prior to that, at Port Contractors for a very brief time on graduation from the University of the West Indies. Mr. President, as such, I have had a few decades, or more, association with this entity. You may question the age and I am not ashamed to say how old I am, but we will continue, Sir.

Mr. President, as I have said, I have been associated with that entity in one of its forms for several decades. Sir, in addition to having worked very briefly at the Port, I have served from the inception as a Director of the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal Inc., a venture between the Port on behalf of the Government of Barbados, the private sector and public shareholders, like myself.

Sir, therefore, over those years, I have had a very keen interest in the operation of the Port, its success and its concerns and, certainly, in ensuring its contribution to the tourism sector, through its shareholdership in the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal Inc. Sir, in fact, Government is the single largest shareholder and it has worked to the benefit of this country.

Mr. President, as you are aware, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate of a guarantee by the Government for the repayment by the Barbados Port Inc. of BDS\$50 million, which was borrowed by the company to facilitate the refinancing of a number of debts. Over the last 10 years and, certainly, the last five years or before that, we would have seen Barbados Port Inc., its predecessor the Barbados Port Authority undertaken significant borrowings in the name of enhancing the operations at the Port and, Sir, I can say, because of my association, that I saw some of those.

Mr. President, I would want to stress that I did have some concerns as a Director of Bridgetown Cruise Terminals about the level of expenditure and the impact that it has had. What I am saying, in essence, is that I did have some concerns about the efficiency and the effectiveness of the use of those resources. Sir, there were millions of dollars borrowed on several occasions, which have given rise to the need for this debt consolidation.

I want to emphasise that while the Port has been making a significant contribution, that there is the need for the commitment on the part of Board and its management, as it would have been for successive Boards and members of the management team, to ensure that where public resources are made available, or where guarantees are made on behalf of the Port, that careful attention be paid to the utilisation of those resources. Mr. President, I can say that this Government is certainly committed to ensuring that operation is rendered more efficient.

Mr. President, as our economy has grown, a major contributor to that growth has been the operations at the Port. Sir, we are a country heavily dependant on tourism, not only on cruise tourism, which, as we know, contributes approximately 50 per cent of the visitors to this country and, therefore, is an important sector.

It also contributes to the facilitating of business activity through the receipts and distribution of cargo, either inwards or outbound cargo and, therefore, is a critical element of part of the whole structure of the conducting of business in Barbados.

Mr. President, as we seek to facilitate the rationalisation of the finances of the Port for management and, indeed, the Board, which is the policy arm of the overall management of the facility, it is important that they spend some time to really revisit the operations and explore ways in which we could make the Port more efficient.

Mr. President, there is a lot of money spent in terms of infrastructure and part of the previous expenditure was intended for the rationalisation of the Port and it is incumbent on management to share with the public the extent to which that rationalisation has been achieved and the full cost of efforts to date. Sir, as I have said, I believe there is room for greater efficiency and I know because of my interest in the operation and my association as a director of the operation within the confines of the Port.

Mr. President, I know that a lot of money has been spent in the area of cruise tourism and part of the Port expansion project. However, we still are faced with some major challenges. It is the plan of this Administration to continue what was contemplated. Sir, the discussions started at least eight years ago, which would have been the establishment of an additional pier, which would have been dedicated to cruise tourism.

Mr. President, at the time it was first contemplated the shareholders of the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal Inc. were willing to participate in that venture. I can also say at the time that some of the plans put forward by the Port, at least those plans shared with the cruise terminal, were at a level which was somewhat extravagant and, Sir, I anticipate that the current Administration at the Port and, certainly, the Minister responsible, would pay close attention to facilities that are adequate that would provide the necessary infrastructure for the improvement of the facility but, at the same time, that would not go overboard in terms of the cost of operation.

11.40 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M.P.O. McCLEAN: I believe, as we have witnessed before, and I am speaking from my own involvement and I have to re-emphasise that,

any plans that are overly extravagant will not in the long-term realise the kind of impact, or even financial benefits. Therefore, we have to pay attention to what is necessary, what is essential, what will enhance our operations, but which do not go overboard in terms of expenses. Sometimes we have seen extravagance in that area where we could have probably focussed on efficiency and effectiveness.

Sir, there is no doubt that the Barbados Port has been a leader in the Region. The Barbados Port has won many awards, and that is clear, but it does not say that we are at the best that we can be. There is a lot more room for focussing on our systems, our systems of handling cargo, our systems of dealing with the second critical element, our systems related to cruise passengers.

Sir, I believe that a critical component of service, whether it is service to our manufacturing sector, our distributive trade, or service to the cruise ships, which berth in Barbados and which contributes significantly, major attention has to be paid to the quality of service.

Sir, I believe that in focussing attention on the improvement of service, there are some major areas to be addressed and one of those areas has to do with, if we talk about the Port, the service of the taxi operators in the country.

Frequently we hear of complaints, and anybody who is a casual observer or even more serious observer of the logistics, behaviors and the presentation of self, many of our taxi drivers would agree that there is room for significant improvement. At the level of presentation of self and at the level of service to the visitor, I really would want to use this forum and opportunity to call on the operators to pay some attention to the service and, perhaps, ask themselves what it is they would want delivered if they were on the other side.

Sir, I can tell you that the quality of service has not been something that has been omitted, certainly from the end of the operator in the cruise sector. There have been opportunities for training, while I sat on the Board and was not only a Board member but later Chairperson of that Board, initiatives were engaged where efforts were sought to have, through financial support, the representatives of the Taxi Association or the Taxi Associations, because there is more than one in the Port, participate in a premier event for cruise ships which is the Annual Sea Trade Event, held by the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association and attended by several players and stakeholders in the cruise tourism sector.

I also at this time, as we talk about the Port, the rationalisation and Government's commitment to undertake a guarantee on behalf of Barbados Port Inc., to say there is

a concern as we seek to make the Port more efficient, as we seek to make a bigger contributor to the economy as a whole, we also have to look at the creation of opportunities for the smaller business entities within that Port.

I want to speak again specifically about our taxi operators. The Bridgetown Cruise Terminal Inc., which I said is an entity part-owned by the Port, was started in the early 1990s and from very early, the initial Directors sought to facilitate the efforts of the taxi drivers to participate more meaningfully in the business of transportation. Many of those efforts were not taken onboard because of people's notions of how they should earn, but unfortunately, their failure to take those things on board, earlier, saw a situation where they continued to indicate that their share of the business was minor.

I therefore would want to call on the Executive of the taxi operations, there is a co-operative and there is an association of independent taxi operators, to sit down again with the Port, because the taxis are managed by the Port and not by the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal Inc., and revisit strategies that were put on the table, and not to boast, some of them offered by myself as a person knowledgeable about marketing and knowledgeable about the industry, in which they can participate in the transportation of passengers, in a way that recognises the mechanisms by which cruise passengers are transported. I should explain what I am talking about.

Sir, cruise passengers are transported in a way which says that they tend to book their tours, et cetera, in advance. It is done in a way where business operators negotiated upfront with the cruise industry, the cruise vessels, by company and so on. Therefore, efforts to facilitate taxis offering a special service have been made and should be taken advantage of, because nobody, I believe, is going to do it for them unless they are willing to do it for themselves.

Sir, I believe that in talking about a guarantee for the Barbados Port Inc., we recognise that this is done to facilitate some rational thinking, I suppose, and action to the financing of the operation. We had several bits of financing over a period which attracted a cross-section of interest rates, relatively high in terms of the times that they were borrowed, et cetera.

The idea is to reduce the cost of servicing the debt, consolidating the debt and getting a government guarantee. It is anticipated that in the same way the Government has committed to this, the management and staff of the Port will commit to becoming more efficient to ensure that they are able to get out of what seems to me, when I look at the numbers, some kind of trap, and find a way to bring that Port back to a position of profitability in times that are extremely difficult.

I believe that in doing that, Government is also cognizant of its plans for expanding the operations of the Port in a way that makes the conduct of business in the area of cruise more successful, and that makes the conduct of business of the cargo side of the Port more efficient. Sir, overall, I believe that in doing this, the guarantee will go a long way to ensuring that the Barbados Port Inc. will be in a position to maintain its very good record in the area of transport, movement of goods and services, and, of course, the facilitating of the cruise industry. Therefore, I believe that this Resolution is one which will ensure that the Port is on its way to returning to some of its glory days.

Sir, I know of several individuals who worked very hard to bring the Port to its former glory, and have probably gone off to another life. I believe that it is in the interest of all of us, to ensure that a critical engine of our survival as a society and our ability to be competitive as an economy, has to be supported by Government, but it also has to be supported by the people who make the day-to-day decisions in a way that the focus is on efficiency, effectiveness and the well-being of this country and the people who live and reside in this country.

11.50 a.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Chandler.

SENATOR Dr. F.L. CHANDLER: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, we have heard a lot recently about the high cost of living, particularly, the high cost of food. There was a recent study done. I think it was done for the Inter-American Development Bank, but I am not quite sure of the exact title of the report. It has shown that the Barbados Port is one of the highest cost ports in the world, as well as one of the ports with the longest turnaround time. Therefore, all of this, in addition to the other statistics that they have recorded, adds to the cost of living. There are also a number of costs in the port that, I think, are disincentives to exports. I would think that we need exports badly at this time to earn foreign exchange.

The report I just referred to also made some recommendations for the improvement of the Port in terms of efficiency and productivity. While I support the Resolution, I trust that these recommendations, which were made from this report, will not only stay there as a report, but they will be looked into urgently and put into force, to try to bring down the cost of living or, at least, that portion of the cost of food and other imports into the island.

I thank you, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Inniss.

SENATOR Miss P.I. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Sir, I too, want to make a quick contribution, as related to this matter. It has been quite exhausted in the Other Place, and a lot of concerns have been raised regarding it, and to the fact that the Port has indeed functioned effectively for years, but the need to increase efficiency and the need to make it most cost effective, is very paramount.

I listened to the Leader of Government Business speaking about a number of the issues that have been spoken about in the Other Place and, I think, what has been borne out extensively is that there is need for improvements at our Port. In the Other Place it was spoken to a greater extent of the amounts of monies that are expended, as it relates to the paying of overtime. I believe the Minister related had mentioned the point at looking at a three-shift system, to eradicate the two-shift system, where there is therefore an overtime drag, where a lot of money is being spent there.

I actually have quite a few friends who work within the Port and it is amazing the many concerns they have, and the way in which they think that efficiency can be brought closer into play. I am really hoping and calling on this Government to take to heart, a lot of the recommendations.

For instance, Sir, even as it relates to overtime which drags a lot of money from Port issues, the question is simply a matter of not paying overtime, but if clearances are not completed, then there is an overtime issue. It is not often simply a matter of having another shift. You have persons who have began the work, there is not necessarily a case of making another shift. They have to complete such, and so, you have overtime issues. Therefore efficiency, Mr. President, is a great concern at our Port.

Mr. President, I know for sure that there will be another time to speak to this to an extent, but as it relates to cargo handling which has been identified as contributing to some 70 per cent of the Port's revenue, and the need to change the system for clearances of goods, therefore, we see that as synonymous with improving working conditions at the Port, in essence, improving Customs related issues; improving cargo handling time; improving, as I have been hearing recently, the intention to remove the manual process for container release applications.

I am sure, Mr. President, that you know, as we all do, that when it comes to clearances and matters of the Port, they become very complicated but for sure, there are a number of issues as they relate to the Port, which have to

be addressed. My concern is that when it comes to this big chunk of the Port's revenue, which relates to cargo handling, it ties in directly with the manner in which Customs performs its duties, directly. Sir, for sure, Customs is in need of an overhaul.

There has been the recent discourse of a modernisation programme for the Customs Department but that too, is taking its time in spinning. Mr. President, you may well know that everything that runs in or out of our Port, or you may not, as is cleared by Customs, must go through the ASYCUDA Plus/Plus System, that presently exists within our Customs and that too, has to be looked at.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss P.I. INNISS: Sir, in essence, our Customs Department works on a technical ASYCUDA Plus/Plus System, an automatic system for the Custom's data, which is a universal system. It is not just something willy-nilly, or a matter of raising a tariff here, and I heard in the Other Place there was discourse of the point that our tariffs have not been adjusted for decades, some 10 to 20 years.

Also, Customs Officers speak of where Government gives incentives, it is not just a matter of putting on something, taking off something or changing a title, because these terms are international standards. Therefore there is the need then for the modernisation within the Customs to address the many problems that Customs faces, as related to job descriptions and more working facilities.

Therefore, some of the big problems within our Customs such as overtime issues, shift problems, container clearance, and paper work that impact on the work of our Customs, have to be looked at seriously, as well the manner in which our officers work the ASYCUDA System, and other limitations that they are presently working with, Sir.

Mr. President, I heard some horror stories I could not believe, in which they tried to make sure that their data, servers and back-up systems do not crash, because for that to happen, would be a chaos in itself. Sir, the point has been made and has to be stressed, that as we go into the modernisation of our Port, as we go into making the conditions better for those who work within the port and all the different agencies within the Port, we have to address the core of the problem, where 70 per cent of the income which comes from our cargo, and is related to our Customs, they must all be taken in association.

I believe that in my supporting this Resolution, which attempts to zero into issues and to make improvements, I think we are going the right way to ensure that efficiency is enhanced at the Port and that the major issues are addressed. I am just hoping and waiting to see

that we will come to the core of the Custom's issues as they relate to the Port. I am eager to see that day, Mr. President, where we have an excellent record, internationally, as it relates to the handling of business and, therefore, the increase of revenue in Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Does any other Senator wish to contribute to the debate?

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, as I indicated in my opening remarks, the Resolution to support the guarantee of \$50 million for the Barbados Port, Inc., is one in which the Government recognises the need to bring some order to the financial arrangements, the borrowing of the Port and to reduce the cost of borrowing its debt servicing.

12:00 noon.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I also believe that in doing that, it is important to stress, my colleague in her comments just now made this point, that in looking at the operations of the Barbados Port Authority Inc. we not only focus on the two broad areas of business, that is, cruise and cargo, but that we also focus on the facilitating mechanisms which enhance or otherwise the operations at the Port.

Mr. President, the reference to the Customs is one that I think is important. The role and functioning of Customs is critical. The efficiency of the Customs operations is also critical to the Port's efficiency.

Mr. President, as I speak, efforts are ongoing to ensure that the operations at Customs be revisited. As we know, that arm of Government is a major collector of revenue. The efficiency and the effectiveness which that is done - and I stress the use of those words over and over because those are critical to success - will determine how Government is able to meet a lot of its commitments because of the revenues generated. Therefore, as part of this whole process of bringing order to the financing of the Port and so on, it is part of a plan to ensure that all of the elements are working as well as they could.

Mr. President, at this point in time, officers at the senior level at the Customs Department are working to facilitate the Customs Department's contribution to the success of the Port.

With those few words, Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS (RECOMMITAL)

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of:

1.A Resolution to approve the grant of a lease in accordance with Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 to Tamarind Hall Inc. of a parcel of land, the property of the Crown situate at Blackmans in the Parish of St. Joseph in this island for the purpose of the construction of a Municipal Complex.

2.A Resolution to approve in accordance with Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land situate at Huntles Road, Carrington's Village in the Parish of St. Michael for the public purpose of housing development.

ORDER No. 3

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (GUARANTEE OF LOANS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, the existing Act, the University of the West Indies (Guarantee of Loans) Act, 2007-24 provides for the guaranteeing of loans to the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies. However, it must be recognised that the Cave Hill Campus is part of a Regional University with other Campuses, and therefore as part of its commitment in turn to financial support of the University of the West Indies, that is, all of its Campuses, it is necessary to amend the current legislation to reflect and to give authority and legality to any guarantees for the financing of activities, projects or programmes outside of Barbados, that is, the financing of aspects of the University operations either at centre, which is Mona or maybe the St. Augustine's Campus or for other Campuses should they come into existence. Therefore, this Amendment seeks to support Government's commitment to the University of the West Indies in its totality.

Mr. President, in my previous contribution on the other Resolution to which I spoke earlier, I spoke of my association and I am happy again to speak of my long... I have lots of associations, Mr. President, many of them for which I feel very proud.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Why do you expect me to say something?

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I thought you were signalling to speak.

As I said, Mr. President, this is one of the associations for which I feel proud and I will explain. As I look around this room, I have recognised that the University of the West Indies made a significant contribution...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Which room?

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: As I look around this Chamber, Sir, my apologies. It seems as though my absence on some consecutive occasions seems to have caused me to lose my appreciation for the terminology of this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. President, if I may return to my association with the University of the West Indies, as I indicated, if we look around this country and observe people in my generation and after, we see the benefits that a University of the West Indies education has made, not only in terms of our ability to secure attractive employment, but to our understanding of the world in its many facets, its economic situation, and to the building of a Caribbean community.

As a former student, as a former lecturer and as a former president of the Alumni Association at Cave Hill and a committed member of the Alumni circle where we are seeking to give back to the University, it is clear that the contribution of the University of the West Indies has been a major one. Therefore, in terms of the sheer cost of a University education, it is important that we recognise that the support of the University of the West Indies, the guarantee of the loan and the payment of cost, is such that it must be appreciated that any commitment like this is one in which the taxpayers of this country and, in fact, the taxpayers of the Region are making to the University.

Mr. President, if I may use myself as an example as I like to do, I am one of initially 11 siblings, 10 of whom survived to childhood and adulthood. Of those 10 siblings, five of us benefitted from the University of the West Indies, and of those five, three of us taught at the University of the West Indies. As you are aware, Mr. President, many of us from working-class beginnings can see the benefit of those things.

Mr. President, I also want to stress that as we take advantage of the free education, I say free in terms of direct payment..., I want to cite some of the costs that the University is meeting. In terms of total economic cost, if you are a full-time student and citizen of Barbados in Humanities, it cost the taxpayers of Barbados approximately \$27 500 per year; if you are in the Faculty of Social Sciences, it cost about the same thing; if you are in the Faculty of Law, it cost approximately \$44 000 per year; and if you are in the Medical Sciences, it cost the taxpayers almost \$89 000 per year. I therefore believe that

it is important that our people, certainly our students, pay attention to those costs.

As I said, Mr. President, we in the Region and we in Barbados certainly have a lot to be thankful for in terms of the provision of tertiary education, particularly at the University of the West Indies.

12.10 p.m.

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: I indicated earlier that I had a long association with the University and that it would not be fair if I did not spend some time highlighting some of my concerns. Sir, I have done so in the past and I have been accused outside of this Honourable Chamber of not being a loyal person, but if your friend cannot tell you when something is wrong, or when some things need flagging, then he or she is not a true friend.

Mr. President, I raised the question of costs to say two things. Sir, when the taxpayers of this country are called upon to contribute to one of the two highest expenditures of this Government, that is to education, I believe we are duty-bound as students, and as parents, to ensure that maximum use be made of that opportunity because it does not come cheaply.

I also believe too that when we look at the options, we have to ensure that by our policies, whether they are policies of admission or policies in relation to providing resources, are done in a way that ensures that we make maximum use of these resources.

Sir, we recognise there is an ongoing commitment of this Government, as has been of other Governments, to tertiary education and that there is a commitment to exposing as many Barbadians as possible to tertiary education. Mr. President, when I was a student, I was one of 12, in some classes. When I started teaching at Cave Hill on January 15, 1982, my first class had 96 students. When I left about 10 years ago in 1999, I had classes of over 200 students in some courses.

Sir, I can tell you that some of those classes now have multiples of that number. Some of those classes sometimes have more than 400 students. Sir, when we start to multiply the economic cost, it shows there is an increasing amount of money that must be found by the taxpayers of this country, to ensure that people are given that opportunity.

Mr. President, I also had the opportunity of being a beneficiary of Scholarships at the post-graduate level. Sir, I can tell you that when you go into North America, the average student leaving University after a first degree in an average priced college or university will end up with a debt

of no less than US\$100 000 for the financing of their education.

Mr. President, when we looked at those things, we recognised that our contribution to our people's education is critical. We recognised it is a vital investment in our human resource capabilities. We recognised it is a critical investment in developing our people and that, therefore, he beneficiaries must be reminded, at all times, that while they exercise their rights as citizens to a good education or to the opportunities to acquire a good education, they in turn must also exercise their responsibility to making the best of those opportunities.

Mr. President, while I taught at Cave Hill, I saw students from the Organisation for Eastern Caribbean States, for example, struggling to stay in the University because if they had not borrowed money from a bank, if they had not gotten a scholarship, or had not maintained a good pass rate to enter the University, they were almost finding difficulties.

Sir, times may have changed for a number of those persons from the Organisation for Eastern Caribbean States. Sir, I would want to say that Barbadians have been taking for granted what we have been giving them. Mr. President, I believe it is important that we stress this and that we also pay serious attention to how we use those resources.

Mr. President, I believe also - and this is a message to the University. I have said it before, I have been criticised by former colleagues who do not want to hear, but who need to understand - that as we expand access, we also have to pay special attention to performance. Sir, one of the things we have to recognise is that in providing tertiary education, we may very well have to look at the options.

Sir, we may ask the question, if we have a part-time student, who does not meet the full matriculation requirements, is it better to have that person seeking to get those matriculation requirements, or should we put him or her in the University, especially if he or she does what I sometimes see, that is students not taking full advantage of those opportunities?

Mr. President, I like to talk about myself because nobody can tell me that I am lying. The recommendation I made is one that I took as a parent. I had to make a decision in counselling my child because he was not fully matriculated to go to the University where it would have cost us more, but he had to go to the Barbados Community College and prepare himself, therefore, I know that the issue of looking at expanding access to other tertiary institutions which would provide the opportunity to get

students up to the point where they are fully- University ready is something we need to look at as well.

Mr. President, I believe this guarantee is one which allows Barbados to make a contribution to the Mona Campus. It allows us to be in a position to do so for any Campus. It is important that these things be done because, as I said before, the University of the West Indies is a critical Regional institution. It is one that has transformed the lives of several generations of Caribbean people. Sir, when we look at the political leadership of the Region, we see those persons being there for several decades and I anticipate that we will continue to see those persons playing a major role.

Mr. President, I believe too that it is incumbent on all of us as taxpayers, administrators, Deans of Campuses, students, friends of students, the Alumni of the University, to commit to maintaining the excellent reputation of the University. It is incumbent that we commit ourselves to utilising the resources in a way that will continue to benefit.

It is also incumbent that we support the successes of the Administration of the University. Sir, I will single out the Principal, who has initiated many programmes and linkages, particularly with the private sector in Barbados and across the Region, to ensuring that not only Government is called to foot the bill but that it includes the beneficiaries of the University, those graduates, in their support to the University.

Mr. President, I believe I could not end without imploring the Alumni to follow the lead of many of our graduates, to give back in terms of money and time to the University. Sir, I am happy to say that one of the first members of what is called the "Alumni Circle" is the Honourable Prime Minister.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I think it is only appropriate that we begin by signalling a measure of deep appreciation for the sentiments which the Leader of Government Business has just articulated, especially insofar as the question of responsibility of students is concerned. Mr. President, in Barbados we have a very interesting history in which, irrespective of the political Party holding office, there has been an unbroken and unswerving commitment to the continuation of a very high standard to tertiary education and to the development of the human resource product of the country.

Mr. President, I think the Leader of Government Business is absolutely correct when the Honourable Senator speaks to there being a duty upon those to whom much is given, and from those to whom much is given

much is also expected. Sir, there is a duty that falls on the shoulders of students - certainly I understood it when I was there - that you have to try to capitalise on the opportunity which is being presented to you as a result of the sweat of the taxpayers of the country.

Mr. President, I felt then, as I do now, that it is a tragedy, and I hope that I can say with accuracy that it has come to an end at the University of the West Indies. Sir, when I was there, I would have to say that I came to that Campus and found Barbadians like myself already present. I would have finished my first degree there, and some of those individuals were still in the course of a degree programme. I went on to another degree programme and left that and the same individuals were still on the Campus.

12.20 p.m.

Sir, that is the kind of thing which flies in the face of the effort that the Government is making and the expectations which the people of the country have.

Mr. President, I believe it is also correct to say that the University has now come to an understanding that, as an administrative body, it needs to put in place measures which bring an end to the frequency of that kind of event taking place. Sir, it is something which caused me concern then and it reflects completely on what the Leader of Government Business has articulated.

Mr. President, only this morning before this Session began formerly, I was enjoying a discussion with Senator Marville arising from a closer understanding about African societies. Sir, Ghana and Botswana are, arguably, in Africa, two of the best governed and, certainly, they enjoy a high standard of educational product. Sir, it comes as a result of a similar commitment on the part of Governments to invest in the human capital of the country.

Mr. President, education is the most complete method of social transformation. I do not know that has been driven home in the minds of many of our young students. I hear the discussion of social transformation taking place in Barbados and, sometimes, it is almost as if it begins and ends with the politics and sociology of welfarism. Sir, really and truly, you teach a man to fish and he will feed himself, his family and successive generations. Sir, that is the way in which we need to have our young people understand this thing.

Mr. President, I felt a degree of pain, when I was in the Other Place, a few years ago, when an issue arose and, Sir, it was not a little ripple on the surface. This seemed to be a big thing at the University of the West Indies, when the fee you pay on going into the University was increased to \$750. Sir, again one has to reflect on how serious we are as a society. Mr. President, I see it continuing under this

Government and, certainly, under previous Governments, there was commitment to the transformation of the amenities at the Campus.

Mr. President, when I went to the Cave Hill Campus, it did not have anything resembling the multi-million dollar sporting facility that they enjoy now. Sir, the concept of football under lights at the Cave Hill Campus was completely unheard of, if not undreamt about. Mr. President, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Sciences, all of them have been transformed in the space of 10 years beyond belief and recognition. Sir, there were new accommodations put down for students...

Asides.

SENATOR K.D. SYMMONDS: I am hearing that is nothing to do with amenities but the reality is that there are facilities that students enjoy at Campus and that Barbadians, in particular, enjoy.

Sir, I take the point that the Leader of Government Business makes that in the OECS, you would realise there is really a difficulty under which their students labour. Sir, they come here and pay many times more without assistance of the State. Sir, the types of figures we hear being discussed are \$44 000 a year, if you are in the Faculty of Law; \$28 000 for a degree in Social Sciences and so on, and the reality is that the Barbadian student is enjoying a life of comparable ease on a Campus, which is in his or her backyard, to all intents and purposes. Mr. President, you go there at 8:00 o'clock or 9:00 o'clock in the morning; you leave around 6:00 o'clock in the evening, go home to Mummy and Daddy and eat dinner. It is a form of existence that is not heard of in the University body around the world.

Mr. President, the point was made that if you are in the United States of America, that nine times out of ten times, you leave your place of tuition and go and get a little job on evenings because that is the only way you make ends meet. Sir, through working, you still have to study and perform because you are not going to be given these grace periods that the University of the West Indies has encourage people to believe exists elsewhere of five years and six years to complete one degree programme and, in some instances, more.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we, as a society, have to continue to look closely at what is happening at the University of the West Indies. I am very pleased that there has been a re-commitment of Government's commitment to the development of the tertiary education sector. Sir, while I am on that note, I also feel it is necessary to reflect a little bit as to what we mean by saying, to whom much is given. I suspect that during the course of this debate, not anticipating any Honourable Senator's contribution, we

may hear different definitions as to what constitutes an amenity, capital works et cetera.

Sir, I want to make a point that I feel has to be made for Barbadians to understand. When Government, as the last Administration and grants 33 acres of land and vests it in the University of the West Indies to expand the Campus, therefore, to give additional Barbadians as well as brothers and sisters in the Region an additional opportunity to access what is really some of the highest possible levels of educational opportunity in the western hemisphere then, quite frankly, Sir, it is a very clearly demarcated line of commitment to the development of your human capital.

Sir, when Government takes \$9.1 million and allocates it to the University of the West Indies, not lends it - the last Administration allocated it - as part of an expansion project, and again, defines a clear commitment to the development of your human capital.

Mr. President, I think what we have to get our students to understand is that it is not only at the University of the West Indies but it is at the Barbados Community College. Sir, substantial work in the tertiary education sector is done at the Barbados Community College. The role was increased from about 3 600 to well over 4 000 within the last two or three years. We had situations at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic where the role was increased.

Mr. President, I think the inevitable point to which we must come in this discussion is what is the current thinking of this Government on the question of the University College of Barbados. Sir, when the last Administration left office, the University College of Barbados had all of its plans for establishment fully in place, and it was expected that they would begin to admit students some time last year.

Mr. President, the reality is that we would need, I think, to have an understanding of what is the policy position and this is an excellent opportunity to do so, as we are talking about tertiary education. There is no debate here right now in terms of the commitment of political Parties to tertiary education. I think it is an excellent opportunity for us to come to an understanding as to what is the policy thinking of this Government on that useful initiative, which was defined as the University College of Barbados.

Mr. President, again, there is no divorce between the Parties on the question of the financial support which has to be given to Barbadian students. I think that when we look at areas, for example, which are ancillary to the whole tertiary exercise like the Student Revolving Loan Scheme and so on, you would find that both political Parties have understood the importance of increasing access to the Student Revolving Loan Scheme, whether it by way of

making the conditions more user-friendly, for want of a better way of putting it, or alternatively increasing the limit of the amount of money that can be borrowed.

12.30 p.m.

Sir, it is a fact, for example, that the Barbados Labour Party, during the last Administration, changed the limit of the revolving loan facility from \$35 000 to \$50 000. I believe that this Government has already indicated that they would wish to look at the conditions on which we access loans to make them, as I said, more user friendly.

Sir, I think that we, as a society, have to be very cautious, and I close on this point. We have to be very cautious that we do not send a message to future generations, that which is the most expensive of developmental components across the world, which is education, is a flash in the pan exercise easily obtained, not to be cherished, or not to be respected in Barbados.

I think that the reality around the rest of the world is that people have come to an understanding, that were it not for a dint of hard labour, or were it not for a significant effort, they would not be able to pull themselves up via the route of improved educational qualifications. In Barbados there is a feeling that it is there, Government is going to pay for it and you can take it how you will and treat it how you will.

I think that is a very dangerous thing. It is a very dangerous thing. Too many of our young people may be lured into believing that there is a false sense of complacency to be found in the educational setting here in this country, because of the fact that it is so much different from what takes place elsewhere.

Sir, if that becomes a majority view among the young people in Barbados, then we are in some trouble, because it will not be cherished, or it will not be respected. Sir, quite frankly, the investment in social capital will really become a failed investment.

We need to be sure that all the money that is being spent on expanding the Campus and expanding the range of degrees offered, expanding the types of teaching, distance education, et cetera, all those things which are being done in order to make the access to the education better as a long-term investment for the country, are things which are resonating with the people who are ideally to benefit from it, but more importantly, are being done with a view and with an understanding on the part of the broader society, that this is something that the society must continue to uphold, respect and cherish.

Sir, with those few observations I would want to signal my own support of the Bill.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Madam Deputy President.

Her Honour SENATOR Miss K.F. IFILL: Mr. President, I have no difficulty in supporting this Resolution. Like my Honourable colleague, the Leader of Government Business, I have had, not as esteemed or as lengthy a career, but I have had some association with the University of the West Indies. It is with a sense of pride that I stand here because were it not for that, were it not for my other academic associations, I would not be able to be here today. Therefore, I deem it a privilege.

I often do not speak on matters that have been so well elucidated because I feel they have been so well handled, that my brief interventions will not improve on them. However, I think that we, as West Indians, have a right to stand and say that we support our University of the West Indies. In a time when we complain that there is no Regional integration, and our sense of "West Indianism" is going away, our belief in ourselves as one Caribbean is deteriorating. It is important that we continue to do things like this to ensure that we uphold those institutions that bridge the borders of our islands.

Sir, I do have some concerns, however, with regard to the University. Like my colleague, I left Campus a few years ago, and on my brief visits there, within the recent past, I am very pleased with the level of change that has occurred, not just the sporting facilities, because, frankly, you will never see me running around a cricket pitch. It does not make any difference to me. However, the other changes on the Campus have been very impressive. One area, I think, we still need to look at, which is my main area of concern, and that is for students with disabilities. Sir, as we improve our education system and more students make it into the mainstream, more students with disabilities are going to be able to take advantage of the University. It is a fantastic thing that our Government is able to facilitate so many of our Barbadian students at our Campuses.

Sir, as you and I have discussed, it would be a sad day if we ever saw these privileges come to an end. I agree that sometimes some of our students do not seem to value what is so freely given to them, but our students with disabilities still do not have as much advantage on the Campus as I would like to see, and as others would like to see.

Sir, I feel that our Campus is particularly well placed to benefit such students from around the Region as well. Unlike our two sister Campuses, we exist in a less charged society in terms of criminal activity and so on. Students from other islands would find it far more convenient to be here than Other Places, at least as a proud Barbadian, that is what I mean. Therefore, I would like to see that improvements are made so that our students with

disabilities find it easier to access the Campus and to move around. Sir, I am pleased with the introduction of the open Campus and that does open up a lot more opportunities, not just for students with disabilities, but to other students from other parts of the Caribbean. It is a beautiful thing, but the physical infrastructure needs to be put in place.

During my time on Campus, I was very touched by the level of commitment demonstrated by, not just the lecturers, but by the Administration staff, and even the ancillary staff, in ensuring that my needs were met. The University purchased equipment to ensure my needs were met, and that equipment remains there. They put in place some ramps and some elevators, but too often enough is not being done.

In addition to that, I hope that other young people will begin to recognise how important an opportunity we are given here in Barbados. Sometimes when I listen to the poor offerings on the radios these days, and I read the newspapers and come across some of the ridiculous actions, and those are the only terminologies that I can use, I sometimes despair of the fact that our educational system seems not to be benefitting some of our people, because if they were taking proper advantage of the opportunities that were afforded them, then they would not be finding themselves in a position to offer such substandard - that is the most decent term that I could think of at this time - that we find going on.

Sir, with those few words, I support this Resolution and I look forward to any other Resolutions that seek to improve our University or tertiary education in Barbados.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Marville.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, I am glad that the Leader of Government Business has returned to her seat because I would like to begin with a statement she made. I cannot boast of having been an alumnus of the University, but I can say that...

Asides.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: Mr. President, I would appreciate if you would call order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Were you addressing me? I beg your pardon.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: I think there was a disturbance from the right of you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I did not recognise it myself.

SENATOR R.O. MARVILLE: I am sorry about that, selective recognition, Sir.

Sir, several decades ago a friend of mine said to me, we were talking about Barbados and we were being critical in a loving way, everybody whom you criticise is back home. Since that day, I think with the exception of one year where I ran a bilingual in Portugal, I have spent every year in public service, international, Regional or local. I am interested in the remark about having...

12.40 p.m.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: I am interested in the remark about having 200 students. I teach a foundation course at the University of the West Indies and there are never less than 230 to 240 students, so that is the sort of level that now exist?

I wanted to start off with a point made by Senator Symmonds and that is the question of the Amenities' procedure. I was teaching at the time and my students were very upset about it and they said to me that this is supposed to be free education. I said: "Yes, free to whom? It has to be paid for". They did not appreciate that and I said: "When you are finished here and you can get a great job somewhere outside, are you going to be bothered about having spent so much of local taxpayers' money, or you are going to take it?" They said: "We'll go", and I said: "There is a moral problem in that".

I am back here because this country provided me with Scholarships until I was, God knows, how old.

Asides.

SENATOR R. O. MARVILLE: No. I am not talking about how old I am. I said how old I was when I finished my scholarships. I assure you, Sir, that is considerably younger than you are now.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

Sir, I take the point that was raised several times about the question of the appreciation of students of what they are being offered and I am very concerned about it myself, because I do recognise that there has been somebody at the University of the West Indies for 10 years; 10 years failing courses, and not bothering to do what has to be done.

I think we have to support the University, and there are several reasons we have to do that. I mean, among them, we have in the leader of the total University system, one of the most brilliant exponents of Regional culture, as

well as global culture. The local Principal is one of the most brilliant young men - Sir, I said, young men.

Mr. President, I said young men - that we have working in the Public Service, in the service of the public today. He has initiated programmes that actually bring monies from outside into the system. He has initiated programmes that, I think, down the line will make monies within the University. Sir, the point I am making is that we do have this in place. What we need to do is to make sure that students understand how much they are given.

I think we can cut some costs. We can cut costs if students who fail, out of their negligence - and I am not talking about students with disabilities of one sort or another - are made to pay to retake the course. If they have to retake the course a second time, they should be made to pay commercial rates.

The point I am making is that this is some means of ensuring that students behave seriously. I can assure you, for instance, that students who come from the OECS and elsewhere, work their butts off. They do not make mistakes on things like that. They are always there and several of them actually get "A's" in the course.

There are other issues that are very noticeable. Practically all students from Trinidad and Tobago have done Sixth Form and they perform much better. Our local students very often are escapees from the Community College. They skip the Community College and come directly to the University of the West Indies.

As I see it, there is one solution to ensuring better quality and a better understanding. It is either going to Community College, or Sixth Form, or doing a national service stint. We need to inculcate in our students this notion that what they are getting is way beyond what anybody gets practically anywhere else, and that they themselves owe something in return.

My colleague brought up the question of Ghana and Botswana that we were talking about before. Ghana was a specific case, which had to do a lot with the vision of Joshua Nkomo when he became President. When he became President in 1957, Ghana had, I think, 18 institutions of secondary or tertiary level. Of course, if you look at countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, or Congo, or Málaga, we are talking about still a considerable number, even though we are dealing with 22 million in population.

I think now it has 10 universities but, within four years, Nkomo had raised that level of institutions from 18 to 108, and he had employed teachers from the Soviet Union, the United States of America, Canada, Britain,

South Africa, from here, wherever he could find teaching staff. In fact, I was part of that teaching staff.

The case of Botswana is also interesting because they put a lot of money into their educational system about 15 years ago. For the last nine years, the GDP growth in Botswana was between 8 per cent and 9 per cent, which is considerable anywhere. If we think about it, the country which profitted most from using this educational system, and I always quote them because, in some ways, they are like us, in that they are only slightly larger physically than St. Lucia...

Singapore put a lot of money into education. That is why it is what it is today. Additionally, we seem not to have hit the key point. This is a generation of knowledge. If sugar was King in the 17th Century, in the 21st Century, knowledge is not only King, it is a key to everything and, I think, we have to recognise that, Singapore has. They have said that look, all of you who went to University first, you have raised us to a certain level but what we need now, is to encourage research because that is where the knowledge is going to come from. That is what we are going to live on.

Mr. President, it must be said for the Principal of the University, that he is committed to this type of research. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that we support him but, I think, the University has to carry too many of the problems that have existed before the students get to the University, and we need to do something about that. There needs to be an intervention to make more mature, more purposeful, more focussed students. I think, then, they would appreciate what they have in front of them; what they are given.

It is true that I had Scholarships, but there were people whom I considered my total equals who had no real opportunity and they had to make it out in the world on their own. These students have less ability in several cases but they have opportunities, which must be grabbed.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith, you have the Floor.

SENATOR D.K.A. GRIFFITH: Thank you.

Mr. President, I rise to make a contribution to this debate, coming from a slightly different perspective to my colleagues. I am very, very pleased to see the development that has been going on at the University of the West Indies, specifically in the last five years, where the bulk of the infrastructural development has been undertaken. Sir, given the nature of the expansion, I think, it must be generally

agreed upon, that it was an impressive undertaking to have done so, and to continue to do so.

I am even more pleased by the outreach activities, in terms of the expansion of the academic offerings of the University and, specifically, in terms of looking at institutions like the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination because in the Barbadian society, our concept of what is academic and what is a good developmental programme is very much different to those of many developing countries.

In Barbados, the Arts are not seen as a formal career. The University recognised the need for this type of facility, and went about sourcing funding for it because, I believe, that facility in particular was developed largely without Government funding or, at least, with less Government funding than other facilities.

12.50 p.m.

SENATOR D. K. A. GRIFFITH: The private sector was actively engaged both in the construction of the centre as well as in the continued running and sustainability of the endeavour, and I believe the University must be commended for that.

Like some of my colleagues however, I continue to have reservations about the culture of change within the University. I believe that we can clearly see that there is a vision being put forward by the Heads of the universities, yet we are seeing battles between the Administration and the average person in the University community to put in place developments that are necessary. I can say this being a member of the University, both as an alumnus and as a member of staff.

When we look at that, we need to look at other areas outside of the academic curriculum. I believe that one thing we have focussed very much on and are very competent in maintaining has been the curriculum. However, when you look now at the additional services that are necessary, and at the quality of life in a university...

Mr. President, I believe quality life is going to be particularly key because looking at the statistics presented by Senator McClean with regard to the cost of attending the University, it runs to at least the cost of going to a university in the United States of America, or the United Kingdom. It therefore is an available commercial entity. One of the key factors I believe that has been holding it back from maximising its commercial potential is actually the quality of living.

In looking at Senator Ifill's point about access for people with disabilities, we lag behind our counterparts in the rest of the world. Efforts and changes have been made,

but we still lag behind. In using some of the money now that is available to develop further programmes where students who are visually impaired can go into a library and have easy access to JAWS, which is something which has been developed with time, more and more access is available. JAWS is a software that simply allows text to be converted into voice. Innovations like that allow students who are visually impaired to manoeuvre around the Campus comfortably without necessarily having an aide.

Mr. President, having classrooms marked in Braille is something that is standard in any developing country because you have to put a name plate on the classroom. There is a standard height it is supposed to be put at and the name is put in Braille as well as in English. Things like these are simple steps that need to be taken that have not yet been put into place. However, I do get the impression that many things are under consideration at the University, but the speed at which they are implemented now needs to be addressed.

Mr. President, having been able to be in the position to actually go out into the wider world and represent the University of the West Indies, especially in the art of debating, I came into contact with a lot of students who, were they been effectively marketed to, would willingly attend the University of the West Indies. I think we have a focus on a regional market, but it must be recognised that much of what we do academically especially, and this is now as a historian speaking, is best studied in the West Indies, for example West Indian History.

Mr. President, if a person wants to come and get an understanding of what our history is like, then there should be access to our programmes, but it is very difficult currently for people to come in. We have exchange programmes but the actual marketing of people who come and do a three-year degree in Barbados is considerably lacking. The fact that the degree has an economic cost of \$20 000 or \$30 000 a year means that it is, at least, half of the price of going to do the same degree in the United Kingdom.

Mr. President, I have had expressions of interest from students from all over the world to come to Barbados because not only does the University offer a well-demarcated and identified academic product - because I think that the University of the West Indies has invested many years in making sure that they compete with many of the other programmes worldwide - it also offers access to a certain quality of living and life that is not necessarily accessible anywhere.

Mr. President, I remember that the first time I interacted with Japanese students, they noted the fact that we have a very beautiful beach which is, at least, five minutes away from Campus. That is something that adds

untold amounts of interest in attending a University of the West Indies because it is what the United States of America does now.

Mr. President, everybody knows that Harvard, Princeton and the other Ivy League Schools exist, but when you want to interest students in coming to your facility, you have to show them that life is going to be of a higher quality because they are paying to be there and, therefore, you are going to pay to be your most comfortable.

Mr. President, in looking at the product that we have, it comes from having sunshine regularly. I have several friends who are studying in the United Kingdom and Canada who have to go through rain, snow, sleet and whatever else, and it detracts from the experience that you are able to enjoy.

The fact that Barbados is such a geographically small and cohesive country with a very developed infrastructure means that most students who attend the University of the West Indies from outside of Barbados spend not just hours in the library making sure that they can actually pass the programme, they are doing that, but they are also out enjoying Barbados.

Mr. President, there has to be the experience of being able to go to a night club, or to a high-quality restaurant for a very reasonable price, especially for international visitors, because dollar for dollar, pound for pound, when you are going to the United States of America or the United Kingdom, the experiences you are going to be able to afford are far better.

Mr. President, we have an amazing product to offer, but we now need to let the world know that it is there. We now need to open our doors because we have had expansion to ensure that the local population has access. Mr. President, from about 2001/2002 to present, we went from having 2 500 students on Campus to over 8 000. That is a very short space of time to do so much growth. Mr. President, we have now to look at ways of getting some of that growth to the people external to Barbados to buffer the cost. When we speak of economies of scale, 20 or 30 years ago we had classes that had in 12 people and now we have classes that have in 280 persons, and we are still only paying for one lecturer to teach that class. That means that in economies of scale we are going to become more efficient by having more students accessible. We can see the programmes that have the higher cost because the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities have large class sizes. Law has smaller class sizes, but is now getting larger because they are expanding their intake, and Medical Sciences only has 25 students as far as I am aware at the current time, so they have the \$80 000 a year price tag. The more students that have access to the facilities, and the

lecturers and the better and more efficiently utilised those facilities are, the more economical it would become.

Mr. President, in saying all of that, I think that it is necessary to point out the fact that there is a clear reason why we chose to go the route of education. In looking at the development Barbados has achieved in the last 40 years, it is astounding to think that such a small resource-deprived nation could make that kind of development. Mr. President, while we now contemplate how effective it is to have what is referred to as “free tertiary education”, we can see that more of our neighbours are now aiming to get to that point.

1.00 p.m.

SENATOR D. K. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the Trinidadian Government made no hesitation to changing their gate structure to fund Trinidadian students to go to school in not just the Caribbean, but outside the Caribbean, and the wider world, to make sure that they continued getting the levels of educated people.

Mr. President, we keep speaking about being a developing country and about being developed up to a certain point. If we look at developed countries, there is an educational cohesion. Sir, whether or not you have to pay for it, you are seeing more people with degrees. If we want to be a service economy, we have to have more educated persons because the service requires that.

Sir, I think Barbados has the highest percentage of persons in its population, approximately 25 per cent, who has the highest percentage of University degrees, whereas several Caribbean countries have a smaller percentage that is in the lower tens.

Mr. President, that presents an incredible challenge for development because you do not have the local resources. You do not have people locally who are building, who come in and offer the assistance and then build upon the infrastructure. We do not have people to build upon the systems that are there.

Sir, this is particularly evident in the Organisation for Eastern Caribbean States. It is also the reason Prime Ministers, like Prime Minister Gonsalves, have been willing, in recent times, to expand their funding opportunities for students, because they need educated students to meet their development targets.

Mr. President, in looking at the University, I think what is clear is that if the Government of Barbados continues to provide funding, if it continues to be the guarantor of its loans, they are then in the position to say that they also need to demand more from their students. Government can say that it can see that student as making

an effort, but that these are things Government needs to see happening, and that this would be the structure that the University needs to follow.

Sir, the Government does not need to step in and run the University. What Government needs to do is to give the University that nudge in the direction where it understands that it has to be seeing value for money. Sir, this is a simple consumer rights principle. Government is going to be funding the University of the West Indies and so Government needs to be getting quality from that funding. I believe that must be the major thrust going forward, getting quality from the University, making sure they are encouraging more practical assessments and more practical development in their courses.

Sir, the practical component of the Cave Hill curriculum is very much in need of development. I believe where it is strong now is where you see people from outside of the University coming in and offering their services. I am talking about companies like Ernst & Young, Price-Waterhouse Coopers, who have, for at least 10 years now, dedicated funding and human resources to making sure that the type of students they want to hire are coming out of the Campus. We need to see more of that happening, we need to see a thrust.

Mr. President, in looking at the current civil service structure, many of our job offerings indicate they have lower academic requirements for admittance than is actually occurring. Sir, you can see clerical officers with first degrees now, when they only need C.X.C's. I do not think you find many new entrants into the civil service, even down to the basic administrative level such as clerical officers and upward, without them having a degree. It is the same thing for bank tellers where you are having lots of people having degrees. Sir, what we need then to be insisting is that the University has programming that people can access that enhances the type of structure we need to build.

Mr. President, in speaking about foundation courses, I think our system of education does not focus enough on civics. Sir, far too few people understand the role of politicians in this Honourable Chamber or in the Other Place and their role as citizens. Sir, this needs to be further incorporated into the structure, so that we get better citizens coming out, who are better able to engage the political directorate to ensure this country's development meets their needs.

Mr. President, having said all that, what I believe is that the University is on the cusp of meeting some of its most important goals. What we then need to do is to give it the extra push to get there. I think we have so many alumni of the Cave Hill Campus and the University of the West Indies in general, in influential positions. We need now to

look at how we could give back. We need to look at what we could offer or contribute, whether it is teaching a course or giving financial assistance, but whatever it is, that is necessary because the University alumni is not as healthy as it could be.

Therefore, getting that technical advice from people who have passed through the system, people who know what the society needs is critical in getting beyond this last hurdle, so that we could achieve the full potential of what is one of the better Universities in the world, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. President, I have interacted with students from the highest level Universities and I can say that we have no problem in competing with them. What I would say is that we do have a problem in encouraging our students into believing in their own abilities. We do have a problem in getting the services that address those sorts of problems, services that are not academic, but are vital to creating a well-rounded university student. I believe by focussing on those, we would be able to meet the development goals that we have set, both for the University and for the nation.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.15 p.m.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

1.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is resumed. Senator Newton.

SENATOR the Hon Mrs.. V.E. NEWTON: Mr. President, I rise to support the motion before us today in relation to the University of the West Indies. The first thing I would like to say is that this Bill is evidence of Barbados' longstanding tradition of honouring its obligations to the University, that those obligations are not just the students at the Cave Hill Campus, but to Barbadian students pursuing degrees and other courses at other Campuses and also, as Senator McClean said, to the University Centre for courses and other programmes that the University Centre pursues on behalf of all the other Campuses.

Mr. President, there were a few comments made during the debate this morning in relation to the University to which I would like to speak very briefly. The first is

about facilities for physically challenged students. I know they are not at the stage which Senator Ifill would like to see as yet but I know that, certainly, at Committees and various meetings the matter is constantly before us and that the University is doing as much as it can, especially in relation to having facilities in the new building. You would recognise that there is a challenge to making changes to some existing buildings, but the matter is one that is constantly before the University.

The second matter is in relation to students who would like to be at University perpetually enjoying life there and so on. I know for a fact that during the past few years, the University Administration has tightened up on the regulations, which would have permitted this sort of thing to happen, and that if persons are taking too long to complete their courses, and with no valid reason, that they can be asked to withdraw and, in fact, this has happened to several persons from the PhD level down.

Mr. President, most persons who spoke mentioned the improvements and expansion of facilities at the University but, Mr. President, that is not all that is going on. Sir, that is what we can see and it is very commendable. We are having a new Administration building. There are facilities being made for Medicine, and there are lots of other improvements planned, but it is what one cannot see that is also important in terms of reform of expansion of the Curriculum.

Sir, Senator Griffith spoke about the need for Government to give a gentle nudge to the University to ensure that programmes it would like to see offered are, indeed, offered. These are programmes in areas relating to economic expansion in Barbados. I know for a fact that there are several plans in place to vary and increase their programmes that any Government would consider important at this stage in our development.

Mr. President, in many respects, this is a challenging period for the University and a period of change in which we are being faced with an increase of programmes offered by external Universities, which are drawing numbers away from the University of the West Indies, Sir, one of the challenges is to keep University education in the Region at a low enough cost because students from the OECS and other territories find it difficult to live in Barbados and to pay the fees they are required to pay here in order to access our University.

I assure anyone that is listening that the Principal of the Cave Hill Campus is not only good at raising funds for physical development, but he is very much aware of these other needs and along with programmes being offered by the open Campus, it is considering a number of new initiatives that will change the face of general education, as we now know it.

Mr. President, for one moment I was going to revert to the area I know best, which is legal education, but there is not much I can say at this point in time. I will say that the Principal is very much in tune with the needs of the Barbadian community and that everything is being done to make sure that our offerings are improved.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Inniss.

SENATOR Miss P.I. INNISS: Mr. President, I too would like to make what I imagine would be a short contribution in support of this Bill and the extent to which this shows Government's commitment to the University of the West Indies as a whole, to the Cave Hill Campus and to the furthering of tertiary level education.

Mr. President, as others who have gone before me, I am still pursuing University studies. My heart is into research on a professional level, as well as on an academic level. Sir, I often joke to friends around that when you enter the main area of the University of the West Indies and you see UWI that, to me, it should be PII as in Patricia Irene Inniss, because that is how close I feel to the University of the West Indies and, for sure, the Cave Hill Campus. Sir, for me it pivots on what I hold most dear and this is why I wanted to make a small contribution.

Mr. President, a lot has been said about the University and so, I do not intend to go into what has been said before for the mere fact that the one area I want to concentrate on, I do not want it to be lost in a lot of other concerns. We have spoken about the problem of undergraduate students and Senators here have spoken about the attempts that the University is making to rectify such.

Mr. President, we need to do something for, as has been said here, and I explain it on a daily level, I am amazed, and I say it with all sobriety, at the level at which students from our CARICOM countries take their studies and then to see the difference in my own brothers and sisters from Barbados. Again, this may be a discourse, as we are having here but, Sir, it confronts me every day. Sir, students from other CARICOM States are dead serious about their work at the University of the West Indies, at an undergraduate level and otherwise, and we have to do something to hammer this into the heads of Barbadians the importance of their studies.

2.20 p.m.

SENATOR Miss P. I. INNISS: Mr. President, if it is a matter of the Government only allowing Barbadian students a certain amount of time to finish an undergraduate degree and, therefore, after that they pay and

not being allowed to transfer from one Faculty to another after they have failed, probably only because of idleness, I am totally in support of any measure that a government takes at the University. For sure, as it has been said here, where the Government and taxpayers - and we are all contributors to the success of the University - we have a right to get quality and it must come to doing something about our Barbadian students.

Sir, I do not want to repeat it for the sake of repeating it. I am looking forward shortly when even more is done. We are asking students to leave who do not fulfill the requirements, but maybe, more needs to be done. I do not see why an undergraduate student should spend four years in a discipline collecting C's or less, and saunters off and decides to transfer into another Faculty to spend another few years.

Sir, where we have part-time students, professionals, mature people, who would take that opportunity and that money, whether it is \$50 000 or \$40 000 a year and make use of it. We are, I do not want to say wasting it because our young people are important, getting quality for money. Sir, it must be drummed home to the minds of our Barbadian University students, that it is not a time for a great lime. It has to be taken seriously. Sir, that is the level at which I am very sober.

I also appreciate what is being done to the infrastructure of the University of the West Indies. I see the Administrators on a daily basis, and I know that their hearts are into developing the University of the West Indies. Very often, unfortunately, when you speak of problems and when you speak of the need to address problems, we have a mindset, probably internationally, but surely in Barbados, once you identify a problem, you are trying to accuse a person. You are trying to say this is the way the Chancellor has failed.

This is not the argument. Sir, having problems at the University of the West Indies is not a condemnation of the efforts that are being done. It is not a condemnation of the good works. I applaud the structural development at the University of the West Indies. I applaud what has been done but we have serious problems with our institution.

We have increased the infrastructure and our Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies has been doing a lot, and the Principal, into an undergraduate level, linking the private sector with University work. This must be commended. However, the main point I want to labour, and I am even imploring Barbadians to understand and to demand from our University, that it sees itself in another light.

Sir, when I do research and look at universities internationally, I am actually amazed that the University of

the West Indies, taken in its totality, is not among the 100 top Universities in the world. I am very happy for someone to correct me. The University of the West Indies, the entire University, is not recognised among the top 100 universities in the world. Sir, this recognition has nothing to do with size. It has nothing to do with the level or the range of work that is put out at the University. It has a lot to do with its marketing, its development and its research capacity. Sir, this is where I often belabour it.

Sir, as a member of the Student Government for the University, for years, I remember going to Board meetings. Even the words that are echoed by the Principal and Members of Government, I am convinced, in my own sense of accomplishment, that these are the words that have been echoed by me for a number of years. A university is a university of higher level of research. It has to be so. Short of that, what is going on at a University, if it does not encompass a research element is only really a school. This has to be borne in mind.

Sir, what makes a student decide to go to Yale or Harvard is not some pie-in-the-sky notion. They market their product. They market the concept of study. If we are, in essence, only looking at a university for people to become educated, and just have a tertiary degree, I humbly suggest we are defeating the purpose of education. To my mind it goes to the core of what our great excellent Leader had in mind, when he spoke about educating Barbadians. It is like when you get a driver's licence, that is now a tool for you to drive. When you become an expert in typing, you have not accomplished. You are now in the realm when you can learn to type. When you get a degree or a Black Belt in Karate, you are not Karate expert. That is an area where you can say you can perfect the art. It has to be so too for education in Barbados.

Sir, if we are educating our children at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, as we are, and we decide that is the end all of it, we are defeating the purpose of education. It must from that point take us into other realms. Our students' education at a tertiary level must give them a sense of accomplishment and being able to go forward.

Sir, where we have the University of the West Indies and students with a tertiary education, then we become recognised as a research University, it therefore says it is a university bringing in students, that is not going to educate them, but going to position them into a career. It is going to help you find your niche and ensure you have a relevance to the society. This is why the University of the West Indies is not recognised as one of the 100 Universities in the world. This is what Harvard and Yale do. They do not bring you in as a research student. When you enter at that level, they are saying to you, we want you to improve society. We want you to develop a research arm, and it

does not matter what area of research, if it is applicable to the private sector.

Sir, the Principal has made great strides in this area as it relates to Taught Programmes at research level. We know of that and it should be commended. There have been links with the private sector and research elements, as it relates to Taught Programmes but the concept of research is far-reaching. The University has to take this on board. Research, whether it is History, marketing strategies, or my area of Bio Technology, that has to come on board so that we feel it is important for the University of the West Indies to be recognised as a University and not just a place where students can be taught. It has to encompass that marketing strategy. Sir, unfortunately, it is not doing that now. Sir, there are steps being made in that area but they are falling short.

Sir, we need, as a university, to look at how we can develop research. It has been said before, and it seems sometimes as if we are just speaking of an arm of the University. Sir, developing research, and I am speaking in a general sense. I would like people to understand this when I am speaking of it. It is not just developing people in a lab.

Developing research is a pivotal role that identifies a university, because you are developing your future. You are developing a society's position. You are developing research in every area that can help market and develop a society. This is what a university brings to a society. It helps that society to develop, and in a small country like ours that is more than necessary. However, this has been lacking. I am looking forward to the day when that is improved.

Sir, I am not even going to go into the horror stories that research students have at a university where they fund their own research. They fund the articles that are not available. They find ways in which to make it happen but are not being recognised, and are not being assisted sufficiently. I am sure that with the efforts being made, that too will be improved. It must be taken seriously and drummed home in whatever form, so that Barbadians understand that they must demand this from their University.

Their children must come out with a desire to do more than just learn or to get a first or second degree. They must come out with the ability to make a contribution to a society in whatever form. Though it may be a tall order that is the order that we are calling for.

2.30 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. P.I. INNISS: We are calling for excellence, Sir, and I am confident that it can happen in my

time, and in your time, and with this University in its present decade.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Asides.

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, as I stand to wrap up this debate, I am clear in my mind that the importance of the University of the West Indies to the development of Caribbean societies and, more particularly, to the development of Barbadian society, is well appreciated. It is recognised and it has been demonstrated in multiple ways over the life of the institution. In my opening comments, I stressed and illustrated the importance of the University, not only to myself, but to the generations of Barbadians who are of my age cohort, those persons before me who constituted the initial classes of that institution, and those to come. I also would have reinforced my comments in relation to the significant costs incurred in delivering University education, the significant cost to taxpayers.

In relation to the comments of my Honourable colleague on the Other Side, I must support his position on the question of the amenities' Fees. I remember clearly, Mr. President, the major discussion that flowed from that, and I recall at the time having to defend the University's position in a way that I did not even hear individuals from within the Administration defend it. I guess I had the opportunity of hosting a programme on the radio and, therefore, had easy access to radio.

I again would want to say to Barbadians that an Amenities Fee of \$700, I presume it is still at that level, is but a mere fraction of the full cost of that education, not ignoring, for example, the purposes to which the fee is put. I am sure, as with other elements of University costs where students are needy, and cannot afford to pay, arrangements will be made to assist those students.

I recall, as I travelled this country, seeing young people with simple things like cellular phones, MP3 players and all kinds of things that cost multiples of \$700, when you total the full expense of maintaining a cellular phone and so on, and so, I believe that anyone and this is some advise - I will get personal - I gave to a niece of mine at the time of that discussion, who was in the middle of a medical studies programme, that if I heard her opening her mouth, I would not talk to her again, because I really would not have been able to appreciate grumbling over \$700 when, as I indicated, taxpayers were bearing the direct cost of over \$80 000 to put her through Medical School. Of course, as I see her work very hard as a Registrar at the Hospital now, I understand that she is earning her keep, having had that kind of money spent on her, but that is another story for another time.

Clearly, there has been evidence from the contributions of Senators who spoke before me, about the commitment of the University to the transformation of the infrastructure and the physical facilities.

Only yesterday, I was speaking to one of my colleague Foreign Ministers who is here in Barbados, who happened to have studied Law at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, and who visited Cave Hill after several years, and was very complimentary about what he had seen. We know all of that is done, not for the sake of making the Campus physically beautiful but preparing the facilities to encourage learning.

Mr. President, what I would call for at this time, is what I would call an intellectual transformation at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, and with our students wherever they are. As a child of the 1960s in terms of education, I started my early education as a child of Independence, and as a University student of the 1970s - and I would say that the 1970s is what I would call a revolutionary time in the history of the Region and probably the world.

I recall students getting involved in debates on current issues, even the nature and scope of campaigning for positions of the Guild of Undergraduates, the kinds of issues and the debates that took place in front of the quadrangle, for those of you who know the Campus, in the front of the Arts Lecture Theatre, the mounting of political platforms seeking election to the International Affairs Chairperson, the President of the Guild, et cetera.

I also recall walking down Freehill, or the other side of the Campus at 11:00 o'clock at night - you cannot do that now - after attending a public lecture, or a lecture put on by one of the Faculties.

Mr. President, in more recent times, I would recall however, with sadness, going to a public lecture and seeing a mere smattering of students and if it were not for the public audience, the audience drawn from the public, there would not have been an audience. Therefore, I believe that we have to encourage our students, not only to hang around the beautiful, physical facilities, but to get involved in that kind of intellectual exercise, and to read widely.

I recall as a student, looking forward to a reading list and doing serious research on topics, and that really speaks to what it means to be a University student. I suspect that we have, as a society, began to witness the evolution of things and when it comes to University education and participation in that kind of environment, we have to find a way to get our students to understand that it is not a paper chase that they are after, but it is about acquiring knowledge, and it is about developing skills of critical thinking and so on. Of course, part of that has to do with

what our secondary school system is shaping or who the system is shaping, in terms of preparation for, interest in, and the exercise of intellectual pursuits.

I believe, Mr. President, that it is necessary, as I wrap up, to also respond to the suggestions about the culture of research that is of necessity for an institution. I want to say very quickly that in the evolution of the University of the West Indies, there is absolutely nothing wrong that it began for the large part as a teaching institution, and within the language of universities what that talks about is a primary focus on undergraduate education. Sir, over the years, it has now evolved and the request that we focus on building a research culture is critical.

The question that I would pose to colleagues here and to the persons who set policy at the level of the University would be, what are the requirements for building a research culture? Sir, as we look at expanding the numbers, I want to make a plea for my former colleagues and some of my former students who are now academics, and part of the various Faculties, that is, that as we look to build a research culture, we have to look at issues relating to student/faculty ratios and put in place, the kinds of supports that are necessary.

Another aspect of building a research capacity or capability, and a research culture, has to do with the subject of research. I was fortunate to spend many years in the business community. As a lecturer in management, I was able to bridge the gap between academia and the business of private and public sectors as well. One of the challenges that was faced by researchers at the level of the student body and researchers at the level of the academic or faculty members, was the inability often to convince the subjects of research, whether it is a corporation, a public sector entity, an individual, whatever, of the need for collaboration and cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, if that is to happen, it has to be a partnership between the various stakeholders. It also has to be a commitment to recognising that as an academic to do research, he or she cannot be burdened by the unusual kinds of numbers that we talked about, so there has to be a matching of those resources and the others.

Mr. President, I also think it would be remiss of me if I did not respond to an issue raised by the Honourable Senator on the Other Side in his contribution, when he asked about the current thinking of the University College of Barbados and the policy position of this Government.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. President, this is my way of thinking and this is something I try to teach my students. I believe it is an

illustration of critical thinking. I want to indicate that when we talk about a solution, we have to back up and ask ourselves what problems were we trying to solve. This is a question I asked very early in the life of this Administration when I had occasion to sit with my colleague, the Minister of Education and Human Resources Development and some of the members of his management team as we were talking about this issue of the University College of Barbados.

Mr. President, one of the first responses to that question when I asked what problems are you trying to solve was that we cannot accommodate the students who want to access the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. My response was, how does the University College of Barbados address and solve that problem?

The point I want to make, Mr. President, is that as we look at tertiary education in Barbados, because in looking at the University of the West Indies, we need to look at that holistically as part of the broader delivery of tertiary education, my response to that was if we are trying to solve the problem of access at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, how will the creation of a University College of Barbados solve that when we start to look at the students for whom the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic would have been designed.

The problem that we had was an inability to deliver at that level. The solution should not be creating a second University type structure with all the costs that are expected to flow from that. We need to find creative mechanisms to expand the enrollment at the level of that institution in order to do that.

Mr. President, I am happy to say that the policy position in relation to that is that we would find ways to expand the Campuses and to increase access. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and the Barbados Community College, which would have been another arm of the University College of Barbados, is looking to create a facility in the north of the island to actually increase the numbers in the area of agricultural studies, and also to provide very practical and hands-on experience in that area. In terms of the University College of Barbados, one of the other legs to that was Erdiston Teachers' College. You are trying to marry Erdiston Teachers' College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

Mr. President, the Erdiston Teachers' College is a specialised teachers' college, so if we look at the question there in terms of its mandate, and when we look into the school system and we realise that we have substantial numbers of teachers still to be qualified as teachers, the question I asked again, certainly in the short to medium-

term and in the context of limited resources, is how does the creation of a second institution with all of the costs of Administration solve that problem?

My understanding is that over the years there was collaboration between the University of the West Indies, the Faculty of Education, I am not sure of the new nomenclature, and Erdiston Teachers' College and other opportunities. The point I am making in terms of the policy is that we must make the most efficient use of our resources and find structures and modalities which would allow us to meet the educational needs of our population in a way that best suits the realities of a small resource-constraint country like Barbados. I think I would have said enough about that.

Mr. President, in essence, we would have heard substantially about the vision of the current Principal of the University of the West Indies, and I laud him for that. We also would have heard, I think in the words of Senator Griffith, that there seems to be some challenge in translating that vision into action. Perhaps what is needed are mechanisms, because the culture of change as a phenomenon facing organisations is always difficult and we have, perhaps, to find creative ways to do that.

I therefore, Mr. President, would want to commend all of those persons who over the years would have helped to shape the life and the development expansion of the University of the West Indies. I would take time to commend those persons who would have particularly worked to build the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

Mr. President, as I stand here today in June, 2009, I perhaps would end on one note. Mr. President, I am going to get personal and so I beg your indulgence. Last week I got a call from a former protégée of my late brother Wendell McClean who sought to explore the possibilities of bringing to fruition some research that he had been undertaking just before he passed away. He requested some information which, unfortunately, I told him might have been lost forever, circumstances best known to the University of the West Indies, but I told him I would do what I can to find those things.

Mr. President, 10 years ago I took the decision to resign from the University and move into greener, or newer pastures, or different pastures, making the transition from academic to a full-time practitioner. Mr. President, it was around that time that my brother would have been spending his last days at the University and on this earth. I believe that if people bring to their tasks as persons or stakeholders in the University of the West Indies and their commitment to an institution as my late brother did, we cannot go wrong with that institution.

Mr. President, a lot of people do not know that he would have foregone doing a PhD to take a temporary job at Cave Hill to teach Economics, but he made a career of it and had a major influence on a lot of people. I believe that the kind of commitment that he manifested on a day-to-day basis, and the kind of commitment that he would have sought to instill in his students is something that we need to build not only in our Faculties and in our current students, but in generations of Barbadians who are yet to cross the doors of that great institution.

Mr. President, it would only remain great. I do not worry about the ranking because for us to be ranked 100, and I respect my colleague's position, we are very well respected. Mr. President, I recall my days as a graduate student in Ohio. There were about six of us from the University of the West Indies, two of us from Barbados at the time in Management, and being told by the Dean of the College of Business of Ohio University that the students from the University of the West Indies were better prepared than the vast majority of our contemporaries in class for graduate studies.

I think that is the kind of reputation that we want to build, but we can only maintain that if we are willing to sit down, commend ourselves for our achievements, take stock of our areas of weakness and commit individually and collectively to making and sustaining the University of the West Indies as the pillar that it has been in the development of our people in the Caribbean.

I thank you, Mr. President, and beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

2.50 p.m.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill. Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 3, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT 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. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, the Bill was read a third time and

passed and cited as the University of the West Indies (Guarantee of Loans) (Amendment) Act, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the Honourable Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday June 24, 2009, at 11.00 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

2.55 p.m.

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE
PRESIDENT

PAPERS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN.....1

1. Excise Tax (Rate of Tax) Order, 2009;
2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Remit) (PreConco Limited) Order, 2009;
3. Annual Report of the Barbados International Business Promotion Corporation (Investment) (Barbados) for the year 2008;
4. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 2008;
5. Annual Report of the National Productivity Council for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR
SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY
A MINISTER

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN.....2

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN.....2

1. National Insurance and Social Security (Amendment) Bill, 2008.
2. Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
3. Liquor Licences (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
4. The University of the West Indies (Guarantee of Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
5. National Insurance and Social Securities (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

**ORDER NO. 1 – SECOND READING OF THE LIQUOR
LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009.....2**

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, 2.

ORDER NO. 2.....2

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, 2, 3, 6;
Senator Dr. F.L. Chandler, 5; Senator Miss P.I. Inniss, 5,
6.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS (RECOMMITAL)

SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN.....7THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
(GUARANTEE OF LOANS) (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2009**SENATOR the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN.....7**

Senator K. D. Symmonds, 9, 10; Her Honour Senator
Miss K.F. Ifill, 11; Senator R.O. Marville, 12; Senator D.
K. A. Griffith, 13, 14, 15.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 2 (resumed)

Senator the Hon Mrs.. V.E. Newton, 16; Senator Miss P.I.
Inniss, 17, 19; Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O.
McCLEAN, 19.

SUSPENSION..... 16**ADJOURNMENT.....22**

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN, 22.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

CHANDLER, Senator Dr. F.L.

GRIFFITH, Senator D. K. A.

IFILL, Her Honour SENATOR Miss K.F.

INNIS, Senator Miss P.I.

MARVILLE, Senator R.O.

McCLEAN, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O.

NEWTON, Senator the Hon Mrs.. V.E.

SYMMONDS, Senator K. D.

DISCLAIMER. This transcript was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools and is provided for reference only. It has not been reviewed, verified or approved by the Hansard Department of the Parliament of Barbados and does not constitute an official parliamentary record. It may contain errors or omissions, including inaccuracies in wording or speaker identification. For authoritative quotations or confirmation of proceedings, consult the official Hansard record when available.

EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.

Q1. *Order No. 3, Senator R. O. Marville.* After the President's words 'Please address the Chair.', the rest of Senator Marville's speech (about 950 words, from 'Sir, I take the point that was raised several times' to 'I thank you, Mr. President.') stands under the President's label rather than Senator Marville's. Printed as in the source.

Q2. *Order No. 3, Senator R. O. Marville.* Senator Marville refers to 'the vision of Joshua Nkomo when he became President' of Ghana in 1957. Printed as in the source.

Q3. *Heading after Order No. 2.* The heading 'INTRODUCTION OF BILLS (RECOMMITAL)' stands over two notices of Resolutions (a lease at Blackmans, St. Joseph and an acquisition at Huntles Road, Carrington's Village), and 'ORDER No. 3' appears as ordinary text. Printed as in the source.

Q4. *Introduction of Bills.* The list read a first time includes both the 'National Insurance and Social Security (Amendment) Bill, 2008' and the 'National Insurance and Social Securities (Amendment) Bill, 2009'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. *Suspension of Sitting.* The motion to suspend the Sitting until 2.15 p.m. appears without a speaker's name. Printed as in the source.

Q6. *Take-slip after Order No. 2 opening.* One take-slip reads '11.40 p.m.', presumably 11.40 a.m. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met at 11.10 a.m. on Wednesday, 17th June, 2009, with the President, Senator Dr. B. M. Taitt, in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. The President announced apologies from Senators the Hon. D. W. Boyce and the Hon. A. B. Walters, on Government business, Senator Sir Roy Trotman, attending an International Labour Conference, Senator Mrs. V. I. Sandiford-Garner and Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow. The Leader of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, laid five papers, including the Excise Tax (Rate of Tax) Order, 2009 and the Annual Report of

the Central Bank of Barbados for 2008. Standing Order 45(2) was suspended and five Bills were read a first time.

Senator McClean moved the second reading of the Liquor Licences (Amendment) Bill, 2009, which follows the 2008 Budgetary Proposals by replacing the word 'druggist' with 'pharmacist' and allowing the licence fee to be paid in two instalments. It passed without debate, clauses 1 to 3 being passed in Committee with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Senator McClean then moved Order No. 2, the Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Minister responsible for Finance of a \$50 million loan to Barbados Port Incorporated from BNB Finance and Trust Corporation to refinance part of its existing debt and its capital works. Drawing on her years as a director of the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal Inc., she said the aim was to reduce and consolidate the cost of servicing the debt, warned against overly extravagant plans, and urged the taxi co-operative and association to work again with the Port on service to cruise passengers. Senator Dr. F. L. Chandler referred to a study on the Port's effect on the cost of food, and Senator Miss P. I. Inniss spoke on the Customs Department's ASYCUDA system, overtime, shift and container clearance problems. Senator McClean replied that work was under way to improve Customs operations, and the Resolution was agreed to.

After giving notice of two land Resolutions, Senator McClean moved the second reading of the University of the West Indies (Guarantee of Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 2009, which extends the 2007 Act's guarantee of loans from the Cave Hill Campus to any campus of the regional University. Speaking as a former student, lecturer and president of the Cave Hill Alumni Association, and one of five siblings who had benefited from the University, she set out what the University's education cost and called on students to value it. Senator K. D. Symmonds discussed the history of the amenities fee and the position of OECS students. Senator Miss K. F. Ifill, the Deputy President, supported the Bill. Senator R. O. Marville, who teaches a foundation course of 230 to 240 students, proposed that students who failed through negligence pay to retake courses and cited Ghana, Botswana and Singapore as countries that had invested in education.

Senator D. K. A. Griffith praised the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination but voiced reservations about the culture of change at the University, noting that about 25 per cent of Barbadians held degrees. After the suspension Senator the Hon. Mrs. V. E. Newton said the Bill showed Barbados honouring its obligations to the University as a whole, and Senator Miss P. I. Inniss spoke

on the time Barbadian students were allowed to complete an undergraduate degree and on students who did not meet requirements. In reply Senator McClean supported Senator Symmonds on the amenities fee of \$700, called for an intellectual transformation and a research culture at Cave

Hill, and moved the second reading. Clauses 1 to 3 were passed in Committee, the Bill was read a third time and passed, and the Senate was adjourned until Wednesday, 24th June, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.