

---

# THE SENATE DEBATES

## (UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

---

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

---

### THE SENATE

*Tuesday, March 22, 2016*

Tuesday, MARCH 22, 2016

#### RESUMPTION

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

*Asides.*

Prof. Sir. HENRY H.S. FRASER: First, Madam President, I would like to give some bouquets to some of the excellent suggestions made in the other Chamber. First to Minister, the Honourable Steve Blackett, whose eloquent speeches I always enjoy, for the proposal to give 3 000 households fire extinguishers. I do not know if a means test will determine the recipients but in fact every household in Barbados, every household in the country -- let me repeat that -- every household and every building in the country should be equipped with a fire extinguisher because we seem to have endemic house fires; with house fires occurring virtually every week, and practically destroying the lives or the livelihoods of so many people. When an electrical fire broke out in my kitchen, it was the grace of God and the wisdom of my wife, who is so good at preventive medicine that there was a fire extinguisher at the kitchen door, or the whole house would have burnt down a month before my son's wedding reception was due to take place at that house. At that time, I did a survey of 50 people with whom I came into contact over the following week, and I discovered that only eight people out of 50 had a fire extinguisher in their homes. I therefore take this opportunity of calling on, begging and imploring Barbadians to install fire extinguishers in their homes, Madam President. I would go further and ask if a comprehensive research effort has not been carried out, with one survey looking for the possible causes of our many fires and a second survey of homes and houses looking for fire risks before fires should occur. This is

preventive medicine of the highest order, and is surely, sorely needed and should be carried out. We should be reminded of the need for this work to be done every time there is yet another fire destroying lives and livelihoods.

Madam President, my second bouquet goes to the Honourable Richard Sealy for his call for lay-bys for vendors, as in Jamaica. There are many things we can learn from our Caribbean colleagues, and this is one we should have learnt years ago from Jamaica. Those entrepreneurs selling bags, guineps and dunks who hold up the traffic for what seem like hours; it is taking us 20 to 30 years to come up with this obvious partial solution to our afternoon traffic jams provided by the Honourable Minister of Tourism. We spend anything from ten to 20 minutes or more some afternoons to go the 600 yards from the top of the Wildey Triangle to the Emancipation Statue. Multiply that by 1 000 cars struggling along the highway each afternoon, and you have lost some 15 000 minutes or 2 500 man hours or 360 working days. That is a horrible waste of human resources and time, so let us act on that suggestion.

One obvious solution is to introduce a vendors' lay-by on the little side road at Haggatt Hall that runs parallel to the left of the highway and the Mall. You could have several vendors there, including those selling fruit, roasted corn, coconut water and more, as you do on the many lay-bys in Jamaica. Again, let us go a bit further and have a few more bus lay-bys. We do have bus lay-bys, only some of which are used only some of the time by bus drivers and public service vehicles (PSVs), but there are many, many sites on the roads in and out of the City where bus lay-bys could be included next to a bus-stop, Madam President. There are bus-stops, and I can identify the sites any time for the Ministry of Transport. There is a bus-stop in front of an empty lot in many places, and a lay-by is possible via compulsory acquisition of just a few square yards and enforcement of their use by the PSVs. It would again save thousands of man hours, speed up traffic movement, reduce exhaust fumes, reduce stress, improve mental health and increase productivity. Imagine, Madam President, a simple,

relatively low-cost action of Government policy like that could do so much to improve everyone's life and physical and mental health in Barbados.

Another bouquet to Member of Parliament Kerrie Symmonds calling for enforcement of the law against repeat law-breaking PSV drivers, who seem to break the law with impunity and have some kind of protection from on high. Madam President, let me take a leaf out of the book of Senator Hunte by giving a bit of personal history, to provide some context for my own personal passion for my country and why I am here in the Senate Chamber today. I grew up in the small community of Four Roads in the republic of St. John where everyone in the village knew each other and looked out for each other, where my father, the parochial treasurer, came home every Friday with a briefcase filled with cash in order to pay the parish workers the next morning from the office in the corner of our house. No-one ever accosted him, no-one ever robbed him, and no-one ever burgled or gave him the slightest problem, with all of that money in our house every Friday night. My soul was nourished in St. John by the beauty of the parish, the splendour of St. John's Church and the friendship of the people who came to my mother's post office 50 feet away in the yard. When I won the Barbados Scholarship in 1962, my headmaster insisted I go to Cambridge to study and I made him angry because I insisted that I was going to Jamaica to the University of the West Indies, because I said, "I am a West Indian". When I was sent to England to do a special degree in physiology, I was encouraged to stay there to complete my medical studies because I was told by many people, both British and Barbadian in Britain and elsewhere, that I should stay there because at Independence I would then be able to get a British passport. I said, "No, I am a Barbadian and I would be proud to have a Barbadian passport". I have often wondered what an amazing place Barbados would be if all of the Barbados Scholars had returned home with the passion and the mission to work, to build and develop Barbados.

Madam President, I have many interests and many passions but I will focus on just two main areas, and to borrow the words of our esteemed Senator the Honourable Minister McClean yesterday, and I quote, "I will focus on areas in which I have invested a great deal of time and energy for more than 30 years": Healthcare and heritage. The right to healthcare is an absolutely irrevocable and fundamental human right, and we recognise that in Barbados, while heritage care is crucial to both our social and our economic wellbeing. Madam, in other words, perseveration of our past is an investment in our present and our future.

Madam President, much has been said already in the last few days about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, its problems and its continuing underfunding. Madam, underfunding at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is nothing

new and many members of this Chamber are aware of this news when they work in that area. Indeed, much has been said about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and its underfunding and its problems for the past 52 years because it is widely acknowledged to be the most battered political football in the entire 50 years of our history. I have championed the cause of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital from the time of my internet there in 1969 when I worked for the late and great Sir Richard Haynes and I laboured mightily there after my return home in 1977 for the next 33 years as a university teaching consultant establishing the first drug testing laboratory in the Caribbean countries, a hypertension clinic and a drug and therapeutic committee and so I know a little bit about the place which cost \$8 million Barbados to build 52 years ago but which needs almost \$200 million a year to run today.

Madam President, as an aside, when I made the case for the Ministry of Health to fund the technician to manage the equipment that I had funded from an international agency for the laboratory to better manage patients with epilepsy, heart conditions and so on, the Chief Medical Officer at the time said to me, "Dr. Fraser, we still have many households in Barbados without household water, without pipe water". She said that is a primary requirement for good health and it, therefore, the first priority of the Ministry of Health and you have to give me good reasons why money should be spent on a new development in the hospital. Sadly, the situation she described is still the case today for very different reason.

Madam President, the facts are that whenever there has been a budgetary crisis in Barbados, ever since the first oil crisis of 1973, the first cuts to be made appear to have been the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and over the years, that has been the case. Madam, when the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Board was introduced a little over a decade ago, I was able to put together with the help of accountants in the Ministry of Finance a graph showing the expenditure over the four decades of the existence of the hospital and it was clear that with every financial crisis, the budget for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was held constant usually for just two years, that is one additional year the same budget but on one occasion for three years. Well, cost went up, equipment cost went up, cost for drugs went up. Madam, more services were provided, more services were asked for by the public and more services were introduced by the specialists, who came on to the hospital staff because each specialist consultant on the hospital staff had his own area where having trained in the metropol was recognised to be deficient at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and, therefore, new equipment, new services, new staff were required and meanwhile while more patients were seen and more staff employed, little maintenance was done.

Madam President, there were several periods when the expenditure remained the same and the same strictures

seem to be operating now to the detriment of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and with many costly ripple effect, not just on the other elements of health care across the country but on the social effects and on the morale of the people and, therefore, on the society of Barbados as a whole. I was able to show with that study that there was therefore a huge deficit and that well over \$100 million would have been needed to bring hospital to where it should be in that year 2003 to 2004, and the Government gave the hospital a loan of \$25 million. It was a drop in the proverbial ocean.

Madam President, we have lost a major opportunity through the lack of vision across those five decade and every administration... I am not calling attention, I am not playing a blame game on any Government but we, as a people, as a country, over five decades and every administration, we have lost the opportunity of earning income, kudos in the field of health care, fame and goodwill in the Caribbean by not making the hospital the main clinic of the Caribbean. Madam, hundreds came from Trinidad, Guyana, Venezuela and our neighbours in the down islands in the 1940s and 1950s to the famous Diagnostic Clinic of Dr. Harry Bayley because he produced a clinic with only 16 beds but with a laboratory which was the most modern in the English-speaking Caribbean in the 1940s and every new diagnostic test was introduced as soon as it became part of the medical literature by Dr. Bayley and his wife, and when Sir ... Leacock (6:05) planned the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with Captain Tomlin, he saw it as the Caribbean medical referral centre.

Madam President, when I returned in 1977 and Jamaica was then under heavy manners, under difficult economic situations and with the University Hospital budget badly cut and staff fleeing it was not possible, it was not practical and it was not helpful for us to send referrals for neurosurgery and heart surgery as we had been doing in the late 60s and 70s to Jamaica. It was no longer practical so Errol Walrond and I positalised for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to develop efficient speciality services and so for those not familiar with the Mayo clinic. Madam President, let me explain that the Mayo clinic which I refer to is that in Rochester, Minnesota funded by the famous Mayo brothers 150 years ago and is universally regarded as the epitome, the finest medical centre in the world, it is almost a city in itself and many Barbadians have indeed sought treatment there over the years and that has been my ambition, my burning ambition to see the Queen Elizabeth Hospital play that role for the entire eastern Caribbean and and South America, and we still can.

Madam President, today, we need upgrading. We need some refurbishing and we need an annual budget of close to \$200 million. Madam, \$185 million was mentioned yesterday but it will not make good with efficiencies that we have accumulated over the years. Madam, then the income generated by catering to the

hundreds who would come to Barbados to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital instead of going to North America at humongous cost, would bring humongous income to us in Barbados. We do not need a new hospital with no budget to run it. Captain Tomlin's repeated words to me and I knew him very well when I returned to Barbados for the last few years of his life, were that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was built for 100 years with room for expansion and refitting but, Madam President, we do need, after much talk, to decide how to fund health care. We complain a lot about high taxation but the fact is that the Scandinavian countries, Belgium and those countries like Holland, the fact is that those countries with our levels of freeness in health care and education have far higher taxation levels than we do and some lesser developed countries without these free services that we provide have higher levels of taxation than we do. Madam, it can be checked on the web. I do not know what conclusions have been drawn from the recent town hall meetings on health care funding but there are several fairly simple solution, Madam President, a combination of which could transform the Queen Elizabeth Hospital into the Mayo clinic of the West Indies and improve our health care overall.

Madam President, there is no magic pill. There is no magic bullet. What it requires is a carefully throughout combination of solutions all of which together can solve our problems. These include but are not limited to a health care level or a health care contribution and it is often the name that pleases or that displeases people. That would be similar to the drug levy of 30-odd years about and again, Madam President, if I may give a bit of history. When the Government of 1976 wrote it's Manifesto with a national health service British style would be readily accomplished for the sum of \$2.5 million because it had not been thoroughly researched but when they wanted to produce a style from the national health service and they contracted Kiser Cabalменте to come in and assist in its development they finally realised that costs where, indeed, prohibitive and they settled, therefore, not fora comprehensive health service but for improving the polyclinic network which was done and introducing the most important element, the critical element for healthcare delivery and that is the drug service and this was to be funded by a 1 per cent drug levy. That 1 per cent drug levy was much more than was needed in the initial start up years but, of course, it went all in the consolidated fund so that the drug service, initially, did not have too much problem funding its activities but as the drug service grew almost exponentially because of our freeness mentality as a people, indeed things then did become very problematic. It raised that sum that was much greater than initially needed but the freeness mentality kicked in, Madam President, and for reasons unclear to me the drug level was eventually abandon. I do not recall any major protest. I do not recall that we had call-in programmes back in the early 1990s, we may have done, but I do not recall controversies in the newspaper day after

day about the drug levy and heavily we were being taxed because people saw what they were getting for it. Indeed, some people absolutely disregarded the commonsense in order for this freeness. There had been no significant opposition but many Barbadians had traditionally shopped around for their medical care and they often went to several doctors to see who would give the best care and, as a result, did not communicate with Dr. Ince that Dr. Todd had been treating them last week and they had a prescription from Dr. Ince was treating them last week so they go double prescriptions because once they were getting a free prescription they often went to the pharmacy. I had patients, repeatedly, when I discovered what was happening, who would bring in the brown bag test of compliance. You would ask patients to bring their medication in to see whether they were actually taking the medication that was prescribed a month ago but they were patients who would bring in four and five brown paper bags, each of which had a collection of medications from different doctors so there was huge wastage because of that freeness mentality. The introduction of a token prescription fee partly alleviated that practice and the drug service, therefore, took the advice, introduced a token prescription fee which was a feature at the British National Health Service, but because we were going for the full political approach, total freeness, that was not introduced for several years. The minute that was introduced, then the freeness mentality was very, very significantly affected and there was much less wastage.

Madam President, our second option is to provide tax incentives for privately paid for healthcare so that central healthcare cost either doctor visits, blood test, other investigations, radiological tests, which can be very expensive, could be at least partly tax deductible since many people prefer private care to long lines at polyclinic, this would encourage far more people to use private care and it would reduce the load on the hospital and the clinics thereby allowing the Government expenditure on those services to cater to those who really needed it. What is lost in the tax incentives in terms of Government tax collection would have been more than made up in patient's satisfaction on the one hand and more efficient Government care on the other. It would be a win-win situation. Again, Madam President, it is not the only solution being recommended but one of several introductions. Of course, they can always be improvements in efficiency, that is a much vaunted proposal and assumptions are made that there is huge wastage perhaps by every healthcare provider within the hospital from top to bottom, that is always the implication. I am not sure how accurate that is and how major savings can be made in that way but certainly auditing of the hospital in a very serious way, as is done in some hospitals in North America is something that the Ministry of Health should be looking at. Of course, a token fee for service as for the collection for the prescription from the pharmacy, a token fee for service

as introduced in our neighbour OECS countries 20 to 30 years ago can also be used but this, of course, may upset and offend our freeness mentality and it seems to be less popular a possibility. I use the word token just to make it absolutely clear that we are not talking about privatization of health services. We are talking about a token fee analogous to the drug prescription token fee for that prescription so I would go for a healthcare contribution and partial tax incentives as the number 1 and 2 proposals but with consideration and discussion in the public arena of other possibilities. I would prioritise capital needs for the hospital in order to serve our neighbours as well as ourselves because if we have an efficient hospital then we save enormously on healthcare in the same way until the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) becomes state-of-the-art once again, which it was in 1964, it made enormous sense for the St. Joseph Hospital private care development because a hospital which is a state-of-the-art hospital in Barbados and can provide the nuclear scanning, the brain surgery that we do not have enough facilities for, all of the specialised cardiac and other surgical conditions that we do not have enough sub-specialist to deal with here, those people are still going abroad. Foreign exchange is therefore lost so we have options. We can encourage the development of the state-of-the-art tourism related hospital but which services us as well or we can move toward making the QEH the male clinic of the Caribbean, both are win-win situations.

Another area of health that concerns me, Madam President, is that of the care of the elderly. I do not think that there is anyone, as I look around the table, who is not likely to become elderly, and they are one or two of us who have past the ripe old age of 50.

*Asides.*

Senator Dr. T. A. CARMICHAEL: Are they not, Senator Sir Roy?

Madam President, the care of the elderly in Barbados does leave a lot to be desired. Most elderly people hope, dream and pray to stay in their own home until the good Lord calls them home to a better spiritual home. We do nothing or very little to facilitate this. I have been calling attention, for some 30 plus years, to the magnificent example of the St. Barnabas Day Care Centre. There are one or two other centres and there is the Eden Lodge Sheltered village which is another model but a more costly model, although in the long run it may turn out to be extremely advantageous for a niche of people, but I have been calling attention to St. Barnabas Day Care Centre because it is an absolutely superb facility which caters for 30 elderly people who would otherwise, almost certainly, almost all, have to have residential accommodation at anywhere these days between \$4 000 and \$5 000 a month for care. These are huge prices and the Government is

paying for alternative accommodation in various sheltered homes for elderly people because it cannot accommodate them all in the Geriatric Hospital or the St. Thomas Hospital and this, Madam President, is a major problem for which there is a no brainer relatively easy solution which for some reason the society will not take up.

I focussed my eyes a moment ago on the Reverend Senator Rev. Dr. Durant simply, Madam President, because I believe it is an obligation of our churches to provide such day care centres as a fundamental element of the care for our community. There are many, many reasons for doing this, it is a win-win situation for everybody and yet Barbadians do not want to take new initiatives. Perhaps, they do not want to take risks. Maybe it would cost too much, maybe they would not be able to raise the funds, may be the Minister of Health might not approve of the nature of the kitchen and the bathrooms and we have all sorts of excuses from some of the priests that I have discussed this with, but the St. Barnabas Centre was started, Madam President, by the Reverend Bernard Griffith, a priest for whom I have(S3) I had enormous admiration and at whose feet my wife and I worshipped for several years until he was misguided enough to immigrate to North America, and he was sadly missed but he was dynamic. Nurse Ena Bowen, one of the wonderful nurses from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with whom I have worked as an intern and who became the right hand of Sir Frank Ramsay at the Nutrition Centre, and Reverend Griffith with a little medical advice from me began that centre more than 35 years ago.

With PAHO's help I organised caregiving training, caregiving classes, for the caregivers, for the relatives of those folks so that the relatives and caregivers for the people in the centre would come in the evening, twice a week, and would have classes and instructions from physiotherapists, dieticians, physicians, myself and so on, so that they could keep granny and grandmother at 84 and 96 in their home because the principle is that the church hall is made into a centre, it has bathroom for the disabled, the kitchen, a tiny staff can do all of the work in that setting. Relatives are at work, granny is dropped off in the morning at 7:00 or 8:00 in the morning on the way to work, picked up at 5:00 or 6:00 in the evening on the way home and needs only a snack at night, minimal care, with the provision of a commode in the bedroom and granny and granddad can live in comfort in the home that they know and are familiar with.

It is such an obvious no-brainer, Madam President. Forgive me please if I use this forum to call on the nation and every church in the nation which has a decent congregation and which provides wonderful church facilities and other church activities to look to the interest of their elderly people and provide that kind of centre.

Most of our churches, Madam President, have buildings that can be used very easily with a few thousands dollars of retrofitting, but perhaps Government could take the lead. I emphasize and have emphasized throughout my life the importance of Government/Private Sector partnerships, partnership is the word. It is amazing how many wonderful words begin with "P", power, partnership, these are just two examples but perhaps Government could take the lead because the private sector often seem to need the lead of Government in order to go out and see that the risks are not so great.

Then there is the element of competition where the private sector sometimes see the need to prove that they are better than the public sector, that they are more economical than the public sector and that they are more efficient than the private sector so if we could only persuade our Ministry of Health and Minister Blackett of the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development to combine to get into a partnership which could be with the private sector and the churches in order to provide those day care centres.

I have not spoken to Reverend Harewood this week to know what his plans or his timetable is but I invite anyone to visit Reverend Harewood at St. Barnabas and to learn about the Day Care Centre, it is no-brainer. We owe it to our older folks to give them a meaningful and comfortable later life and everyone would save a fortune by avoiding residential care which drives some families into bankruptcy and to avoid it for as long as humanely possible.

Madam President, I am now talking about the old to the issue of our heritage, built and cultural heritage. I often feel that there is a combination between our lack of respect for our elderly members of the society as well as a lack of respect for our older buildings. The two seems to go together. Our old people are often left, if could use a simple three-letter word, to rot and so are our older buildings, many of which are treasures.

Madam President, we in Barbados are very fortunate to have a wealth of historic attractions that were the core of our tourism industry for 100 years. My friend and colleague Dr. Kerry Hall, my co-author on the book "Island in the Sun, the Story of Tourism in Barbados" did her doctorate on the history of tourism in Barbados, and it became perfectly clear for those who are not following things, for those who did not perhaps read the literature and the books of the early 20th Century that for 100 years heritage tourism was the tourism of Barbados. From the days of George Washington visiting the forts and the churches to the days of the steamships in the 1860s coming into Barbados with cruise passengers in those early days, the bread and butter of tourism was what I call the Magnificent 7, Codrington College, St. John's Church,

Sam Lord's Castle, St. Nicholas Abbey, Farley Hill, St. Michael's Cathedral and our magnificent Parliament Buildings. These were what people were told to see. These were the so-called places of interest.

Of course, there were no bikinis then. People who did have the courage to go swim at Hastings walked down a jetty into a bathhouse where they could change their clothes discreetly, get into their Victorian costumes which went from their necks to their ankles and descend through a hole in the floor in the bathhouse so that they enter the water without any member of the opposite sex seeing anything other than a head. This was the approach to the sea and sun in those days. Of course, with the 1950s came the bikini and all things then changed with the five S's of tourism, Sun, Sea, Sand, and some sex on the side.

The work of the Barbados National Trust in preserving Gun Hill Signal Station, Morgan Lewis Mill, Andromeda Gardens, Worthy House, et cetera has made Barbados actually a model for the other Eastern Caribbean countries. Our UNESCO World Heritage inscription, only the fourth in the region, is a gift of gold from UNESCO to our Government, our people and our tourism organisers. Why is this so? It is so because heritage tourism, as I have said just a few weeks ago when it was a relevant topic in this Chamber when we talked about the Masonic Lodge and the Church Village Green, is the fastest growing aspect of tourism worldwide. Chinese and Japanese tourists in particular travelled the world for heritage, there is no question about it, it is repeatedly stated. In fact, when I was in Cambridge last summer to take part in the International Conference on National Trust of which there were 60 countries taking part, Cambridge was absolutely swarming with Chinese and Japanese tourists. Everyone, of course, is carrying a Selfie Stick so that photographs are taken by the thousands with the Selfie Stick in front of every historic building, so you can actually take photographs of these buildings without large numbers of oriental tourists in front of them.

Heritage tourism promotes historical destinations. It opens up opportunities for cultural activities and the sharing of culture, which is the goal of most modern visitors. It plays a hugely important economic role because heritage visitors spend much more than average tourists, and this is well established for almost all countries and it sustains many jobs and generates economic spinoffs, but as a country we are taking a very long time to wake up to this great gift and we are doing very little to protect our heritage. We have actually divided our Barbados Tourism Authority into two units, one of which is marketing and one of which is product development. Product development means developing the cultural heritage of the country, and it could mean both the built and cultural heritage of which there are many, many elements. Madam President, I did look into the Estimates on this and I see that the marketing arm has ten

times as great a budget as the product development arm, so we will be continuing to market a country which would not have changed and which has major issues that we need to deal with unless we can somehow recognise where our priorities should be.

Madam President, we must take a leaf out of the books of Mexico, of Egypt with its pyramids, of Curacao our nearest neighbour with a rich, heavily exploited profitable heritage, of Cuba and of Britain. I mentioned Cuba because people are simply lining up by the hundreds of thousands and the millions to go to Cuba. People have been waiting for Cuba's heritage (\$5)

and we must wake up very rapidly to the fact that Cuba has the capacity when the North Americans and British are going there in droves to wipe out our tourism, if we do not protect our heritage.

Madam President, this is a matter of urgency and I wish to repeat that dealing with our heritage, protecting our heritage is a matter of urgency. I am not jealous of Cuba I am simply stating a fact that most people in the trade recognised that Cuba's opening up the world has the capacity to destroy our tourism unless we protect and preserve our heritage. We have a city with nearly 400 years of built heritage and these buildings in which we have the honour to sit, these Parliament buildings that were built astonishingly in a period of three years, these buildings are so magnificent and they are perhaps the most photographed site on the island and the magnificent Main Guard, with the changing of the guard on a Thursday at midday every week has become a major tourist attraction with hundreds of visitors is now a recognizable icon of Barbados and indeed I have a photograph of it, the Main Guard on my business card.

Madam President, I have looked in vain in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for evidence that we wish to protect our heritage in the coming year. As a people we have allowed over the last 40 years to allow building after building, in Government and the private sector -- let us be clear about that -- to go derelict right under our very eyes. It began with the magnificent Empire Theatre, closed just over 40 years ago; plans drawn by Ken Gardner with input from Olombe' Mottley.

Madam President, I might pause here to say that the Empire Theatre was the place where all of us over 50s went to matinees to see the latest films; where all of us gathered, where some of the older teenagers made sure they got a backdoor seat with their girlfriend; Madam President, it was the stage for the famous Joy Stewart and her wonderful dance reviews; it was the hunting ground; it was the stage of the famous Joseph Onesemus Tudor.

Madam President, I have noted yesterday that Senator Hunte has a panache for tremendous humour in his presentations and perhaps could replace the famous Joseph “Joe” Onesemus Tudor if we were to get the Empire Theatre back on stream.

Madam President, that was a theatre designed by Lady Gilbert Carter in 1921, it was the place for the people of Barbados. Of course, there was the usual social and economic discrimination because the wealthy could sit in the boxes upstairs. There was one lady I know who reputedly weighed 350 pounds who had a double special chair built for her in her box and she went to the theatre every Saturday night and that box was reserved exclusively for her, with a huge chair.

Madam President, the Empire Theatre meant a great deal too many Barbadians. It was contracted out just three and a half years ago and is still waiting, but for those who feel that we take a long time to do things, I will remind this Honourable Chamber that it was known in Barbados that cholera had hit Jamaica in 1851, a man called Clarke suggested that water could be piped in Bridgetown to supply the city to save the people from cholera and when it hit Barbados. It hit Barbados in three years’ time, in 1854; it killed within three months 22 500 people. Mr. Clarke was finally listened to in the House of Parliament and piped water came into Bridgetown in 1865, 11 years after the cholera epidemic.

Madam President, as they say, under every cloud there is a silver lining, while the cholera epidemic brought piped water to Bridgetown from the Republic of St. John -- and ironically my poor friends in St. John are the ones who having supplied water to Bridgetown for 150 are now the ones who are suffering the most, Madam President, it does not seem hardly fair. Madam President, nevertheless, I will just make the point that it took 11 years after the cholera epidemic to get water into Bridgetown, so perhaps three and a half years waiting on the Empire Theatre is no big deal.

Madam President, Queen’s Park House I must mention. Queen’s Park House was adapted as a theatre, again by Lady Gilbert Carter who designed the Empire Theatre in 1906, as the proud centerpiece of the gorgeous Queen’s Park. I call Queen’s Park the lungs of Bridgetown, the cultural centre of our people for 100 years. The House was converted to the Daphne Joseph Hackett Theatre by the famous English designer Oliver Messel in the 1960s. It was restored for CARIFESTA by architect Ken Gardner 35 years ago and simply not maintained since then. Madam President, there is so much of our history that seemed to have happened 35 years ago.

Permit me please, Madam President, to just list a few other derelict treasures we must address. I will make this

list a document of this Honourable House. The Carnegie Public Library and the adjacent Supreme Court, which the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the Preservation Task Force and the Preservation Trust have identified as an absolute priority for restoration for the Barbados National Library to return there and to create there an expanded, upgraded library, cultural center, information center, with state-of-the-art computers, exhibition space and performance spaces. That can be a state-of-the-art library and the Ministry and the Preservation Trust has set its heart that work must start in this our Anniversary Year. I believe that a restoration of that kind which is so crucial to the learning, the research, the development of young Barbadians in particular, has enormous implications for the development of this country and should be our greatest priority in which everyone can take part.

Madam President, I go on, the ruined St. Mary’s Boy’s School, a school to which many famous Barbadians went. The remaining half of the famous Marshal Hall, owned not by Government but I believe by the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, I am told. The Old Eye Hospital on Bay Street; Culloden Farm, the official residence of Prime Minister the late Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow from 1964 until 1976; our first Prime Minister’s Official Residence occupied with pleasure, charm and enormous Bajan hospitality, by our first Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Madam President, while I had the honour of being hosted for drinks by Mr. Barrow in 1969 when I worked with his friend and colleague, the late Sir Richard Haynes, who invited me to join them for drinks there one evening. Culloden Farm is now in a desperate situation, Madam President, the most valuable, the most wonderful potential memorial to our great National Hero. Madam President, Savannah Lodge at the Garrison and many other buildings at the Garrison, the jewel and the crown of Historic Bridgetown.

Madam President, I detailed this list not to make political points but to make a social point about us the people of Barbados. This is not a blame game, these buildings, public and private, Government and personally owned, have been allowed to go derelict because of perhaps a post-war concept that everything must be new; perhaps a post-independence perception that everything must be new as a statement but Madam President, wish to emphasise the importance that written into our philosophy, written into our National Anthem which most of us love to sing are the phrases “strict guardians of our heritage, firm craftsmen of our fate.”

Madam President, I pause here, once again to implore everyone, whoever organises the function in Barbados where the Anthem is going to be played, that it should be played and sung, because as a passionate

Barbadian I find it impossible to envisage that anyone can actually sing, hear and think the words of that Anthem, without becoming an even more passionate lover of our country.

Madam President, I take this opportunity of begging social coordinators and event organisers let us please sing our wonderful Anthem and let us take its words to heart, to be strict guardians of our heritage, and firm craftsmen of our fate.

Madam President, no one person, Government or administrator is responsible for the sad state of Bridgetown, the problem is 40 years old.(S6) It is not new. It is not recent. The Chamber of Commerce has led a revitalisation programme but it lacks the resources and the determined action. The National Trust tries but has no funds. The Cabinet appointed a Preservation Task Force, which I have had the honour of Chairing, and the Preservation Trust exists to receive philanthropic donations and grants to carry out preservation. So the Preservation of Barbados Foundation Trust is willing and eager to receive contributions from the millionaires to the widow's mite, in order to produce this Anniversary celebration of a restored Carnegie Public Library, which is so desperately needed by the people of Barbados. Unfortunately, we do not have many millionaires because they do not spend their money, but if the 200 000 plus Barbadians were each to give \$20 we will have the \$4 million that we need. Is it too much to ask a Barbadian to give \$20 to restore our magnificent Library?

I take this opportunity, Madam President, to inform all Barbadians of this need to the development of Barbados. So contributions can be sent to the Preservation Trust, by cheque, C/o of the Presentation Trust Office, Tyrol Cot, next to the National Stadium, or C/o of the Barbados National Trust, Wildey House, which may be more central. We want the whole country to share in this work and in the rewards of this work. Whatever anyone can spare to preserve the past, to build the future as strict guardians of our fate.

Madam President, there has been considerable discussion and even I would say over the Pledge that Barbados will spend a total of \$7 million in celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Now, a few weeks about, before this was announced, I discovered the work and the passion and the policies of the new President of Tanzania, who was celebrating their Anniversary by having a cleanup. I believe that we are a proud people and I believe we have a lot more to be proud of, perhaps. What I would like to see, and although I am a member of the 50th Anniversary ... I have not seen the budget for the \$7 million, but I would say right out front, I am not a believer in fireworks. I believe fireworks is money going up in smoke, but I think there are many other things than celebrations that are hugely

important and hugely valuable, and I have total confidence in the integrity and the good sense of our Prime Minister, and I am sure he will make every effort that at the end of our celebration we have tangible evidence of that celebration.

Madam President, with that confidence in mind, I will just leave us with one thought, that I would like to think that the most tangible evidence of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, will be working towards the good of our young people. The knowledge and inspiration of Barbadians, the revitalization of the City of Bridgetown and the magnificent restoration of the Carnegie Public Library, in line with the benefaction, the philanthropy and the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, the greatest

rise, the richest man who said, "Those who have, have a responsibility to give back."

Madam President, I believe the greatest memorial of our 50th Anniversary Celebration must be the revitalisation and restoration of our splendid historic Bridgetown of which the Parliament Buildings are iconic, but the Carnegie Library absolutely must be saved.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Adams you have the Floor.

Senator A.A. ADAMS: Thank you, Madam President. I regard it as a distinct privilege and a singular to be asked to participate in this debate of the Appropriation Bill 2016. As you are aware, Madam President, this debate comes on the cusp of the 50th Anniversary of Independence of our Nation. I say again I am truly honoured and delighted that the fates would have it that I will be listed among the Members of this Honoured institution to speak in this debate.

In my presentation, Madam President, I intend to look and give an indication why I believe we ought to celebrate this occasion. I would also, as expected briefly, give my seminal views on education. I must say I would not want to steal the thunder of Senator Husbands, so I would look at a number of issues, at great lengths, certainly the concept of the Eleven Plus, the structuring, deficiencies and co-education and its disadvantage of our boys, the university fees which I believe should be instituted, but ought to be revisited, the concept of technical vocational education, which has always and still fighting for parity of esteem in relation to academic, an historical matter. I also intend, Madam President, to look at the environment, particularly alternative energy and clean air. As Chairman of the Committee of Education, BARP, I want to actually also mention agriculture, specifically the project that is being undertaken by BARP.

Let me say, Madam President, that I am in full agreement with the Prime Minister who opined that at this juncture of our history celebrating our 50th Anniversary, it is a time for national introspection, to discard those things which we deem to be unworthy and to hold on, embrace and cherish those things which we hold dear as Barbadians.

I however, Madam President, would like to simply say that in my opinion at this critical juncture of our history, this Chamber can be likened to the Roman god, Janus. He was the god of doors and he was depicted as having two faces, which was rather unique, one looking backwards and I suggest looking backwards to guard against any intruders who would want to steal our jewels, and the other facing, looking forward to steer the ship of state and the path of progress, growth and development.

The record will show we have achieved a lot, tremendously so, a lot of progress since 1966, and I am sure most Barbadians would agree with that. (S7) I cannot go into all the achievements, but I am sure Barbadians would not begrudge the modest sum of money in these Estimates or the funding of these celebratory events.

I have been asked to be part of a function at my old school in the handing over of the Trident. I think I ought to say to the nation in a way, what I said to the children on that occasion. I said to them that it is very important, because it is the hallmark of outstanding democratic societies to pass on to future generations their customs, their norms, their tradition, their mores, in fact their folklore, pass it on from one generation to the next. I regard that as the sine qua non of nation building.

A good example would be the occasion of the handing over of the Broken Trident. We believe the significance of this symbolic gesture ought to be explained to our young people. It is cardinal importance for the young people to know and to respect our emblems, our symbols, our artifacts and, indeed, our relics. Madam President, make no mistake about it that it is only by such means that they would be able to demonstrate to the rest of the world that we have something that is quintessentially authentic and uniquely Bajan, of which I may add we can justly be proud.

I go further and say that they ought to know that the Broken Trident represents from the past. It is a manifestation of who we are as a people. That break from the past is one where we were dominated and domineered by colonial masters, but it binds us together as a united nation. It engenders in us a feeling of pride and dignity. It confers on us a sense of identity and belongingness. It helps to boost our self-esteem in relation to the rest of the world, and our self-confidence, and it helps us to appreciate the tremendous debt we owe to those who labored through thick and thin with their blood, sweat and tears, who,

indeed, endured the great tribulation, the middle passage and the slavery so that what we enjoy today, we are able to enjoy.

In short, Madam President, the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our Independence is noteworthy. Yes, it has a cost but on reflection we will all agree that it is indeed priceless.

Madam President, I believe this country, perhaps greatest achievement after Independence is in the sphere of education, not that nothing was done before, but notwithstanding the fact we inherited a colonial system, we were able to fashion it to some extent, and in so doing we have been able to make considerable progress. I will want to go on to say later, however, that we ought not to rest on our laurels because some of that colonial baggage still remains in our educational system and really ought to be jettisoned, so we are better able to compete, not just with our Caribbean neighbours but with the rest of the world, the Pacific great and elsewhere.

I want to indicate that in recent times and in earlier times, I suppose the finances were not there, and so nursery education did not get the prominence it ought to have gotten. So we ought to congratulate Governments in recent times, particularly this Government, in the establishment and the expansion of our nursery schools. I want to say that for a couple reasons and really to suggest a couple things. 1) It ought to concentrate on language development particularly among our boys from this early age. 2) Pay special attention to children from improvised and disadvantaged homes, because the research shows that those children entered primary school with a deficit, which very often sometimes gets even worse rather than better. 3) We ought to note the differences between our boys and our girls, which manifest themselves irrespective of what denials people may say, manifest themselves at very early age, and, indeed, widens as they go through primary and secondary stages. Therefore, it is at the nursery stage that we ought to pay special attention, and make up for the shortcomings that our boys have at that age, and therefore give them a chance and a good foundation to compete and not be found loitering on the roadsides and so on, as we often see.

I want to say therefore that the establishment and the expansion of primary schools is something that should be commended and we look forward to further development, but it must be followed up in the primary schools. I can say there are some students who seem not to benefit. Those disadvantaged students seem not to benefit in the same way as other students from more advantaged backgrounds. Therefore, we ought not to let up in the primary level because we know and the record shows that at age eleven, those particular group of students are forever found at the bottom of the round, and some people use the euphemism

of falling through the cracks, but that need not be so if special consideration is actually given to those students and that should happen in our primary schools. Since those students overwhelmingly, the record shows that and I do not want to go into the detail, but those students are overwhelmingly boys and we cannot afford to allow a section of our population to suffer in that way, and in the end become virtually non-productive to the detriment of the economic development of the country.

I think we also need to look to improve our primary schools. I have noted here about six differences between boys and girl. I do not know if I should go through them. I ought to do so because it is being ignored all the time. (S8) One is that the hemispheric differences or the rate of language acquisition is faster in girls than in boys, and that is a fundamental issue because language is the key to learning in schools. Secondly, that girls have the mental makeup or natural ability to concentrate on more than one thing; they can multi-task. Young men do not have that. The third is that there is a great proportion of boys, more so than girls, among hyperactive students, and that is something that happens in the schools and the teachers cannot manage them; and that the boys' motor skills as well as their muscle development vis-à-vis girls render them less able to focus and concentrate for lengthy periods at that developmental stage, especially at the primary level. I am sure that those points would need to be looked at by the teachers and the teaching institution, Erdiston, when they are doing teacher training.

I suppose I will look briefly at the payment of fees before I look at the technical-vocational. I simply want to say that the case for not paying the fees at university has been fought and lost. I do not think that the fight should go on. In this Chamber, I have given specific points as to why students should take some of the burden off the Government in relation to the cost of university education, and that is on record. I am not sure if I ought to go back to that, but what ought to be revisited is the manner in which we try to come up with a model for funding the university. I believe that with the urgency we had to undergo at the time, steps had to be taken, but the time has come that we ought to revisit how the university is funded and to look at a number of fundamental things. Without full detail, they are:

1. The key persons involved should get a win-win situation. There should be something in it for the university; that is, the university should not be worse off economically than it was before the reforms took place.
2. The Government should have some of the financial burden transferred from the Treasury to the persons who are benefiting from it.

3. The students, those who qualify, ought to be better able to enter university after the reforms than before. In other words, the poor students, those from disadvantaged backgrounds who qualify to enter university, ought not to be denied.

The other point I want to mention is that the business community ought to be involved. In the first place, they ought to contribute to the funding, and they should therefore have leverage to have a say in what is actually taught at university so that when the students graduate, they are better able to go into the world of work and contribute and be productive more so than before. In other words, there should be a change for the greater. I think that those are things that ought to happen, but the funding ought not to be kind of episodic; I do not want to say haphazard. It should be looked at holistically; and given the fact that the existing fund has been badly managed and can create debt, I want to make the point that a new, properly capitalised fund ought to be set up. This has support across the world in the United Kingdom and so on.

I just want to digress and say that while I paid fees at secondary school, often with the danger of being sent out when the fees were not paid, in the United Kingdom where I had my education, I studied there in the 1960s free of cost and with a grant on which to live. Now all of that has changed, not just in the United Kingdom but across the world. In every advanced country you find that the rising costs of university education cannot be met from the purse, and we have to just remember when in 1948 the University of the West Indies was founded, it only had about 33 students. In the 1980s when Dr. Sherlock wrote a book which I have here, it was over 10 000. Similarly here in Barbados, Cave Hill would have had certainly less than 50 students in 1963, and the last numbers we heard before the fees came in were virtually up to 10 000. The costs for that rapid enrolment outstripped the ability of the tax-base of Barbadians to cover the costs, and therefore, the situation is that a new model should be found.

The key to that model is sustainability. It is a model that ought to be sustainable, and so every year the Government should not have to be running around looking for money, nor should the students. Therefore, we are saying that institutions such as the banks that have all this money that they do not know what to do with, the credit unions which have pensioners' money and so on, the former students, the business community, persons in the diaspora, and well-meaning philanthropists should all be expected to contribute to a fund from which students can have a contingent method of borrowing that money and paying it back almost like income tax when they graduate. That is what I have to say on that score.

The next point I want to make in relation to education is the fact that, given the historical nature of our education, technical-vocational education has been

somewhat under-represented and underplayed, and at one point in fact did not even exist. Certainly, up to the time I left school, there was not a single workshop, art was not taught, music was not taught, home economics were not taught, and I could go on and on. In fact, there were so many things that were not taught that they were probably more than what was actually taught. Therefore, I believe that while that might have served our purpose at that time -- we cannot say that it did not - in the post-Independence period we were able to do reasonably well. The point we must note, however, is that we were able to compare ourselves with our Caribbean neighbours, both in exam results, et cetera, but the world has become a global village, and the persons with whom our students now compete are people from South Korea and Hong Kong and Singapore and Costa Rica and so on and the records have shown and all the studies carried out by CARICOM, carried out by the United Nations and Caribbean Development Bank and so on have shown that we have actually fallen behind our competitors in that particular regard and, therefore, I want to make the case that we ought to look very carefully at how go about reforming our secondary education in relation to technical vocational.

Madam President, some progress has been made and we cannot say not. I think in a book edited by Sir Trevor Carmichael, there is a chapter there by Dr. Shorey and Dr. Rose and they have a compendium of accomplishments which we had during the period, the Community College, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the expansion of the curriculum, those subjects that I said were not taught at the time are now being taught et cetera. However, they remain virtually a kind of second class subjects in our schools and we want to make the case that they ought to be given parity of esteem in that regard. It is a bit difficult too for that in a way because of the old attitudes and persons who may even be still in the Ministry of Education at one time did not think that a lot of those subjects were actually subjects and there were case in school where headmasters and teachers did not even accept the marks to be tallied from the technical vocational subjects. Madam, those things, Of course, we want to put in the background. The other thing is that level of education costs more money and, therefore, in the Estimates and in the planning particular attention ought to be paid as to how monies are to be distributed. For example, if you go to the workshop, you may find that the lathe that are there were perhaps the same lathe that were there in the 1960 or 1970s. However, when I had an educational tour to Canada in Nova Scotia, around the turn of the century what I found there was electronic lathe and people at the touch of button and so on could have all kinds of designs and so done. Obviously, that costs money but we need to look at it because those are the students with whom our students have to compete and, therefore, we need to pay attention to that, not neglecting the academics but recognizing that special consideration ought to be given in that direction.

Madam President, the record shows that because of the fact that so many students are coming out of the schools without the skills that it is somewhat detrimental to the economic development of the country. Madam, I just want to make the point that a lot more attention ought to be paid to the provisions given to our technical vocational education.

Madam President, I know that somethings are done and are being done and that kudos should be given for that as well. We have a situation where a pre-technical vocational programme has been instituted. Madam, that was done even before I left school and I had instructed the head of department to produce a paper which I have with me but I would not go into it, to ensure that an upgrade is made at the school in that regard. Madam, in that area some six skill sets were identified, certain was to be done by the SJPP and there was to be work attachment involved in that.

Madam President, we do not know the exact outcome but some 150 students a year should have been graduating out of that programme. Madam, even of greater significant is the skills for the future programme which was funded by Caribbean Development Bank and that obviously was the new flag ship for things in our secondary schools. We want to make the point that going along with the fact that those skills should be instituted, we have a new qualification to go along with that. There are two but I will deal with one, that is the Certificate for Vocational Qualification (CVQ). We want to commend the Ministry of Education for that initiatives. I want to give students who possess various skills but no qualification the opportunity to train and retrain and upgrade their skills because this is very important.

Madam President, secondly, that it will help the industries in areas like construction, manufacturing and so on to be able to be part and parcel of this initiatives, so that they will know and have an input in the students who are graduating, so that they will be better able to have students hitting the runway running when they come to work in their organisations. This CVQ Programme is embedded with practical units, it is modular and it means that certain modules can be done at virtually any point and that students can return and do other models so that over a period of time, you can have multi-skilled workforce. This will obviously close the critical gap between what employers want and what the schools produce. We want to have that nexus in the manpower needs of the country. Madam, I am sure this will have a positive impact on the economic development and the industrial development of our country. Madam President, I just want to say here that is important because while we can make the case for education for its sake, the intrinsic nature of education, we cannot ignore the importance of the instrumental nature of education. It was an American author called Thomas A. Biggs, who writing in a book on secondary education said

that only an erratic person would produce bathtubs for the sake of producing bathtubs, or produce door knobs just for the sake of producing door knobs, they must have a utilitarian value and so our education must take that into consideration if we are to maintain and indeed keep up our position in relation to other industrial countries. Madam President, I think that aspect of my presentation should be fairly well covered there.

Madam President, I want to move on the area of the environment and alternative energy. It was Jeremy Rifkin, who in his lecture at the Central Bank of Barbados said words to this effect. He said that with time of our children our grandchildren, it is possible that in this country, Barbados, that most buildings, homes, offices,

shopping malls and industrial parks and so on will be renovated and constructed to serve both as places where people live and work as well as power houses. In other words, they will all generate their electricity. He said the buildings will collect and generate locally from the sun and wind and so on, the energy for them to use and the surplus they will be able to share or sell to the power company and in some cases even to their neighbours. That is, I think, a really revolutionary statement to have been made at the time. We are now virtually coming to that stage because the flagship of the address given by the Governor-General (GG) at the opening of Parliament which I entered was the fact that the country of Barbados would be moving toward renewable energy and away from fossil fuels. Secondly, it expressed great concern that the cost of the fossil fuels continue to rise astronomically and thirdly that the cost was having a negative effect on our balance of payments and our foreign reserves. Fourthly, we declared that steps would be taken to reduce the cost of imported fuel by at least \$150 million over a period of five years. That is the centre piece of economic development of the country. Legislation was proposed and we had the legislation brought to this Senate, the Barbados Light & Power Company Limited Act, and we also had legislation in relation to concessions, the changing of the Income Tax Act and so on for concessions to be given to persons who seek licenses to go into alternative energy.

Madam President, this is really a radical departure from what we have been accustomed to and we therefore would have a situation where independent suppliers would be able to produce power for individual homes and if the surplus is made, in fact, the mirror is in that business too, then they would be able to sell it to the national grid at a cost, I believe, agreed upon by the Fair Trading Commission (FTC). These are things that, I believe, when the Senator Boyce speaks he will probably go deeper into but nonetheless, it is something that we ought to pay attention to because we have a number of small independent producers who are expected to have a livelihood in this new area. This is what you would call a

sunrise industry rather than the sunset industry of the fossil fuels therefore, we are hoping to see what will happen there because just as the revolution in telecommunications allowed even our five year olds to have cell phones and so on, in the same way, this new thrust is going to allow virtually everyone in Barbados to participate in the production of energy even if not in the distribution. I think that is a very important area in which we ought to pay a lot of attention. We have a situation where individuals can 1) create their own energy, 2) share the surplus with their neighbours or 3) they can sell energy to the national grid. All of this, Madam President, having to be done in a way that will not compromise the national grid therefore, steps would have to be taken to see that it is done in an orderly and safe fashion. We are very sure that is exactly what will happen, therefore, we would want to see and know that the grid is able to take the load from the, what they call, the intermittent penetration from the independent suppliers and we believe that it is incumbent upon Emirror to upgrade the grid and bring into Barbados the new smart grid that would enable the grid to take more of that type of energy and at a reasonable cost. I want to just briefly say that the energy should be safe, reliable and it should meet the required standards so that the integration of the independent suppliers with the national grid ought to be a properly and well planned situation.

The other point that I want to look at is in the area of clean air. This is something that I mentioned before and I just want to say a few points about it. Madam President, we usually find that more discussion is carried out about topics such as obesity and alcohol use and even marijuana because it is kind of sexy to do that but the fact that we have floating poisons going through our atmosphere day in and day out such as fuels from gasoline and diesel that is taking a heavy toll on our health and indeed our lives, we are not caring enough about that.

Madam President, I make bold to say that there is not a man, woman, child or a tourist walking and driving on our streets who would not be affected by these fuels. Indeed, this morning on my way here I had to suffer the indignity of travelling behind a vehicle that was just belching out fumes. If I had time, I would have turned off and taken another road. It is a major problem in the country and these poisonous, noxious fumes from these motor vehicles are really a great worry. We have found recently that a writer to the newspaper spoke about the fact that when one is standing at a bus stop and you have a minibus, a Barbados Transport Board bus or a ZR pull in one would find that one would have to move further back or run the risk of being asphyxiated by the noxious fumes that are coming out of these vehicles. We want to say that this is not a 2 x 3 country, this is a very sophisticated country and things like that, these black smoke coming at you, ought not to be happening in Barbados much longer.

Madam President, I believe that we must not only move toward the green economy by embracing renewables about which I spoke but we must attack it two-fold and bring in a regime to monitor, police and, in fact, bring penalties on those persons who are polluting the atmosphere. We ought not to really downplay this because in countries where they have the instruments and so on for measuring these things, in the UK, in particular, in research they found that about a quarter, about 40 000 of the (\$11) of the 250 000 persons who died every year has some connection with these noxious fumes, and they have found that the respiratory problems that we have, the asthma... In Barbados we could just stop at asthma because as a principal I could not understand, unless in the old days people did not know what asthma was, how so many students in this country could be coming down with asthma. I here make bold to say that we ought to look for that nexus between these noxious fumes and the prevalence of asthma among our students and that we ought to do something and do something about it because it is becoming, and it has become, perhaps the greatest environmental issue of our time. I say Senator Boyce that the ball is in your court.

We have neither so far, because I think the environmental officer said that, I quoted it some time last week or so, that he does not have neither the legislation nor the standards nor penalties nor in fact the personnel needed to deal with this matter. Madam President, we therefore believe that before we leave this session that we would see legislation coming in here dealing with that matter. I believe that ought to happen.

I mentioned before how in the United Kingdom they say that 40 000 deaths, that is 8 per cent of all the deaths in the United Kingdom, comes from that. It is a great public health problem. The culprits they say is carbon dioxide and the nitro oxides that are contributing to things including heart attacks, cancers and so on, and therefore it is incumbent upon us to fight this scourge from both ends. We go full fledged into the renewable energy so that in shorter time than originally thought we should be able to have 100 per cent energy from renewables and in quick order I believe we also ought to have legislation to deal with the matter of these noxious fumes about which I just spoke.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senators has 15 more minutes.

Senator A. A. Adams: We have a situation which Honourable Senators might have seen where in Britain the highest court of the land presided over a case in relation to the continual failure of the Government to reduce dangerous traffic fumes and factory emissions. The five High Court judges came to the conclusion that legislation ought to be brought by whichever Government takes over

the reins in the United Kingdom to deal with pollution, and we ought to look at that and have standards over a period of time, 2020, 2025 and so on, so that you cannot get it at one fell swoop, but gradually these levels of emissions would come down to an acceptable level. The time will come that we will have electric cars and things of that nature and therefore we would virtually be pollution free. The actual technology is there. The cost and so on may cause us to wait a bit longer.

I want to move very quickly, Madam President, to agriculture. I kind of chose agriculture not because it is a low-hanging fruit but because it is an area where we have both competitive and comparative advantage. We have a lot of know-how, a lot of expertise in the area of agriculture and it offers a lot of room for development, and therefore we believe, that in debates of this nature and the Estimates and so on, that we ought to look carefully at agriculture.

This country in relation to sugar was a leader in sugar historically. We have fallen a bit there but for year, after year all the way down I believe into the 70s, very few years would we have produced less than 150 000 tonnes of sugar. I think there are about four years that did not happen. We were able for various reasons from the European Union and so on, the price of sugar and so on went down and a whole other things combined to cause the sugar to come under pressure. We have as I said the know-how and we have what I call the Barbadian genius to be able to get over that because it is not only the notion of the sugar and the foreign exchange and the fact that we get a better return from sugar than from almost any other industry in relation to the retention of foreign exchange and the earning of foreign exchange and the value added that kind of multiply throughout the country, but it goes further than that, and so we have to recognise that our ability to feed ourselves is heavily dependent, almost solely dependent, on the success of the sugar industry, it is an historical fact.

When we were coming out of the war and so on and all the way up to independence we would have about one-third of our agriculture rotating around sugar and, probably either through a necessity or even because it was kind of demanded, we were able to be self-sufficient in a range of crops, whether it be cassava, potatoes, the pulses black eyes and all that sort of things and the yams especially the Lisbon yam, the best yam in the world. All those things were produced in Barbados. I know about it personally because my father cooked soup or stewed food every day so, we know that is a historical fact about the development of Barbados.

*Asides.*

Senator A. A. Adams: Madam President, what we need to note is that as the lands went out of sugar we also

had a situation in the reduction of supplying foods for ourselves, and it is something that we ought to get back to. The Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation has been looking at the revitalisation of the sugar cane industry where, I think he said something like, 23 000 acres ought to come back into sugar, we are very slow in getting it done and we perhaps ought to hold him to book for that and give us a time span when those acreage would be reached and that the sugar factory would not just be producing sugar but a number of byproducts, many of which are needed in industry and so on. Added value would be the production of energy which would be an offshoot so we want to find out at some point during this debate and so on to what extent that is actually being done. I would want to see a lot more done.

I would like to see some things of old, I am not really going back into history. We had a time when we had a pheasant loan bank and indeed the pheasant class in Barbados produced a lot of support in the area of agriculture. (S12) You had a Peasant Loan Bank and they had their skills and in some cases they were in the forefront of agricultural diversification. Historically it was the post-emancipation slaves who actually used their provisions and grounds to feed themselves. Then we had the Peasant Loans Bank, we had the Barclays Bank, a foreign Bank. Of course, we have all foreign banks now but Barclays Bank had a window for farmers, and there were a few other areas where the small farmer could go and have money on lend. As a result they were able to keep pigs, like my mother; they borrowed money to work the land, et cetera and paid it back when the crop came, when they managed to sell of their pigs, et cetera. We want to have those kinds of avenues, we want to see a special fund set up, not a general fund, earmarked for agriculture so that we can have that level of development in this country.

Madam President, having said all of that, and the time is running, I want to say that we embark to put our money where our mouth is and so I can proudly announce to this august Chamber that we have a project which is called the BARP-carding Project, backyard garden project. This I do not want to overstate it but it is of some significance in the area of agriculture in this country. One of the things that we did was that we took a proposal to the UNDP and were able to convince them to give us funding in that area. We did not come cap in hand to Government.

Madam President, what I will use this occasion for is to make an appeal to Government to give things in kind. We have already been using the agricultural station but there are other things that we would want to hand in. We want to say that we can make this document which was prepared for the UNDP a document of this Honourable House. I would just quote from it, perhaps not extensively but it says that the programme will impact on approximately 43 000-plus Barbados Association of

Retired Persons members and their households. So multiply that by four, or by two and a half.

Madam President, given the percentage of the local population and the geographical space that they occupy, it is unlikely that a significant percentage of both the rural and urban landscapes could be transformed, for example, the greening of Barbados, there should be the possibility that every household could have some place in their backyard for cultivation. The fact too that it is sustainable, it implies that we will be going more and more towards the notion of food security.

Madam President, it is a puncture to the Government how local communities can be encouraged to get involved in an activity which is not just beneficial to them but also to the country, because it is envisaged that a spinoff of the production from this project would lead to secondary industries, for example, the cottage industry such as the making of jams, et cetera, in which our ladies, more so than our men, are involved. We can also have local markets, some of which already exist in other organisations but the economic spinoff, the multiplying effect of this project is expected to be very significant.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has one minute left in which to conclude.

Senator Alwin A. ADAMS: Madam President, so that the situation would be that backyard gardening would become a major issue but the health, nutrition, food security and indeed the enhancement of the environment will all be done and that we want to show and to have people appreciate that there is a link between wholesome and nutritious foods and chronic non-communicable diseases which are rampant across this country. We need to show that you can grow your own food, that you can cut down the cost of living in so doing. It also gives a sense of empowerment to persons who are involved. We also would cut down the import bill and the food bill which has quadrupled over the last 20 years.

Madam President, a bill in the region of US\$325 million is something that we cannot afford, it is not sustainable. This may appear to be a small step but it is an example to what the rest of the country can do. Therefore I want to highly commend this to you and in a way self-congratulate myself and Barbados Association of Retired Persons for this venture.

Madam President, I was informed that before I sit that I ought to make a plea to Senator Husbands, so that when he goes back to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation that the Coleridge and Parry School ought to have a sixth form, the Headmaster asked me to say that. Now, if you ought to do your history you would check the files and you would find that the first

group of fifth form students that went into the Coleridge and Parry School, including Bishop Brome, Sir Lloyd Sandiford, Darryl Jordan and people of that ilk have all performed exceptionally well and as a result Sir Lloyd went onto Harrison College and won a Barbados scholarship and captained the cricket team. Let me say that sixth forms were at Coleridge and Parry and at Foundation.

Madam President, I do not know who is making the case for Foundation, but I am now making the case for Coleridge and Parry School.

*Asides.*

Senator Alwin A. ADAMS: Maybe when other people were in charge they should have done it.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member would want to wrap up at this time.

Senator Alwin A. ADAMS: Madam President, for some quirk of history they only remained at the schools where white Englishmen were the Head Teachers. The time has come that Coleridge and Parry should have back is fifth form. Madam President, as a country school the extraordinary achievement of that school has not been sufficiently recognised and I am here making that case. Madam President, I just talked about agriculture, because we would not just be a teaching shop, we are a country school and you will find that agriculture and things of that nature would be highlighted there, it will not just be an academic shop. Madam President, it is on those grounds that I rest my case.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Like my colleagues on this side, and no doubt several on the other side, including two who may do so reluctantly, I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill and Act and the Estimates of the expenditure that is expected to take Barbados forward in the coming year. If we could set it in context first, we need to remember first the financial situation that we are easing ourselves out of - which our honourable leader on this side, the Leader of Government Business, indicated as navigating troubled waters - and ensuring that we not only survive the crisis but that we trigger growth in the process. It may come as no surprise then that our budgeted amounts will reflect, in terms of dollars, reduced spending under each Head. After all, cutting expenditure is one of the ways we save money. We also will improve our earnings in the meantime, but please understand that cutting expenditure does not necessarily mean the cutting of programmes or cutting back on the reach of certain programmes. What cutting expenditure means is prudence. It means trimming largesse. It does not mean that because there is a smaller allocation that there is less capacity to service.

By way of example, in terms of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) which has caused some concern for others on the other side, it may well be as simple as cutting out the middle-man in the procurement exercise in order to achieve economies of scale. That is a practice long hallowed in those halls that needs to come to an end. I am satisfied that those in this Chamber who work in that place, as I do not, would be very familiar with precisely what happens in relation to procurement. I do know that I am a member of a particular non-governmental body which, in attempting to answer the call for more incubators for babies, met with so many brick walls in trying to present equipment. We were told a dollar figure but we found that we could source the equipment more cheaply directly, but no-one wanted to hear us in relation to that. I can say categorically, without fear of contradiction, that cutting out the middle-man will help the QEH to meet its financial goals for 2016-2017.

That is only one way that we achieve all that we wish to do with less strain on the public purse. I daresay that this administration, more than any other, has leaned on public-private sector partnerships in order to achieve ends to the benefit of the country. It is tapping into philanthropic behest; persons who have nothing but the best at heart for Barbados and pockets deep enough to make it a reality. Kudos to Rihanna, who singlehandedly significantly reduced the QEH bill by her annual donation; and no conversation on philanthropy would be complete without having a word to say about the Maria Holder Trust. Those are just two in the myriad groups. The Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARP) is represented in these Chambers, and they will know that they too take part in the public-private sector partnerships in order to make meaningful change in Barbados without straining the public purse.

Having set that context, we need not be wary of budget cuts in terms of delivery but that we look optimistically at a rationalisation of the process of delivering services in Barbados. I also wish to allay the fears of Senator Fraser, who is concerned that the budget of the Barbados Tourism Product Incorporated (BTPI) is not sufficient to maintain our built heritage. He may rest assured, and he may not take my word for it but can confirm at Page 149 of the Estimates booklet, that the mandate of the BTPI is not to maintain buildings but to maintain standards and to encourage investment. If he wishes to find, because it is quite a hefty document, the budget for the Maintenance of Plant under Heritage, he needs only look at Page 378 under the Ministry of Culture and find the millions allocated to precisely that project. I speak under correction because the book is so hefty.

*Aside.*

Senator Ms. V.G.A. DePEIZA: Thank you very much. Subhead 7005, and if my memory serves me

correctly, it is \$3 million for this year toward the maintenance of our built heritage. I also wish - and this is not to allay fear of Senator Walcott but - to allay fear in the country after the speech of Senator Walcott that ambulances have not been removed from the St. Thomas outpost willy-nilly. Anybody who traverses Highway 2A daily, weekly, monthly or once in their lifetime, will recognise that the Fire Station is under significant repairs. It is with that in mind that there has been a temporary relocation of the Ambulance Service, and we have to be absolutely clear that the delivery of services requires proper plant, so it is not sufficient to build a pretty building and then leave it to fall down. Do not just ask the Fire Service; ask the police.

I recall almost ten years ago when the Police Station at District "E" in St. Peter was unceremoniously uprooted and transplanted into a metal container. I recall it was literally sold out from under them, and up to today, not a hole in the ground of development on that site.

Mr. Deputy President, I recall when the officers at Hometown were also placed in a container. I know for sure that the police at the Black Rock Station, at the Hastings Station and at the Worthing Station had the worse facilities you could think about and buildings that were utterly impracticable for policing and the former administration could find no time or dollar to invest in the police. Madam, as a Manifesto promise to the Royal Barbados Police Force, this Democratic Labour Party administration promised new state-of-the-art stations and I am happy to point out the allocation in these Estimates and not just on paper but have a drive down in Christ Church West, Senator Walcott, and see the police station under construction.

Mr. Deputy President, we are not to hear asides but of an absolute certainty, you cannot win a seat if you are not a candidate. I apologise, Mr. Deputy Chair, honouring albeit belatedly because of financial constraints but honouring the promise to the police to treat them like something more than third class citizens housed in insanitary and inhumane conditions. Sir, anybody who had been to any of those police stations would understand what I am talking about with very little barrack facilities, lack of space, windows all the way down almost to the floor and prisoners jumping through them at will. They now know for certain that things are happening. Sir, not only in Hastings, the land has already been acquired, we have approved in this Place and in the Other Place in relation to District D because as much as the other side would like to say that St. Thomas means a lot to them, they knocked down the police station and had them scotching by a relative all over Barbados and not at all in St. Thomas, the Cinderella of the police force, all over the place they had them scotching but that station is coming and the people of St. Thomas, I being one of them will have proper policing

facilities absolutely appropriate given that they are charged with the responsibility of keeping us safe.

Mr. Deputy President, while I am speaking of the police, let me shift ever so slightly and have a word about projects relating to the criminal justice system. It is much maligned here and elsewhere and some would say that despite that, we are typical of legal systems every where in terms of delay but I am not one who treats that as a reason for mediocracy. If anything, let Barbados set the standard in the region as to how our court system ought to run and, of a certainty, I am hearkened to hear that the Magistrate's court will be treated to stenographers because in the 21st Century, it is no boast that our magistrates still take evidence by long hand. It is a most stilted performance and unnatural delivery for witnesses, as lawyers we are used to it but witnesses just cannot get behind of watching the magistrate's pen. It is long overdue, a project that ought really to have been undertaken in flush financial times but priorities were different then but under this administration there is the intention to make the delivery of justice a better process for bench, bar and visitor.

Mr. Deputy President, believe it or not, that deficiency, though always highlighted in the Magistrate Courts also exist in the High Court with civil trials, a judge still takes evidence by long hand in civil trials and I look forward to the day when the contracts of the stenographers in the High Court also include the need for their services in relation to civil matter. Sir, Barbados has matured significantly and sufficiently to have a most robust litigation in several different civil disciplines. We are enriching our jurisprudence daily with the quality of the matters that come before the court but certainly it has to be faster for a judge to deliver a judgement if it is that judge is not called upon to find three and four different hard back blue books for the testimony taken on a particular day cross reference off these different notations taken on the different days, condense and research. Yes, we complain that it takes too long and I am satisfy that it does take too long to deliver a judgement but I think it is incumbent upon us to make the process smoothier for our judges and then we remove that complaint that they do not have equipment necessary in order to deliver a satisfactory judgement at pace.

Mr. Deputy President, it will also call for collaboration between bench and Bar. It will call for significant administrative changes including in our Registry where the pace of work can get no slower not without completing grinding to a halt. The mediation process needs to be plugged and pushed and perhaps, not made an option in certain types of matters but an absolute imperative. I am thinking particularly in terms of land matter which are near and dear to the hearts of the average Barbadian who has as a goal to own a piece of the rock and over which too much blood has been shed in this country. We have had several

instances of altercations, as recently as this past weekend, altercations over land issues which may recall for shifting of boundaries in order to accommodate all persons but certainly does not in every case require any significant deliberation on a legal point and I suggest that the mediation programme be very strenuously applied to land matters and because a lot of contentious probate also surrounds land matters, they may well be some of those cases that are also amenable to mediation.

Other issues within the legal department that need to be address as a matter of urgency include the inefficiencies in the Solicitor General's Chambers. These should never be taken lightly because they are the attorneys who represent Government in matters that may be as light as having a decision in relation to a road traffic accident and a Government vehicle or as weighty as the Arch Cot matter and all of the matters ought to be dealt with some dispatch by the department of Government that is charged with legal representation at Court.

The Court Marshal's Office also needs some oversight. They can get praise and they can also get castigation for the manner in which they carry out their duties. For me, their issue is having to preside at Court and then also deliver process, the same Marshal so perhaps we need to look at improving the compliment of marshals so that marshals assigned to courts will deliver process only as issued by that Court and then there are Marshals assigned to court offices that will deliver process that has been filed simply because having worked in a court from 9 o'clock until 3 or 4 o'clock, depending on which Court you are assigned to then have to do work on the road is onerous and the delay in the service of process accounts for a significant amount of adjournments in our court system. These are issues, legally speaking, that we need to address. (S15) This may not technically be a legal matter, but apparently there are some on the Other Side who wish to make it so and so I will take a moment to have only a brief say on the issue of fingerprinting at our ports of entry. There is no doubt, I believe, that Barbadians have ultimate right of entry to our shores but understand that if a Barbadian brings in contraband they will be stopped by Customs so what then are we to do in relation to immigration? How, at the point of Immigration, do we identify a Barbadian? Is it by passport because I think it is not beyond belief that they can be tampered with. Matter of fact, there are several instances that have come before the Courts in relation to passport fraud. More than once we have persons, not only officers in that department but also laypersons who have been charged in relation to passport fraud and I am speaking in terms of Barbadians and Barbadians passport so clearly the carriage of a Barbadian is not a fail safe in the identification of a Barbadian citizen. No one - I do not want to say in their right mind because I do not wish to insult anyone - but no right thinking person can consider in the alternative that our National Registration Card,

commonly referred to as our ID cards, which are constructs of a typewriter, cut and paste photograph and thermal setting that can very easily be pulled apart could ever constitute a guarantee of identity at our ports of entry, but we were born with a thing that can distinguish twins from one another. It is our fingerprints. What is the fear if it is that we are guaranteeing our ports and safeguarding entry? What is the fear of law-abiding citizens to having your fingerprints taken? Those of use who travel are intimately familiar with the process and how short a time it takes. What is the fear of law-abiding citizens in having their fingerprints taken. I boldly state that I support the initiative. I know it sets me apart from some of my colleagues professionally but with no disrespect to the people of Belgium, anyone watching the news today will understand why Brussels and the European Union (EU) is meeting at emergency right this minute to discuss how to safeguard their borders and you do not have to wait until evil visits our shores then to act. That is a knee jerk reaction. Barbados is no more or less vulnerable than any other place. Barbados is already a transshipment point for drugs and I have no difficulty stating that Barbados is already is a transshipment point for humans in human trafficking and it is not a short trick of my imagination to appreciate that in just a few years, hopefully as long as that, Barbados could become a transshipment point for terrorism. Trinidad, our neighbour, has issues with nationals joining international organisations for the purpose of terrorism and Barbados would be blind and willfully ignorant if it did not take steps to safeguard our borders. I understand that is the purpose of opposition to oppose but to oppose for opposing sake does no good to our country. The whole point of opposing is to present checks and balances not road blocks and we have to be very careful that we do not allow partisan politics to blinker us (S16) us to the point where Barbados suffers as a result.

I am also very interested in the provisions in the Estimates in relation to our environment. I believe that internationally we have all come to the realisation that climate change is no longer in the realm of supposition or speculation. Our changing rainfall patterns that have left us in a state of drought in recent months threatening our already water-scarce country and changing weather systems with super storms becoming the norm it seems suggest that taking command of our environment is now an imperative for this country.

Again, the Democratic Labour Party Administration present has indicated that along with all other viabilities Barbados must have a focus in relation to its environment. We must find a way to use our resources sustainably, and that would required that across the board, ministry by ministry, we have contemplation of how to integrate environmental concerns.

We may have a department of Government that is geared towards energy and towards renewable energy resources but understand that without collaboration it could never work. It is how we manage our HIV/AIDS Programme. Whilst there was a department created, each ministry had to create initiatives to bring it on board, and that is the case with our thrust towards protecting our environment starting with education because it is okay for a Government to have policies and plans but the people need to be on board. In this case, the education really needs to start in the primary schools and that is what we have been doing. I recall when my daughter was in the infant school she found a purpose for everything because they were already pushing reduce, reuse and recycle at the little children and because if teacher says it is gospel and they bring it home, and that is where the educational focus must be.

We need not only to be looking at reducing greenhouse gases by way of smart vehicles, switching to solar photovoltaic, and I will get into that in a little bit more. Across the board, the Parish Independence Committees projects in the last year and in the coming year were required to have a focus on sustainability, protecting the environment and keeping our energy bill down.

At NIFCA last year and again for this coming year there would be a special environmental award for entrants whose composition, and I am using that term loosely, have a focus on the environment. All of these are initiatives and incentives designed to raise the awareness and retrain the psyche of Barbadians to protect our very fragile environment. We need to focus, and that is the plan of this Administration, on our physical ecosystems, the Graeme Hall Swamp, Turners Hall Woods, Animal Flower Cave and our turtles.

In the midst of all of the spending of capital works, all of these projects have also found focus in these Estimates. It is necessary and essential because we have to preserve what little we have in the 166, plus a little bit now more, square miles for other generations. We have to train the generations behind us to value what is ours.

We need to encourage recycling as something more than collecting bottles and cans. This too is a push and a focus that hopefully would come on stream sooner rather than later. I do not have the time in this speech to get into an exposition on all of the different ways of dealing with garbage but certainly no one can refute that we have a garbage problem. We certainly must not wait until like the City of Beirut where there is literally of garbage running the streets. We need to find viable solutions and have the courage of our convictions despite the one or two dozen naysayers and move forward with our plans.

We need, as we would do in these Estimates, to shore up, pardon the pun, the Coastal Zone Management Unit, which is undertaking scientific projects that up to now we only read about in National Geographic or for those who watch it, wave monitoring because as a small island in a volcanically active area we are susceptible to tsunamis and the management of the information that the sea gives us is an imperative. The Coastal Zone Management Unit has already started and there is funding provided in the Estimates to move that process forward. They would also be monitoring our coastal economic systems making sure that our coral reefs and protected and the very turtles that I mentioned earlier, I love turtles so I keep mentioning them, are well protected and that we monitor our rising sea levels.

Again, no one can deny that climate change is a reality if they live in an island. We have lost beaches and we are making some headway in regaining some of them, but we have to do what is necessary. Kudos to this Government for finding the space in the Estimates for important intangible projects such as these. I call them intangible because unlike our road, you do not immediately see the benefit of it, you do not necessarily have personal impact from these initiatives, but as a nation we would benefit more. (S17) Madam President, our import bill in relation to energy is too high. The estimate is that we use 10 000 barrels per day, which is 5 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product. Let us think of how that sum could be redirected to the upliftment and benefit of this country.

Madam President, again understanding what others who have come before us preached but which the former Administration turned a deaf ear to and a blind eye to, and I speak in terms of solar and wind development as forms of energy, this Administration is committed to promoting the use of solar, wind and all other alternate technologies that use our natural resources to the prime advantage of this country.

Madam President, at present, the upper limit for the sale back to our Barbados Light and Power Company Limited of electricity from renewable resources in terms of the connection to the grid is 20 megawatts. I am pleased to report that to date we have reached 9 megawatts in what I would consider to be a short space of time and that there is every intention of moving this boundary further along so that more persons can come on stream in relation to the solar photovoltaic use and generation of electricity.

Madam President, Government has not just stated this is a vacuum, let us look around Barbados and you will see solar panels on community centres, on polyclinics and on schools. I have to give a plug to St. Albans' School in relation to that. You will also see solar panels on bus stops. Madam President, there is allocation in these Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure to continue that programme, so

that more Government buildings can be covered, sheeted or roofed in their entirety with photovoltaic panels. Madam President, large Government buildings are being assessed for capacity so that we know how many panels are needed, and the moneys are budgeted for in these Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

Madam President, we all have to do our part to ensure that Barbados remains a sustainable economy and that it can benefit generations coming behind us. I give props, as the young people would say, to this Government for leading the charge from the front to ensure that, even though he has passed, that the legacy of Professor Headley lives on.

Madam President, I remember when we started with hot water systems and now most houses in Barbados have solar hot water systems and I look forward to the day when the same can be said in relation to energy generation in households in Barbados and it is coming, the small steps that we take to get the long way. You have to start the walk in order to reach the finish line.

Madam President, I recognised that my time is running quickly but I would not wish to end without having a conversation about culture and within culture to have a mention about sports. Perhaps I will deal with them in the other order to make sure that I have time to speak to the Sport Development Act which is in the works and to the projects that will come on stream under that Act.

In order to allow us to build out our sports tourism product Barbados has an indigenous sport, it is called road tennis but it was an endangered species for a long time. Under this Administration and with funding through the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth there has been a resurgence of road tennis. There was a major tournament at Coverley not too long ago. They started a Secondary Schools' Competition. Hopefully they would also have a Primary Schools' Competition and this summer there will be the inaugural world tennis tournament. Madam President, do not scoff and tell me that Barbados cannot have a world tournament, when the United States of America plays baseball with itself and calls it a world series.

Madam President, we on this side understand how sports is integrally tied to our culture and will continue a focus on road tennis, it must not die, it is ours and we, having introduced it to the world, it is incumbent upon us to push its development.

Madam President, on speaking about pushing development I have no clearance to call names but I do not think that anyone would disavow me the privilege of offering congratulations to Sada Williams, despite what others may say now a proud Harrisonian, and Akela Jones,

a young girl who is dear to my heart, who has excelled beyond our wildest dreams. We laid the foundation, and I am going to mention a few other Harrisonians so do not become upset, Obadele Thompson and Andrea Blackett, both Harrisonians, and Ryan Brathwaite, but truly it is not about the school, we have as a nation an onus to develop the talents of our young people and when they run their hearts out with raw talents we must support their development.

Madam President, Miss Jones, some time this month, fell in her first event in the heptathlon and with guts, glory, national pride and personal pride she stepped up to the plate to pull from down in her toenails... You have to understand sports, in the heptathlon if you fail in one event you have very likely put yourself out of the running for the entire event. Some having failed at one event drop out, Akela Jones went and performed masterfully in her other events, winning most of them and in the process racking up a college record-breaking amount of points, with a record-breaking high jump, an international class act. (S18) Akela Jones went and performed masterfully in her other events, winning most of them and in the process, racking up a college record-breaking amount of points with a record-breaking high jump. An international class act, and a young school-age girl -- we will forget the school colours for the time being -- to smash records and be the second fastest in the world this year. She is headed to the Olympics and is still at school. Hats off to the two of them. They have to know that we are proud of them, and that all efforts will be made to develop their skills. It is not just road tennis and athletics. We have seen successes in lawn tennis, and we have, I believe for the second time in our history, an internationally accredited tennis player. This small country is stamping its authority all over the world, and that has to be bolstered by a sports programme that is designed to bring out the best in them.

The Gymnasium is shortly to be under repairs. The Stadium is shortly to be under repairs. This is not a partisan complaint: A stadium that was neglected for years but hopefully will be replaced by a state-of-the-art facility that will make us proud, and will also offer to us the opportunity to host international events. That is the focus behind the Sports Development Act; that we move from simply thinking about developing individual athletes and start courting athletic associations. From a narrow view to an international view. How can you not support initiatives of that ilk? I wish that Barbados would continue to do well; that we do not lose our focus going forward. I need to shift in my notes because I did it out of order to make sure that I could speak to two wonderful young ladies. I do not need an invitation to speak about Harrison College. I do that willingly and freely.

*Asides.*

Senator Ms. V.G.A. DePEIZA: I beg your pardon, Mr. Deputy President. I am not to hear asides. I return to my initial focus on culture. Sports is an integral part of the development of culture. Culture reinforces our Barbadian values. It gives us a national identity. It is something that sets us apart from everybody else, no matter how much we may look or act like them. We then have as a charge to support our culture, to embrace our heritage and, as I stated earlier, a part of that would be fostering our sporting excellence. Outside of that, however, this administration just two years ago, I believe, passed the Cultural Industries Development Act and immediately got busy. Because of its timing, there was not much budgeted for it but it still got to work and made sure to set up its commission, determined to carry out its mandate to develop our culture, not just for us but to export our culture, to sell ourselves, to improve our tourism product and also to take our product overseas and demonstrate who we are to other people.

Out of the development of our cultural industries, our film industry has increased by leaps and bounds. Barbados now has films that have been shown internationally. Barbados has directors. At present one is in New York, and she is showing in the hopes of gaining international recognition and sponsorship for her latest endeavour. I speak of Lisa Harewood. I would not mention what school she went to. This is just one instance. Our musicians have been carving a swath across the international circuit before this piece of legislation, but now have recourse to its provisions in order to ensure that they can have greater reach. That is what we are looking at: Supporting our cultural endeavours to allow us to market ourselves and our nation better.

I will speak again about our built heritage, because it is an absolute imperative that we manage our physical resources in such a way that we benefit, we learn, we understand and we preserve. If you travel to England, you will go and visit several centuries' old buildings. Even if you only visit one, it is going to be the palace; Buckingham Palace. You will marvel at its architecture and its structure, and we need to do the same at home. I endorse the comments of Senator Fraser in relation to preserving the Carnegie Library and the Jewish Synagogue. When we think about culture, we immediately call to mind our African heritage but Barbados is sufficiently cosmopolitan that we have a Quaker heritage, we have a Jewish heritage, and we have the Irish represented. The Jewish Synagogue and the buildings surrounding it, especially in the triangle, are brilliantly beautiful but sorely neglected. The Carnegie Library was a gift to the nation's people as a free library, and like all gifts, we should cherish it. There is in these Estimates provision for the restoration of these buildings. I am aware that Senator Fraser is also involved in a project in relation to the buildings opposite Central Police Station. In terms of restoration there is not much left, but what is

there ought to be preserved. I believe that project to have those buildings restored as well is underway, as we speak.

All of these things call for funding, and again the private-public sector relationship is necessary in order to drive the development of this country. True more so in relation to heritage, because we will find that non-governmental organisations will pay closer attention to the management of these structures than Government does. Government historically is an awful landlord in terms of the maintenance of buildings, whether they are historical or not. Madam, all of these have provision made in the Estimates.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator, you have five more minutes.

Senator V. DePIEZA: I will do my best, Sir, within five minutes and make sure that I can speak in relation to all that I wish to speak about. We need also in structuring our economy to recognise that there always will be amongst us those persons in need of support and, so, the Ministry of Social Care has as its mandate what everybody else refers to as the safety net to protect the vulnerable amongst us but what I prefer to refer to it as is the trampoline because it is not intended that you be caught by the net and remain it but that you hit the trampoline and bounce back so there is no intention to foster a culture of mendicancy or entitlement. The social care department is intended to cushion the fall of persons who are not coping with society but not only to cushion them but to now arm them with what is necessary in order to turn to self-sufficiency and functioning in society. It is intended to eradicate inter-generational poverty, over and over again, the same families visited with the same adversity. Sir, that is why social democracy is the underpinning of the Democratic Labour Party there always will be an allotment for social care in this administration. Again, I state that less money does not correlate with less delivery. It is about how you apply the resources and I always will give a plug for Constituency Councils because it assures at the level of the community some involvement in decision-making, some participation in the things that make a difference in your life and, believe it or not, opportunities for leadership. These are things that build self-esteem in individuals that gives them the focus to want to do better in other areas of their lives. You will find despite that naysayers that the persons who gravitate towards the Constituency Councils have grass roots solutions to problems that are cheaper to implement than macro policymakers can ever devise because they are on the ground. Sir, that is a way of guaranteeing that the work gets done and gets done within a reasonable Budget as opposed to having Central Government responsible for everything that has to be done in a community.

Mr. Deputy President, I am also for those collaborative efforts that are made by PARADOS through this particular Ministry in terms of guiding parenting in this country. I spoke earlier of the influence of BARP in relation to home help and home care for persons, who as we call it in Barbados, are shut in, they are not able to leave home in the way that they used to and under the auspices of the National Assistant Board, BARP has stepped up to the plate to assist. Sir, not only BARP because at the opposite end of the age spectrum, Youth with a Mission is also involved in that programme and itnere-generational links will be made.

Mr. Deputy President, the partnership I wish to highlight as much as you can highlight something in 60 seconds is the Partnership for Peace, which through the Welfare Department targets young males who have run afoul of the law in relation to domestic violence. There has been some huge and cry about one particular section of the amended domestic violence Protection Order Act, which speaks to males going for counselling. The reason why it is dedicated to males is because of this programme, the Partnership for Peace. It is a sixteen week course that allows for peer group assistance and persons who have had similar issues like yours and together you are raising each other up. I am happy to report a 100 percent success rate of the partnership for peace that all young me who had been referred to them to date by the courts have not re-offended.

Mr. Deputy President, all those who though there was a sexist provision in that Act, please take heart that it clearly works.

Mr. Deputy President, I thank you for the opportunity even though I have not completed all that I intended of sharing with Barbados and by extension the Opposition the programmes that have been thoughtfully put together in financial constraints in order to improve our society. We have promised this country as a Government that we ill tackle certain issues. It has taken a little longer because we have to spread the resources as best we can but there is ultimate commitment to the programmes in our Manifesto to ensure that Barbados builds itself out in terms of economy, its people and its society.

Madam President, I am obliged.

## SUSPENSION

Senator the Hon. E. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. for lunch.

*The question that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. for lunch was put to the SENATE and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.*

## RESUMPTION

His Honour Senator the Very Rev. H. E. CRICHLLOW: This Senate is resumed. Senator Carol Lady Hayne.

Senator Carol Lady HAYNES: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President. I have many concerns as I rise this afternoon to support this Appropriation Bill. Many of them I voiced a year ago in a similar debate. My concerns, of course, are at a macro level relate to our continuing heavy debt burden and I am concern that despite a tourism sector which has done extraordinarily well, the growth of the economy still remains under 1 per cent. Mr. Deputy President, this is a significant concern so the comments which I make are made against that background and I feel that we need to be planning smarter whether that means restructuring the debt or any other options on the table. We do continue to maintain a significant deficit on the path to achieve growth other than through tourism seems unclear at this point and time so whether we are going to restructure our debt with the lending partners whether they are domestic or international, which seems like a viable option but we do need to sustain the essential funding to the critical sectors of our economy and continue to create confidence in the economy and therefore produce the growth which we really need so I begin, Mr. Deputy President, by turning my attention to the Ministry of Health under Head 23.

Let me first say that one of my concerns from last year which has been taken off the agenda totally was the ebola pandemic. I think that the fact that never did materialise in Barbados, we must consider that to be one of God's major blessings in sparing us that extra ordinary challenge to our entire health system and indeed to the nation but since then we have had the extraordinary damage reap by the pugnacious Aedes Aegypti mosquito through an extensive outbreak of Chikungunya last year, some Dengue and more recently, the Zika virus. The Zika virus has not brought as much physical damage at this point as Chikungunya but the potential enduring neurological damage to the unborn babies have seen politicians in other countries go as far as to discourage people from becoming pregnant and drastic as that caution may have seem, Mr. Deputy President, the emotional trauma and all the other consequences for a family of having a child born with microcephaly or small head and the accompanying brain damage is significant and therefore we must clear ensure that everything is done to eradicate the mosquito. Let me congratulate the Ministry of Health on how proactive they have been with this disease, publishing information in both the print media and television, both on what the virus is, what it can potentially cause and also a comprehensive list of what every Barbadian could and should be doing in order to avoid mosquito infestation.

I saw recently in the newspaper that there was a presentation from the head of Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Dr. Xuereb Godfrey, a set of bed nets to the Ministry of Health and that takes me back to my global fund experience. The Global fund dealt with the disease of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and, in fact, seriously and significantly reduced the incidents of Malaria particularly in Asia where there were very, very high levels of mortality deaths of babies due to Malaria purely by circulating these mosquito nets which are impregnated with insecticides and so if we have had a gift of those, Sir, I hope that they will be more where they came from and I am sure that the Ministry of Health would educate our people as to how to use them in order to make sure that they are protected from mosquitoes. It is a simple measure, it is relatively inexpensive and it certainly works. Of course, the Ministry of Health has for years had a very efficient fogging programme and in the area most affected by mosquitoes and therefore, consequently mosquito borne disease. Let me, however, Sir, flag two concerns around this and one is in relation to the pooling or collection of water. As I said, I have seen on both the print media and on the television, very good documentaries telling people about water collecting in tyres, containers in the backyards, under plants and so on where water would pool, but I think, Sir, what we do need to stress to people and particularly now as we are in a water constrained situation and more and more people are having water tanks and that, Sir, is a major source of mosquito larvae and I think maybe that has not been flagged as much to our population as the collection in tyres and the collection in containers under pots. I would make a plea, Sir, that is something that we would want to do to encourage the regular inspection of water tanks across the island.

Secondly, Sir, is the area of debushing. Debushing must be a vital part of any campaign as the overgrown areas, particularly close to built up areas are of major concern and from my perspective as someone in the medical practice, almost every time I see someone with a mosquito borne disease in a patient and I ask about overgrown areas near to them the answer is in the affirmative and too often people are really not sure how you go about getting debushing done in areas around them. They feel helpless and they will sometimes say that they have made a telephone call but nothing has happened and it is alarming, Sir, as we get to the rainy season, somewhere between the end of May, hopefully and October, at how rapidly vegetation grows after a few weeks of heavy rain therefore, I would think it is not going to be difficult to ensure that we do a debushing campaign around the time of the rains to make sure that we do not have overgrown areas, encouraging overgrown, and mosquito larvae.

Sir, I also note the efforts of the University of the West Indies (UWI) in establishing a regional task force on Zika shared by Professor Robert Clive Landis whose

research in this area and particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS, which I am very familiar with. This is an example of a public good which should be a successful example for us of cost effective, public private partnerships in providing information and guidance, in this case, as it relates to health concern. This I believe is an important signal by our university showing that they are fully engaged with issues relating to the public good and outside of the straight academic domain of the campuses. Their important recommendation of a bottoms up rather than top down management of this disease has well as providing an integrated societal response shows a determination on their part to be a part of the solution.

Mr. Deputy President, I remain slightly confused as to whether there is a cut on the Estimates for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). Aware that we have had a one on one on the Budget in here very recently, I did under Head 23 as far as I can read it, Sir, under the Estimates for last year it was \$155 357 500 and this year the budget for 2016/2017 I am reading \$146 250 000. As far as I can see, that looks like a cut, Sir, but if that is now so I am delighted however, were we even to increase the budget for health, that would not guarantee that health outcomes would be significantly affected if the efficiency of our spending is low. Barbados faces, as we all know, increasing costs for treating the chronic non-communicable disease and, in addition, our demographics suggest an aging population so financing healthcare and continuing not only to provide the standard of care but to enhance that healthcare provision is always going to be a challenge. The Ministry of Health has also provided us with sobering statistics in the Health of the Nation's Survey 2015 with the alarming facts that 19 per cent of adults aged 25 years or older were found to be diabetic, 53 per cent had high cholesterol and 42 per cent of our population had elevated blood pressures, so healthcare financing, Madam Deputy Speaker, is of critical importance.

I want to congratulate the Ministry of Health on hosting a series of town hall meetings across Barbados in order to discuss healthcare financing. I know that Senator Fraser this morning alluded to some options for this, but I feel very strongly, having worked in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for many years myself, that in a country which has one public hospital with an official bed capacity of 600, it is of critical important that the confidence of the public is maintained in that institution. That confidence is inextricably tied up with the staffing which then of course is dependent on the provisions of adequate financing.

During the recent town hall meetings, Dr. Carlos Chase as President of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners presented a paper essentially on the privatisation of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It was entitled "Financing Healthcare in Barbados, a New Approach." I do believe, Mr. Deputy President, that in

saying, as he presented it, that the hospital would be run much as a hotel, I believe that we were opened up to some misinterpretation of what he was presenting because there were in his presentation very strong points which I would just like to articulate here.

Firstly, let me emphasize that as a longstanding member of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP), BAMP at its core believes that everyone must be entitled to good medical care and that an inability to pay for that care must never be a reason to deprive anyone of healthcare, so I want to put that on the table.

I believe that the more important aspects of his proposal were: Firstly, to conform with the global competitiveness. Much as recently in this Chamber we passed an Act relating to the Shops Act enabling them to be opened for 24 hours, of course with the necessary attention to care of the workers, making sure that their working schedules are reasonable and so on, were given all that, that shops can operate for 24 hours, I believe that it is important that a modern 21st Century hospital should also operate on a 24-hour basis not just in the Accident and Emergency Department, so that would then apply to accessing investigations like your lab work, x-rays MRIs, social services, laundry services and to the administrative services as well. That was the first point.

Secondly, he proposed that the private and public areas of the hospital be separated. In following on that he envisaged that a significant percentage of the population would be shifted from the public to the private area. He envisaged that through incentives and schemes, Professor Senator Fraser spoke to one or two of them, such as social health insurance scheme and tax credits which would enable people to support that sort of system.

Thirdly, and probably most important, he talked about the care of the most vulnerable who are unable to take care of themselves and that Government should therefore provide those health benefits. As I said earlier, the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners is committed to that.

Fourthly, the final thing that I wanted to pull from his presentation was that selected polyclinics should be opened for extended hours. I have noticed that recently there are a few selected polyclinics that have been opening for extended hours, but I am concerned that many of these facilities may not have the adequate diagnostic tools that they need to function in that role effectively. The care provided at polyclinics will need to be similar to that provided in the Accident and Emergency Department, so basically you are setting up a mini accident and emergency with areas for minor surgeries, basic x-rays and asthma bay. The polyclinics and indeed the private clinics would

therefore be able to handle the brunt of the load of managing chronic noncommunicable diseases therefore taking that load off of the Accident and Emergency Department.

Sir, such a system would naturally lend itself to the provision of jobs too for a wider range of healthcare professionals to include lab technicians, pharmacists radiographers, social workers, nurses and doctors. Our current culture dictates that accident emergency is a one-stop shop for all after hour ailments and in order to change that aspect of culture significant education of our general population is required.

I will share with this Senate, Sir, my own experiences in Accident and Emergency Department albeit many, many years ago in the days when one person worked in the Accident and Emergency Department all night. I well remember working on Friday and Saturday nights and at about 4 o'clock in the morning you would get a barrage of people coming from the parties and fetes and they would have maybe a stumped toe, maybe a hurt shoulder certainly nothing of critical seriousness, and they would say that they know that they this is the time that they can come and get quick treatment in that the Accident and Emergency Department is the best place to go.

Sir, I believe that we do have to work on communications if we are going to try to move some of the load from the Accident and Emergency Department into the polyclinics and as I say then allow the Accident and Emergency to deal with what they were set up to deal with bearing in mind that in today's world to a great extent we now have to communicate not just through radio and television but using social media, the Internet and the mass media as well.

Sir, going back to the question of financing, it is a question of how you create a hybrid of private/public financing which allows for those who can afford it to pay for their care given the concessions that we talked about earlier but just as important those who cannot afford it to have access to the same level of care while paying attention to situations of wastage and inefficiency in the system.

The vexing question is therefore what system does provide that? Having the admittedly only attending one of those town hall meetings, I left with the feeling that the solutions on the table were very cut and dry slightly academic and that maybe with the assistance of our international partners, our United Nations partners, we could look a little further afield at other models and all drill down further in order to create a hybrid model of healthcare financing which works for us.

Mr. Deputy President I have been around long enough to remember the days of the proposed national

health system under the Tom Adams Government in the 1980s, and that was a version of social health insurance. However, on close examination it placed medical practitioners at a disadvantage in that although it guaranteed the patient load and there was a fee for service it did not take into account the cost for running a medical practice, the administrative cost, the rent and the overheads and the just as important it did not provide anywhere for a pension, and so after consideration that scheme never came into being. It was, as Senator Fraser said this morning, eventually replaced by the Barbados Drug Service Scheme.

It does not make sense, Mr. Deputy President, to slavishly reproduce a system which all those years ago was examined closely and found to have many loopholes. The social health insurance plan is in fact an organisational mechanisms for raising and pooling funds to finance health services where everyone pays a contribution which covers a specific package of services which would have to be negotiated and the content of packages has to be clearly defined but this is one way of mobilising domestic resources to finance healthcare.

Social health insurance, and I am not reading from any fancy document, this comes from the Internet where I went to try to familiarise myself a little more with this... It says no health financing mechanism is an end to itself and it contributes to the objectives of the health system. (S23) The objectives specified in the World Trade Organisation Health Systems Framework, after extensive consultations with countries are three, firstly, to improve the health and reduce health inequalities; secondly, being responsive to people's expectations, and thirdly, ensuring fairness of financing.

Mr. Deputy President, the primary purpose of replacing current out of pocket payments, apart from seeking to achieve universal health coverage, is to ensure that people who fall ill can readily and immediately access services without fear of catastrophic health cost, or worse, being unable to access the procedures as they need them. Mr. Deputy President, of course, it goes without saying that any such system requires significant legal fiduciary and administrative framework which in itself is an additional cost.

Mr. Deputy President, under this system Government will pay the health insurance contributions for those who are unable to do so due to unemployment but it is envisaged that then the social health insurance money will pay for the actual healthcare, whereas the consolidated funds would provide for regulation and public good measures like the control on chronic non-communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS, environment health.

Mr. Deputy President, the existence of this health bank could also allow for performance-based contracts

with non-governmental agencies, specifically in the area of the chronic non-communicable diseases so as to ensure cost efficient responses.

Mr. Deputy President, I go back to my suggestion that the Ministry of Health would look at creating a hybrid method of healthcare financing which is culturally appropriate rather than take one straight out of the existing international models.

Mr. Deputy President, one of the options which has been used elsewhere is to look at a system which will utilise the services of some of the doctors in the private sector and possibly renting spaces at concessional rates within either the hospital or the polyclinics' spaces and much as currently exist in the drug service, patients will have a co-pay if they wanted to be seen in the private sector. That would provide income for the institution, additional manpower to deal with the patients, and also a guaranteed patients load for the additional doctors.

Mr. Deputy President, as the University of the West Indies continues to produce doctors, prolifically in a small population base, attention I feel needs to be paid as to where these doctors are going to be able to serve people and also make a reasonable living. I suggested that the initial plan to produce 100 doctors every year was based on the assumption that the majority of these doctors graduating would not be from Barbados but would be from overseas and therefore the financing of the scheme seemed attractive. Mr. Deputy President, as far as I can see, the young doctors who are graduating every year are primarily and predominately from Barbados and they have a reasonable expectation of being able to make a living, while enhancing the level of medical care being offered by graduates of our university.

Madam President, I believe that the time has come, if you are not attracting the medical students from overseas as expected, in the numbers that we expect, indeed, we need to invest in training in training and research needs to be done as to which of the areas of medical or paramedical practise in which the skills in which the skills are most needed, and assisting in guiding young people to those avenues.

Mr. Deputy President, this is not a new concept and I take, for example, the area of ophthalmology where the Head of that department, Dr. David Callender has for years been at pains to ensure that the young doctors passing through ophthalmology are aware of where the gaps are in the field and get the necessary exposure and training in those areas of subspecialties. Mr. Deputy President, I do not believe that there are many subspecialties now in the discipline of ophthalmology where Barbados cannot now provide excellent specialised care. This therefore I think is a model which we could do well to build on.

Mr. Deputy President, in the past several years the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has seen an expansion of public-private-partnerships in supporting significant provisional equipment, upgrades and refurbishment in the hospital. These come from corporate Barbados, non-governmental organisations, multi-national corporations, high net worth individuals, as well as community groups. These have been able to provide the much needed equipment; upgrading the Pediatric Ward which was done by the Lion's Club; providing the Lion's Eye Care Centre; the Clara Brathwaite Oncology Suite by Rihanna; the Richard Haynes Medical Intensive Unit by the Broadway to Barbados Trust; Ward C9 refurbishment of the hospital by the Viola Williams Foundation, the family of the late Pastor Holmes Williams; and the ongoing refurbishment of the Accident and Emergency Department by the Broadway to Barbados Trust. Sir, to name just a few, those immediately come to my mind.

Mr. Deputy President, I am pleased to see that our Minister of Health has recognised the importance of public-private-partnerships and that, in fact, by a reference which I saw in the newspaper recently, referred to them as being vital to healthcare.

Mr. Deputy President, I know I can speak for the Broadway to Barbados Trust of which I am a director, in that they have a very efficient template which allows donors to be comfortable with the accountability of their funds and there are very clear channels of invoicing and settlement of the same. It also allows the Trust to have regular reporting as to the ongoing needs of equipment and supplies based on feedback from the relevant Heads of Departments at the hospital.

Mr. Deputy President, because I am familiar with that organisation, I have seen the efficiency of the template which monitors needs, supplies and performance. I can therefore speak to the efficiency of that system and to the transparency of the financial transactions. Mr. Deputy President, I believe such a template modified to suit individual requirement could and should be used as a template for funding across a much broader landscape in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. Deputy President, benefactors from whatever sector of our community should be able to go to a website and determined exactly who to contact for information and also find out what the needs specifically are and how best their funding or organisation's mandate could fit into that by providing a basic template for simplifying the process of donating to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. Deputy President, I was very happy yesterday morning to hear the Leader of Government Business, Senator McClean speak to the fact that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has protocols to improve the ease of giving of

donations and so I am delighted to see that that is a major step forward.

Madam President, there is also an initiative which was used by the Broadway to Barbados Trust which I think bears repeating. Sir, it is that they have put together, with the guidance of the consultants in the hospital, packages at the cost of approximately BDS\$200 which really contains a differing collection of emergency supplies and they are, I think, three different packages. People can see the packages and can choose which package you want to contribute to, whether you would want to contribute to one, three, four or five. Sir, what that does is that it allows the small person who may not have \$5 000 or \$10 000 to donate to the hospital, to be able to contribute and to feel that they have made a meaningful contribution to the running of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. Deputy President, I would like to seriously commend that as an initiative that should be considered and taken seriously and it could be adapted for wider use. Sir, you cannot have a hospital running short of basic material supplies and so if this system has worked in some way then why would not the hospital's Administration want to replicate it.

Mr. Deputy President, I am sure that there are many other examples of best practice that could and should be used as models in the establishment of public-private-partnerships and their contribution to the hospital. So that rather than organisations having to invent the wheel they should have access, as I suggested, to electronic templates from which they can choose how to provide their support.

Mr. Deputy President, let me however recognise the strides that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has made, as has been outlined by the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Dexter James recently. He listed the improvements in the Oncology Suite with the opening of the Gynecological Cancer and Diagnostic Clinic, the use of telemedicine solutions on a real time basis, the laboratory pursuing accreditation with a regional accreditation body, and the hospital itself seeking accreditation with its Statement of Corporate Intent, 2016-2019 based on established performance indicators.

(24) Mr. Deputy Speaker, of some concern to me now, and I move to the general health services as opposed to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), is the continuing shortage of drugs; if not essential drugs, certainly those of common usage. I have often been frustrated by the inability to get medication and tablets for pretty basic things. I will not bore the House with the details, Sir, but for example, the use of sleep aids, particularly for elderly patients. So often we find that these are out of stock and you are unable to get them. Mr. Deputy President, I have also to use this opportunity to speak to the inability to access drugs for

diabetes on the formulary, outside of metformine and diamicon which were the basic drugs that were in use when I graduated more than a few years ago. Both of them have served their purpose and continue to do so, but there are now so many newer classes of drugs which allow for much more efficient protection of the pancreas, which is where our bodies produce endogenous insulin.

Sir, I am always uneasy when I find myself in a position where I am unable to provide better care to patients who can afford it purely because the drugs that you would wish to prescribe are not available on the formulary. I am also fully aware of the financial constraints, but particularly in the field of diabetes where there are now very effective drugs in addition to the two that I have mentioned, I would really think, Sir, that this is something that we would want to turn our attention to. Being able to control blood sugars accurately staves off the all-too-common and indeed frightening consequences of diabetes, particularly complications such as loss of vision, damage to the kidneys which entail dialysis subsequently, and damage to the blood vessels and the nerves in the extremities, particularly the feet, causing the far-too-common amputations. In another era, Sir, a similar argument was made about mammograms, in that the cost of treating breast cancer was far more than the cost of having a mammogram. I look at it as a similar case, Sir, because I believe it is an analogy related to the cost of extending our formulary a little bit in diabetes. The availability of these drugs for diabetes would make a huge difference in cutting down on the incidence of the complications, Sir.

While on the topic of pharmaceuticals, Mr. Deputy President, I have to repeat my plea which has so far fallen on deaf ears, and it is related to the charge on prescriptions from doctors in the private sector. I have no issue with a charge on prescriptions. I find that is perfectly acceptable, Sir, but what happens in the private sector is that the patients are not charged for a prescription. They pay for every drug. When I say “pay”, it is a rationalised fee that you are paying because it is partially supported by the Drug Service, but rather than a patient having to pay \$5 or \$10 to get these drugs, you pay about \$5, \$7 or \$10 for each drug on the prescription. Sir, what happens when that happens is that really it is the pensioners and the elderly among us who are suffering, because they are the ones for the most part who have diabetes, hypertension and arthritis. With the best will in the world, we are prescribing a number of drugs for them. Once again, Sir, I make that plea to all who might hear it; that we consider looking at a charge on the prescription which would be the entire list of drugs rather than for an individual drug on the formulary.

Finally, Sir, before leaving the Head of Health - of course you would not be surprised -- I wish to comment on the HIV-AIDS programme Mr. Deputy President. Immense strides have been made in this, in particular in the area of

mother-to-child transmission, where for the past six years there has not been in Barbados any child born HIV-positive to an HIV-positive mother. That is a huge achievement, Sir, and hopefully once the accreditation process is completed, we will follow Cuba which was the first country in the region documented as having completely eradicated mother-to-child transmission as a way of transmitting HIV. Treatment of HIV is now seen as a form of prevention, Mr. Deputy President, and I heard our Leader of the Senate speak to that yesterday too when she spoke of the hospital's increasing focus on prevention. Of course, as someone in family practice in the community, I am delighted to hear that because we focus on prevention, Sir. What treatment as prevention means is if we can identify our HIV-positive patients and provide anti-retroviral treatment for all of them, regardless as to how serious their illness is when they present, then we have significantly reduced the risk of their transmitting HIV. UNAIDS, which is the United Nations body monitoring and coordinating HIV-AIDS, has set a global goal to attain an AIDS-free world by 2030 with their 90-90-90 campaign. “90-90-90” means that 90 per cent of HIV-positive people must know their HIV status; 90 per cent of those people must have access to anti-retroviral treatments, and 90 per cent of that group should have significant suppression of the viral load to the point that the virus is virtually undetectable in their bodies. The treatment for HIV, Sir, is life-saving and it is expensive, but it is increasingly being provided to people with higher CD4 counts, which means people who are earlier in the disease and who are not yet ill. As expensive as this may be in the long run, it is far less expensive than allowing an HIV epidemic to get out of control. Mr. Deputy President, I am delighted to see that in this area the budget for supply of drugs has not been cut and in fact has been increased marginally.

Sir, I am encouraged to hear the National HIV Commission producing public service announcements which say that the epidemic is not over, because with our attention on chronic non-communicable diseases, we sometimes forget that HIV is still out there. Sir, we cannot for a moment become complacent about a pandemic which is sexually transmitted and still, almost 40 years later, has no cure. HIV-AIDS has to be seen as an important issue on the post-2015 development agenda, Mr. Deputy President.

Under Head 23 and Programme 365, Sir, I also see that there is still a commitment to a multisectoral programme for the management of HIV, in that not only the two Ministries of Health and Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, which have direct responsibility for HIV, have budgets for HIV but also several ministries including Tourism and International Transport; Home Affairs; Transport and Works; Culture, Sports and Youth; Housing, Lands and Rural Development; Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development; the Attorney General's Office; the

Prime Minister's Office, and the Cabinet Office. They all have line items in their budgets for HIV. This sends a signal that our Government is fully aware that this has to be a multi-sectoral programme. It is not purely a health issue but has to be the responsibility of all the Ministries.

However, I have two concerns, Sir, regarding the Ministries. Firstly, the Ministry of Tourism. As you know, I worked in HIV for many years and the Ministry of Tourism historically had one of the most vibrant HIV sensitisation programmes for their sector to include both workers and tourists alike. The allocation is significantly less for that ministry, and of even more concern is that the Ministry of Education whose programme, and I quote from the Head "provides funds for the formation, education and communication programme aimed to raise the level of awareness to HIV/AIDS and its associated risk, and to promote behavioral change with respect to a safer sexual practices has zeroed in its line item budget for HIV/AIDS in 2016/2017 Estimates."

Sir, the Ministry of Education also has played a critical role in the HIV Programme providing age appropriate curriculum in the primary schools for five to seven, from seven to nine and from nine to 11, providing under the HLFE Programme and the Guidance Counsel Education within the secondary schools. I know there are also programmes at the tertiary level. I would hope this is a typographical error I am seeing in terms of seeing zero as provision for the Ministry of Education under HIV.

Sir, recently, a presentation at the 2016 conference on retrovirus and opportunistic infections, examining the impact of anti-retroviral treatment coverage on HIV incidences in South Africa noted findings in one study showing that the overwhelming majority of people who do not know their partners HIV status were women. The reason for this knowledge gap, the author said, was that a greatly lower number of men have been tested, many less men than women have been tested for HIV. The importance, therefore to encourage everyone who is currently or has ever been sexually active to be tested for HIV continues to be critically important to the creation of an AIDS free world.

Mr. Deputy President, the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV was sadly in its closing stages for lack of funding but they have for the past nine years done a regional testing day. It is an excellent example of a public/private partnership where PANCAP co-ordinates the Ministries of Health in 24 countries across the region. The Ministries provide the technical expertise for the testing and the Bank of Nova Scotia provides their facilities and refreshments for the people being tested. Sir, apart from the fact that the Bank of Nova Scotia is an excellent corporate partner, the rationale is for people to understand that the testing is to normalize it. You do not have to be in a health

care sector facility to be tested. You can be tested in a bank or in the community. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation covers the publicity and the information on the campaign.

Mr. Deputy President, we continue to do that and I continue to seek to encourage everyone to know your HIV status and to be aware that HIV is still an issue and still a disease which has not gone away.

Mr. Deputy President, one further concern relating to health is under Head 23, Programme 365, the Chart Programme. The Chart Programme previously ably headed by the current Chair of the National HIV/AIDS, Dr. Wendy Sealy, was funded primarily by the USA and played a critical role in the training of health care sector professionals in all the disciplines, in areas of clinical management, providing guidelines, epidemiology and the prevention of mother to child workshops.

Sir, I am aware that the Ministry of Health is responsible and has always been responsible for all of these areas but I would hope that somewhere in the budget space would be made for the ongoing training of health professionals across the board because that is a huge gap in the training and there is now way that you can do one off training in any area but certainly in HIV, it is necessary to have ongoing and Chart certainly fills that gap. I am sure that the Ministry of Health is aware that we no longer have that programme would be addressing how best to train our health care sector professionals across the board. Sir, in dealing with that, I want to recognise the immense contribution which USAID would have made to that programme over the years.

Mr. Deputy President, I now turn briefly to the issues regarding gender and human rights which have occupied the attention of both of these Houses in the past few weeks, where we have passed an elegant suite of Bills in this regard, the domestic violence Act, the Sexual Offences Act and shortly to be considered, the Bill to give effect to the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in person especially women and children relating to human trafficking. Sir, in consideration of those Bills, significant points were made as to the importance of sensitization, education and training around the provisions that we discuss for those Bills. Sir, if they are not just a date on the calendar, when we pass those Bills then a Schedule and, indeed, financing would need to be provided for the extensive sensitization and training of welfare officers, police officers, counsellors, health care professionals, community practitioners, the media the community itself.

Mr. Deputy President, I search the Estimates for where this could be found, and certainly under the related Head 42, Program 632 in the Ministry of Social Care,

Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, I could not find it, Sir. I did, however, see under Grants to Non-Profit Organisations, where in the Revised Estimates for 2015/2106, the amount was \$286 800 and for 2016/2017, an additional \$30 000 was added to make the same approved Estimates as a current year \$316 800.

Mr. Deputy President, if we are indeed serious about all of the education and sensitization and subsequent training which must go on to educate the general public and the specific group, some of whom I have listed, then \$30 000 can never be a realistic amount to Estimates and without the financial support at this level, the eloquence and the passion exhibited certainly in this House on this area may all come to naught. Sir, this is an area where training in behaviour change as well as emotional intelligence would be of great significance. I speak to my own training in emotional intelligence which I was fortunate to have had when UNDP trained a group of us recently and then we did training in Barbados trying to capture leaders of various sectors and a cross section of the community. Sir, emotional intelligence allows particularly dealing in areas that deal with vulnerable populations, dealing with ourselves. Emotional intelligence allows us to do as the Honourable Errol Barrow said, to look at your mirror image. It makes you look at yourself first before you start looking at anybody else. What are your fears? Why are you discriminating and to be honest with yourself as to how you feel about marginalized people and their behaviours. Sir, once you start reflecting on that, then tolerance becomes easier and it is more difficult to discriminate.

Mr. Deputy President, I would say that if we are to be realistic about what we are going to do to make sure that the Bills that have been passed make a difference and I think we need to look at how we are going to fund this significant training.

Mr. Deputy President, at the risk of being labelled revolutionary, I hope that Barbados will be a partner in the Justice for all Programme being led by the United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS, Dr. Eddie Green. His programme places emphasis on the elimination of HIV related discriminatory practices particularly as it relates to key populations such as gay men, men sleeping with men, sex workers and gender based violence. I think this is an important programme also for us to embrace at this moment in time.

Mr. Deputy President, I could not wrap up my contribution today without referring to the headline of the Advocate News Paper on March 11, 2016, which read Reverse

The article refers to an address by Dr. Henderson Carter at the Youth Entrepreneurship Schemes Awards dinner where he stressed the importance of getting the youth off the block. I have mentioned previously in this place a project which I believe has the potential, if seriously supported by Government and the private sector, to be certainly a pilot study as to how to start reversing the block culture. Sir, it is Nature Fun Range, a project in St. Andrew located on about 10 acres of land with a very old dilapidated house in one area of it. This project started in Black Rock almost 20 years ago. It was the brain child of Corey Layne and he started it just with young men in his neighbourhood to try and engage them as to try and to make sure that there were some productive efforts in that area. He now has more than 70 young men and women who are all involved in agriculture, animal husbandry, cooking and cleaning, some basic assistance in homework subjects and also a green campaign and their green campaign include the slow food garden that Sir Trevor spoke about yesterday, also a full recycling programme, composting and alternate energy programme. There is a long waiting list from the Courts, from the justice system, from the Welfare Department, from communities for additional young people to get on to this project but, Sir, the reality is that the land is being rented, rent has to be paid. There is an old house there and electricity has to be paid for, Sir, water has to be paid for, animals and they have a number of old race horses which have been given to them and the animals have to be fed. The young people who spend many hours there in the day, particularly, in the summer holidays have to be feed. They have to be transported there, Sir, so they are real costs and ultimately if it takes off, it could be sustainable in terms of what the young people are producing but at this point in time, this cannot be sustained without significant support from Government and the private sector. I know our Leader of the House is familiar with this project. I have been there now several times and it is very impressive to see the change probably over the last 18 months, every time I go, there are improvements, they are more organised and they are doing more and more. They are even actually using horses, as you would know, Mr. Deputy President, what has become quite popular now is using animals and horses, in particular, for therapy for troubled children and they are doing that as well.

On the first occasion that I visited, I would have to say that I could not believe that the level of self-esteem and pride in what they were doing that these young people showed. They are counsellors who are from among the group so it is very much home grown and each of them has their various responsibilities and as we walked around they would stand up and say, I am Joe Browne, I am head of the animal husbandry department, everybody had a responsibility on the team that they worked with. Sir, I have said it in here before and I will say it again many times, I am sure.

I believe that firstly, the problem that we have with crime and violence with our young people, I feel we need to take responsibility for, it is our system, it is our country and to a great extent, I believe we have let them down. I do not think that we can write off any generation. I also feel very strongly, Sir, that self-esteem is one of the key things in young people and if it was just a theory that I had before, having seen that project, I am certainly sure that I am on the right track with that thought because I see young men who, many of them tell you that they were in trouble with the police and they had gun crimes and they had all sorts of problems and now you see them, they are worthwhile young people. It cannot happen without funding. I hope that anyone who is hearing me, whether it is the Government, the Opposition or anybody beyond his Chamber, I really hope that people would seriously, make enquiries about Nature Fun Ranch. Mr. Corey Layne, who leads it is not hard to find he is a moderator on Brass Tacks so he is easy to find and I really think that this is an excellent project and dares us taking it serious and seeing how we can support it to make it sustainable.

When I started looking at this, I started and discovered that there is a draft National Youth Policy so following up on this project I said, let me ...

*Asides.*

Senator Carol Lady HAYNES: Oh, so it is no longer drafted, it was in draft when I got it.

*Asides.*

Senator Carol Lady HAYNES: Okay. So there is a National Youth Policy. I, first of all, was delighted that under priority target groups there is a section on boys on the block. It is a very short section and it says that Project Oasis was the first programme that targetted boys liming on the block and it was recently replaced by the mainstreaming programme. Having so benefited from the 101 from Senator Ince yesterday, I went to look for the mainstreaming programme. I looked on page 393, Sir, but I could find nothing under the grants to public institutions for the mainstreaming programme. There is nothing under mainstreaming that would cover this project, well public was the closest that I could get to it. Then I looked under gangs, Sir, to prevent the spread the gangs and all they represent by helping young people join positive groups and there is an excellent list of objectives there providing opportunities for entrepreneurship to enable young people to satisfy their need to explore and grow, to encourage employers to provide world experience, to provide counselling and personal development, and training for at risk youth, a number of things. There is a list of nine things and I really would think that if this is your policy and this is a programme which is in place, I would think that is every more reason to commend it to our Government, Sir. I

know there is a foundation, the Aspire Foundation, which has recently started, which is one of the umbrella groups for NGOs. That is one of the challenges we have in NGOs in Barbados is that it is not like in big countries where in North or South America, or Europe when you have an NGO there is a block of people who are ... It is a sustainable group, they have an infrastructure, they have an administrative system who, Sir, my experience is NGOs, for the most part public sector or private sector people until five o'clock and then they go with their heart after five and assist NGOs. I think that we definitely would benefit from a foundation that is seeking to be an umbrella organisation for these kinds of systems.

Finally, Sir, just to make one last, quick comment relating to culture I wish I had time to really go into culture but I do not think that I do but I do want to make a quick comment ...

*Asides.*

Senator Carol Lady HAYNES: Sorry. Yes, Sir. Culture is also part of my passion. In another life I used to dance in a dance theatre and I worked with that. I was looking at CARIFESTA, Sir, under Head 78 and I found two different headings relating to CARIFESTA. I believe CARIFESTA is to be hosted here next year and I have been a few CARIFESTA events - and I remember the last one here in the 1980s - and it is really a magnificent arena where people can exhibit the culture of the region. You can actually go and see the culture of region in many difference place every night.(S27) So I think it is very exciting that CARIFESTA is coming here. Mr. Deputy President, however, there are two Heads; one related to professional services which is budgeted for but the other one which would relate to providing some kind of venues and so on for CARIFESTA, I do not see anything under that Head and that concerns me because you cannot wait until the week or the month or even three months before to practice for things like dance. CARIFESTA is something that if we are having it we do have to think ahead on that because as I said it is wonderful opportunity for us to go to showcase our own culture but also to share in the culture of the region.

Sir, in trying to mention excellence and under culture as well, I just really want to say how proud I am to be Barbadian to see what we are producing. I recently went to the Gala for NIFCA and there was a magnificent set of production but there was particularly a dance by Ms. Commissong who was the choreographer called "Black Lives Matter" and it really was something that could have been an Alvin Hayley performance in New York or any other dance theatre in the world. Similarly, Sir, I recently went to a Nicholas Brancker Show, I think that was the end of last year, and that was as professional as anything that anybody could see anywhere in the world. I think as

Senator De Peiza said today we need to recognise our own and particularly when they are young people we need to recognise them. They are exceptional and I think we must facilitate their growth and recognise them whenever we can.

With those words, Sir, I am obliged and I would like to support this Appropriation Bill.

*Mr. Deputy President vacated the Chair and Madam President resumed the Chair.*

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Durant you have the Floor.

Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT: Thank you, Madam President. I too join my colleagues here in support these Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2016-2017. I want to begin with a quote from Jimmy Dean who said and I quote:

“I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.”

I realise that there are things in live that we cannot change especially in the global economic situation that is facing us but what we can do is adjust so that with adjustment we can reach our goal, our destination. I want to add to that the scriptural perspective from Psalm 32 verse 8 which says: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you shall go: I will guide you with my eye. Our National Anthem has part of these very words enshrined in the Lord has been the people’s guide for these past 300 years, so we want to continue looking to God keeping our focusing on him and recognising that this thing is not by might nor by power but by my spirit. Let me say how thankful I am to God for the peace that I think that we are experiencing in Barbados when I am considering May last year to December and now from January to now when a quiet period we have had and I am thankful to God for that and I hope that this would continue to extend further into the year. this level of quietness and less gun play and shooting and so forth.

These Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure that are debated in this Honourable House today, I think, were conscientiously put together to bring this island to a path of sustained growth, increase productivity, consistent progress and economic prosperity. I believe that these things can be accomplished through innovative, creative and technological advancement. As we work together as a people, I believe we can see the goals that will bring this island into a state of greater prosperity and productivity and progress. As I said before, I realise no one can do it alone.

These ideas would have their genesis in the Government’s penchant for implementing socially

balanced policies in every sector of society, also to encourage economically viable developmental programmes, also to promote and maintain sound, honest transparent governance, and that is nationwide, as well as to present Barbados as not only an economy but also a well balanced society where equity, truth and industry are upheld and maintained to a very high standard, and I hope that we will continue with all of our hearts to work towards this end.

Barbados as a Small Island Developing States is highly susceptible to socioeconomic challenges. We are bombarded on every side of course. We are not immune from what happens around the world. As a matter of fact, a small 166 square mile island I am thankful for where we are and I believe that both Governments are responsible of our current position and I am thankful to God for the progress and the development that Barbados has made over the years in a very volatile global environment.

It is absolutely necessary, therefore, at this time I believe for all Barbadians regardless of the colour, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or political persuasion to join hands together so that we can work to see this island lifted back to a place of increased productivity through hard work, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship and also lifted back to a place where we can encourage each other to strive for the spirit of excellence in whatever we do in our work ethics and business acumen, also join together to continue laying the foundation for a more prosperous nation while at the same time guarding with all diligence the peace, the security and the well-being of this society while denouncing crime, violence, rebellion and other atrocities that will negatively impact this beautiful island of Barbados.

I am sure that the Government, if they had the wherewithal, would have add another 25 per cent more to the allotted totals for each of these Heads, but they do not have it, so going back to what I have said before we need to adjust our sails so that we can still reach our destination.

It is within that context that I want to share a couple things in relation to the Estimates before us. When it comes to the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, I want to focus primarily with the National Assistance Board, the Care of the Elderly Programme. That Home Care Programme under this ministry is doing extremely well. It continues to provide a quality service to over 1 000 recipients every day on a daily basis. (S28) Every parish is covered, from St. Lucy to Christ Church, from the western tip of St. James right over to the east in St. Philip, every parish is covered. There are many homecare workers that are doing an excellent job in looking after the welfare of our senior citizens.

This community-based nationally provided non-paying service ensures that the elderly or the disabled are assisted with a range of daily living spares such as cooking, washing, even grooming them because we have men who are homecare workers as well, who make sure that they do a good job of barbering and shaving the elderly, as well as cleaning around the surroundings to make sure that the grass and bush is down. There are doing a very great job, with very little, yet a lot of hard work is put into it. I am thankful for this group of individuals.

Madam President, being cognizant of the fact that Barbados has an ageing population, a service of this kind cannot be put aside or brushed aside, it has to be maintained. The Government has pledged that it will keep that net out, where the vulnerable will not be disadvantaged but they will keep that safety net in place.

Madam President, of course, the Government in its desire to continue looking after the elderly of our nation, recognising that an increase in physical and mental activities by the elderly will contribute significantly to the improved well-being of the nation, including delaying the onset of Alzheimer's and dementia and other sicknesses. Also they realised that it will result in the reduction of expenditure on chronic non-communicable diseases that many of our elderly people suffer with from time to time and that is a very high cost to the Government but bodily, physical and mental exercise will really reduce the incidents of those negatives.

Madam President, what they have decided to do is to implement a phased-in number of programmes to further assist with the care of the elderly. They are introducing tournaments in board and card games such as scrabble, draughts, chess and quite a number of other similar games, the extension of the National Senior Games Track and Field events from one day to two days has been implemented. They will continue the facilitation of the senior athletes going to the World Huntsman Senior Games and other international meets that happens annually, they will make sure that elderly going and being involved. Also with the establishment of permanent Active Ageing Unit under the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development in association with the National Assistance Board.

Madam President, that brings me to the Vauxhall Senior Citizens Home in Christ Church. This senior community for the elderly caters to about 39 elderly individuals. Right now they have full occupancy but these 39 individuals are there at no cost, or with very limited cost, depending on their financial status. If those individuals are not getting a pension or anything of course they are kept there freely. If there are those who are getting a pension then a little something is taken out to help to

offset their upkeep but of course it can never cover the cost of keeping them.

Madam President, these elderly individuals who are able to live on their own, they are able to help themselves and they may have no relatives there but yet they are in a village setting that is well secured and also staff is always there in place, so they feel much safer and more secured and they are living in that village, where they are really ageing with dignity. As I have said before, a competent staff is always present to facilitate the care of the elderly at the Vauxhall Senior Citizens Home.

We are continuing this year to retrofit, renovate and to upgrade the village as funds become available, that is why I really support the fund allotted to the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development especially to the National Assistance Board as it has the full responsibility of the Vauxhall Senior Citizens Village.

Madam President, at the National Assistance Board we will also continue the exploration of alternative residential facilities for the elderly in Barbados because we recognised that this is very limited. As I speak, there are many in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now who are waiting for placements in the Geriatric Hospital and other residential institutions. There is a long list, so that some are waiting for a very long time.

Madam President, we really have a problem because we have an ageing population and it is important that maybe we seek to make more accommodation available in Barbados through private sector, corporation Barbados of through whatever means that we seek to get that done.

Madam President, during the month of October last year I was able to rescue an 84-year-old lady in a wheelchair who was being evicted and her belongings were put along the street alongside the road in Bank Hall. When I heard of the situation I immediately dropped what I was doing and made sure I got there with some members of the National Assistance Board, to make sure that we do our part. With this old lady being in a wheelchair and being evicted, along with her belongings put outside of course she was trembling from head to toe. I asked a question there to someone, where is the human heart and face to this situation? I was greeted with the harsh response that, I cannot put a human heart or human face to this, I have to do my job. That was the very blunt response I received.

Madam President, anyhow as Chairman of the National Assistance Board, I was able to put the machinery in place to have this precious lady placed in this very Vauxhall Senior Citizens Home where she is today. She is very happy and looks much better, of course, because she is in an atmosphere and environment where she has other people

around her who are of her age, et cetera. I was able to secure her things from the side of the street, placed them in a container and have them there secured, until this day.

Madam President, it is things that we do at the National Assistance Board because we have the responsibility for the of the elderly in our land, that is why I am hoping that we can have more accommodation for elderly people in our country and the many who are sometimes held up at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who are waiting for placements, who have to be there waiting for a very long time, is not a situation that we would like to see continue, but that is how it is. Madam President, I hope that during this year we can work. I know that if we had more funds available we would be able to build something much bigger to accommodate more elderly individuals.

Madam President, Lancaster House also came up, this huge three-bedroomed, three-bedroomed and about three kitchens building is just there deteriorating and sitting there idly. Someone was living in it without paying rent for umpteen years. The Minister, the Honourable Steve Blackett, under the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development was able, through the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development to have this transferred to the National Assistance Board where it is now under our supervision, management and administration. We are able to retrofit that building, repainted it, do a lot of plumbing and electrical works, we made it functional so that it can now be occupied because we decided that this building will be used for emergency shelter to people who are fire victims or some other natural disaster, hurricane or whatever form of catastrophe or tragedy.

it is ready and on August 17 last year, the first family whose house in St. Lucy was in a deplorable state, who were on the Identification Stabilisation Enablement and Empowerment (ISEE) Bridge programme and whose place of abode was in a state no human being would want to live in, were transferred by us to Lancaster House. Anyone at Lancaster House is there for the short-term while your accommodation is being fixed, and this family was put there while two houses were built in St. Lucy for them. Those people are now in their new homes, keys were handed over to them, and two happy families are enjoying the benefit of that programme after being able to stay at Lancaster House during that transition period. They spent a little over four months there and were very happy with the surroundings and with all that was done for them.

Since then also, there was a recent fire just a few weeks ago, and again no accommodation was available. I was able to make Lancaster House available for a family who is now presently occupying there until their quarters are either restored or rebuilt or another home is provided. We were able to supply, through the Welfare Department,

beds, chairs, stoves and all the basic amenities, including clothing. These were provided for this family free of cost, and they are a very happy family now. That is why I look and when I see the sum allotted to this Ministry, there are a lot of things we have to do and a lot of needs like these do exist. I always support the money allocated. Sometimes we are cut but they try to make sure that we are not left stranded and are still able to supply the needs of these individuals.

Lancaster House is doing quite well since we have renovated it and made it functional, though on a short-term basis. I have looked at the Jorris Dunner Home under the same Ministry of Social Care and the National Assistance Board (NAB). The elderly daycare centre called the Jorris Dunner Senior Citizens' Home is located in Golden Rock, Pinelands, St. Michael, and that was established on January 16, 1972. It closed its doors in 2009 due to the deteriorating condition of the plant, which included mildew and other forms of deterioration, so it became unsafe as residential quarters. Just year before last, however, the Minister instructed us through the NAB and the Ministry of Social Care, and we were able to renovate that facility in terms of termite treatment, industrial cleaning, painting and repairs. We did a quick job on that facility and made it functional to be a daycare centre for the elderly. That was done, and on September 25 last year, that facility was opened under the Minister of Social Care, and we began taking in elderly individuals on December 7. To date we have about 20 elderly people being brought there at 7:30 on mornings by their relatives, and then being picked up at 5.30 p.m. to go home. The eldest is 99 years old and she is a wonderful old soul; very active, very agile. To me, she is more active than some of the younger ones, and if God spares her life to reach 100, we are going to have a big celebration right there at the Jorris Dunner elderly daycare centre. They are involved in a lot of activities there and they are very happy. We have built a brand new gazebo in the courtyard, and that is like a beautiful recreational spot for them; dancing, singing and just enjoying themselves. What was sitting there dilapidated and going to ruin has been renovated and given a fresh look, and it is now a spanking new facility for the elderly.

I want to say that I see a dangerous thing happening here because I went to a home recently, and an elderly person was in the house. That was the person I wanted to meet, but I could not get into the house and I had to speak to him through the window. The family had locked the door and all around the building, and left him in there. That is such a dangerous thing. When I called them, they said, "Oh, we turned off the stove and we put away all the matches and so forth". I said, "This building, I can look through your bedroom and stretch my hand to the other person's house, so even if a fire does not begin in this building, it can start in the other house and come over here and this man cannot get out. It is dangerous. It is not right.

It is not fair.” I spoke to those individuals very sternly and told them not to do it again, and if anything, take the gentleman to the daycare centre in the mornings at 7:30. I told them, “Go to your work and then come home in the afternoon and pick him up. That is the facility we are trying to accommodate you with so that the elderly would not be disadvantaged”. I would not like to hear at 11 o’clock one morning or 12 o’clock in the day that a fire occurs and he is trapped in the house because he cannot get out while his relatives have the key at work with them. That is something that must not continue.

In saying that, I really believe we should celebrate our centenarians annually with a lovely luncheon and a time of fellowship at one of our hotels. We boast of having the most centenarians in the Western Hemisphere and, brethren, this is a great achievement. Not another island in the Caribbean, not even Jamaica or Trinidad, can boast of this. Something is being done right here in Barbados, and I think the longevity which we are being blessed with we should not be taking for granted, but we should be celebrating it. There are so many centenarians in Barbados. What about keeping something for all of them together at one of our hotels once a year? Bring them all together; have 60 or 70 centenarians in one place with a lovely hot meal and give them whatever they want to eat. I think it is a time to celebrate, and not many nations can do that. We have that privilege and that grace because of the blessings of longevity in our genes. That is something I am going to be pushing for, along with other stakeholders, to make sure it happens this year and then every year following.

I was driving just a few days ago and heard on the call-in programme about this dilapidated house in Bank Hall; a house that is almost falling down and almost falling onto the road. The programme said that two elderly people were in there. The thing shocked me, so I immediately got the Acting Director of the National Assistance Board and the Senior Welfare Officer and we went to this place. Of course, the house is in a deplorable condition. We called and called and we went around to the back. You do not want to go into that house because of its condition, but we risked going right up to it. If there were two elderly people in there, then we wanted to get them out. Thankfully, they were already out and we found where they were, so the reports on the call---in programme were incorrect in that sense. The house, yes, is dilapidated but the people are not in there anymore. Six months ago they moved out. I found them and they are in a nice house now, and I sat and spoke with them. I told them I was glad they were out now, but now I am making sure that building is demolished. All it needs now is demolishing and being taken away to the dump. We will get that fixed so it will no longer be an eyesore or a threat to pedestrians walking by, because if that falls on anyone, then we can be in a lot of trouble.

Madam President, then we have the Clyde Gollop Centre for homeless men. This centre has remained constant in its commitment to provide adequate comfortable and acceptable overnight accommodation for 34 homeless men. This has been happening for years because these gentlemen have no where to sleep, have no home of their like Jesus said that foxes have holes and birds of the air have nest but the son of man has no where to lay its held. If you remember that scripture that is within that context. I only mention it now within this but if you contextual it, I will speak differently. These men are homeless and we have provided for them, thanks to Courts, who I have approached for water heaters to place on the roof so that they can have a warm bath and that has been given to us as well as fans and other things which have been given by other stakeholders that I have spoke with. The accommodation is very much more comfortable now for these gentlemen and we have worked on a policy of opening and closing the shelter during bad weather and on holidays which was not happening before but that is now in place, so if there is bad weather they do not have to walk around the streets and wait until six o’clock in the evening to come back, they can stay there. If it is a public holiday, they can stay there and be comfortable as well and, of course, they will have something to eat.

Madam President, the provision of meals by a number of churches continues. Our own church Restoration Ministries provide every day, the Wesleyan Church, the New Testament Church and other organisations provide food for these homeless men and, as Senator Fraser was saying today, there are organisations out there who are already actively involved and are assisting in kind with things of this nature. Madam, even at Restoration Ministries, we have a programme where we are trying to work along with the National Assistance Board in developing them in there self-esteem and motivational talks and so forth to see themselves and to help them reintegrate back into their families, homes and the society.

Madam President, for this financial year, we will look at the exploration of a rehabilitation programme thus enabling more of the occupants to realise their goals and be able to be part of a training programme on a daily basis. Sir, right now some of them just leave the shelter and head into town with no where to go particularly and then they aim to come back up there at 6.30 p.m. in the evening. I want to remedy that now by having something planned and a programme in place at the shelter, where they do not have to go anywhere, they can just remain there and be taught and also be shown the much needed skills that they need.

The Bereavement Support Services also under the National Assistance Board is doing a very great job. They are providing short-term counselling to persons who are experiencing grief, loss and the death of a love one, financial problems, loss of a home or whatever. This group

under the National Assistance Board hosted a seminar at Restoration Ministries from November to last month and over 40 persons were trained in counselling and they did such an excellent job that I now have 40 more individuals very equipped and ready to help in the need of time to help those who are bereaved and those who are going through difficult times, and so forth.

Madam President, I want to look briefly at declining fertility rate that we are experiencing right now and according to a 2015 Report by Pure Research Centre it says that:

“Over the last 50 years the global fertility rate has fallen sharp”. In other words, they are saying that between 1950 to 1955, the average woman was expected to have at least five children during her lifetime but between 2010 to 2015, it has stated that it has moved from five children to two children, so we are in a serious decline and this is globally. It is a problem that we are having and in many developed nations, there are not enough people born to support the aging population and that is becoming a problem. It is also a problem here in Barbados because we have an aging population right now and right now our fertility rate is very low as well. We are going to be faced with a serious crisis if we do not see that improved especially as people are living longer today, due to advances in (5:40) in medicine and technology so with a decline in the fertility rate, just from five to two... I know in those days where ladies have twelve children. My mother-in-law had 12 children but today it is not the same and contrary to popular opinion, Mother World is not experiencing a population explosion, Mother World is experiencing a population implosion because we are in a sharp decline and this is mostly in the West. In the Middle East and so forth, they are still multiplying and people are having seven, eight and nine children and it is quite different. If we are not careful, the West will be out-populated soon and then we are face with a different dilemma. Madam, Japan and Russia right now are paying their citizens to have children but that is not something that we can afford to do because we do not have it as any island, so we cannot afford to pay our young people to have children but Japan and Russia are doing it right now because they are realizing that they will have a crisis on their hands. I am wondering also if this was not one of the reasons why a lot of refugees were let to some of the European countries in recent times to help shore up their population for the future. I believe this could have been part of the reason as well and Barbados may need to look at some of shoring up our population and strengthening it for the next 10 years to 25 years because if we do not plan it now, then we can be faced with a dilemma. It is said that about 60 countries comprising roughly 44 per cent of the world population are currently not producing enough children to avoid population decline and this trend is continuing. The United Nations population projection said

that by 2045, the world fertility rate as a whole would have fallen so low it would be below replacement levels and that is a serious thing. I think we need to be proactive and not reactive by beginning to make plans now especially little beautiful Barbados would need to look at that.

Madam President, that is one of the reason why I would not support any same sex marriage in our country. It must not be encouraged or legalized in this island, apart from it being condemned by the word of God as unnatural, it is also diabolically opposed to God's procreation command and it will further decline our fertility rate because that is not a nature productive line, so we will not support. We will continue to speak against it in all truth but yet with love in our hearts because we are here to help each other. We know that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. I am concerned with our children in Barbados today, Madam President. Madam, children are disappearing for a whole weekend, then reappearing and during that time it is said that they are victims of sexual abuse by older men, who should know better. These things are confronting us on a regular basis. Madam, just the other day we see two children tied up with padlocks on their feet, so a number of things are happening that are not right. They are forms of abuse and I am really concerned about that. Our children in the Caribbean seem to be in a serious crisis. The Children Authority of Trinidad and Tobago said that they had received in the first nine months of operations approximately 14 000 telephone calls relating to child abuse of which 4 158 were violent cases for investigation. That really hit me. They said that those who were calling in on the hotline the most to make the complaints were children, mainly young girls, between the ages of 10 to 13 with 4 158 of those 14 000 being valid cases to be investigated as most were sexual abuse. We seem to have a crisis in the Caribbean where our children are abused. My thing is, where are the paedophiles? Why are they not being put in Court? How are we not seeing the Courts dealing with these men or even women who may be doing the abusing? I think the time has come where we need to be more stringent, strong and robust in our approach to dealing with this because our children are crying out. Doctors would tell you stories of how they have to patch up little girls after they are sexually molested. If some doctors talk to you your head would grow, yet nobody is being put before the Courts. This is a crying shame. I think the time has come for paedophiles to be listed so that their names would appear anywhere for the further protection of our children and they should not be left to just get away with this kind of abuse. Statutory rape is on our law books as a crime against a child and many underage children are being molested and we are not seeing the paedophiles brought to justice or the law courts. I trust that this will change.

Madam President, it brings me now to the prison system. We definitely need to see a reduction in our prison population. For a population of approximately 280 000 people in Barbados we have 918 inmates at Her Majesty's Prison Dodds. This is .32 per cent of our population. Of this total, what shocked me is that 45 per cent of the inmates are on remand due to the acute backlog of cases within the judicial system so our system really needs upgrading, hastening up, expedite these cases. Fifty-five per cent are convicted and serving time so those on remand almost equal those who are convicted. It is almost neck and neck and I was surprised at that. The highest percentage in there, 43 per cent are being the ages of 17 to 30 years. It means the cream of the crop of our production strengths, skills and talents are sitting idly by, incarcerated or on remand at Her Majesty's Prison Dodds.

Another startling statistics that has really shocked me as well is that 8 out of 10 young men being incarcerated fall into the remedial category. They cannot read or write and that was startling to me. It means that something is happening or not happening in our educational system. If education has an impact on preventing or reducing offending behaviour the educational system in Barbados would need to improve its quality and outcomes according to a UNESCO report. Somehow a lot of these things are falling the cracks and we need to do something. I am really appreciative of the tremendous work that the prison staff is presently doing. I saw the comradery, the discipline, the level of community and as I spoke with some of the prison officers I saw the level of commitment that they are showing. Also the programmes, the standards and approaches they have to their work was really one of excellence and I really want take my hat off to the superintendent of the Prison and all the staff at Her Majesty's Prison Dodds for an outstanding job that they are doing in light of the circumstances that they are faced with.

Another thing that struck me is that it cost \$93 to maintain an inmate in Her Majesty's Prison Dodds. When you calculate that, it is \$31 161 510 per year for that number of inmates and that does not include salaries, wages, or anything of that nature, that is just to upkeep one inmate per day. That is high and when we think that 45 per cent of them are on remand it means that possibly could be reduced. When I look at Norway, it has 5 million people and the total inmates they have in Norway is just under 4 000 which is 0.08 per cent but the thing about Norway is that when prisoners leave the prison it said that they do not return and that is the difference here in Barbados. As a matter of fact, they said Norway have the lowest rate of recidivism in the world, they said just 20 per cent while the United States of America has 76.6 per cent of recidivism. I do not have the figures for recidivism in Barbados but we would all agree that it could be quite high because I have known young men who have said, man I would do something to get back up there. I had to tell them, do not

even utter those words again from your mouth. Some just do things to go back to prison and we have to reduce the rate of recidivism.

Madam President, you may ask: how does Norway and other Scandinavian countries accomplish this to have such a low rate of recidivism. It is said that this country relies on a concept called restorative justice which aims to repair the harm caused by crime rather than punish people. This system, focusses on rehabilitating prisoners and I think that is a good thing to focus on, rehabilitation rather than just punishing them because we know that five goals for any prison, as described by criminologists, are retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, restoration and rehabilitation. I think if we in Barbados decided to concentrate a bit more on rehabilitation, ... Right now they are doing a very good job in the prison, as said just now by Senator Lady Haynes, they are groups that are doing excellent jobs. They are Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) passes, and as a matter of fact, I was so blessed to see a truck that was damaged, hit hard at the front and the chassis, was stripped right down to the chassis, with the engine and everything out and these guys are working on putting it back up. (S32) I was so blessed. Many of them did not know anything about mechanics because they got in there but they got in there and began to learn and now they are able to really put a vehicle back up together, and I took my hat off. I saw artwork. I saw mahogany furniture. I would certainly buy them if they are outside because they are really well put together, and I would really suggest that we continue to support the educational and rehabilitation sector within Her Majesty's Prison Dodds so that we can maximise and get even a lot more results than we are already getting. A lot of medals and a lot of prizes are won by them. A lot of excellent work and of course the teaching, the training and skill programmes that they are carrying out are really bearing great results from what I can see from my time just being there.

A 2007 Report on Recidivism released by the US Department of Justice found that strict incarceration actually increases offender recidivism while facilities that incorporate cognitive behavioural programmes written in social learning theory are the most effective at keeping ex-convicts out of prison or keeping them from coming back to prison, and I thought that is a very good programme. I think that in our situation here there are working. They have part of that already in place and I think they will continue to work on improving it because what they are doing from what I have seen is so good so far and I think with that kind of programme then we can maybe see our prison population also reduced here in Barbados.

I think it is time that every church do more for to help ex-inmates reintegrate into society.

Madam President, The Honourable Senator has 15 minutes.

Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. DURANT: Thank you, Madam President. It is time for churches to do more to help that transition because when they come out sometimes it is a difficult transition period from coming out of the Dodds and then trying to reintegrate back into society. Barbados is a small place and a stigma is associated with anyone who goes to Dodds and getting back into society Caribbean be a very difficult thing if you do not have a support system, so what I thin is needed is a more robust support system as they come out where they can maybe continue to do their skill training or do their work, if it is mechanic work you are doing in there to continue to some mechanic work, if you are doing art continue to do art, if you are doing furniture continue to do carpentry. I believe that the churches, ours plus others, and that is in my heart to make sure that I do something that I can help any inmate that comes out that wants to reintegrate back into society. We want to make sure we have a programme in place that can just cushion and be a buffer so that persons can get back into society again.

I want to also suggest that an act of goodwill drill our 50th year Jubilee celebrations, I think would be to if the Government can think about just pardoning and releasing prisoners in this jubilee year. There are those who are really of good behaviour, there are those who are working very, very good and those officers would know those who an be granted such. I believe it would be a good gesture in a jubilee year to offer pardon and release to 50 well-behaved inmates. It would bring such joy to individuals and to families. think it would be a very good initiative. This is our 50th Jubilee. This is the only time we would be at this point we would never be here again. It is our Golden Jubilee. It is our 50th years of independence and what a good initiative it would be to just offer that compassion, that pardon and release to 50 well behaved inmates of our Her Majesty's Prison Dodds.

Looking at immigration, I think, Madam President, that we need to improve our immigration system. I do not think we need to make enemies for ourselves unnecessarily around the Caribbean. We do not want any animosity being thrown at us all the time and it is important that we try to do our best. I know people would want to come to Barbados but I would want us to continue or to look at being more humane and compassionate in whatever we do because they are Caribbean people, make sure people follow the line, follow the rules, follow what is to be done and we can try to build our relationship with our non-nationals and treat them kindly of course.

Lastly, I want to just say that the desalination plants that are coming is a very good idea. I spoke about this already because I know that the Caribbean is becoming a

water-scare or rain-scare hemisphere area and the desalination is the way to go. Of course, desalination is associated with high energy cost and I would hope that whatever desalination plants we bring that they be solar powered so that we would not have high water bills and would sve us energy. It is said that places, for example, like St. Martens, St. Thomas, the British Virgin Islands, could not survive without desalination, it would cause their economies to collapse. With the climate changes we are seeing around the world, the Caribbean is being affected right now. There is a very dry season in Barbados right now and our reservoirs sometimes go low so desalination would really be the way to go, and I really applaud the Government in taking this initiative to bring permanent desalination plants into the island. I think this is a very, very good idea and will answer a lot of our water woes in the north, south, east and west. I think a lot of our water woes would be settled and everyone will be much happier.

Madam President, as continue to work together if we can just put aside our partisan politics and behaviour and unite and work together to see a better Barbados that is preferred by many to be a place to live, to do business, to marry to raise our children, to educate them and to raise our families, I think it behooves all of us to put our head together as the Bible says behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. This is our country and we want to see the best for Barbados, so let us join together and see our nation become more prosperous, where sustained growth, prosperity, productivity and progress are achievable and sustained indeed.

With that I want to say that I support these Estimates of Expenditure 2016-2017. They have my fullest support.

Thank you, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to support the passage of this Appropriation Bill 2016-2017.

I would wish to assure Senator Carol Lady Haynes that this Administration is very responsible and we are cognizant of ensuring that this country does not fall into a debt trap. Madam President, in saying this, I would wish to make the point that in any academic programme that is worth its salt, in looking at public finance issues, the whole issue of the fiscal deficit in a developing country such as Barbados, a small opened economy such as ours, the concept of having a balanced budget is not realistic or indeed desirable on many occasions. Madam President, that is to say, as would have been said elsewhere, we are seeing a deficit but we must make sure that fiscal deficit is manageable and not out of hand.

Madam President, the shortfall in terms of Government income, as opposed to Government expenditure, this deficit is necessary in a developing country such as ours to enable us to build capacity, to facilitate steady sustainable development throughout the various sectors of our economy. In other words, there must be some room to maneuver, as it were, that we allow any Administration to have in terms of running a manageable fiscal deficit so that we can continue to roll out programmes in specific sectors of our economy to build capacity in terms of generating jobs, be they capital works programmes in terms of building infrastructure, be they roads, buildings in terms of schools, fire stations, police stations, et cetera. These generate jobs and also provide the necessary services to build capacity, be it expansion to the airport or the seaport to facilitate growth in the tourism sector, for example; even the development of shipping industry in terms of Barbados being used as a transshipment hub for legal goods. Jamaica, for example, has been working assiduously in recent years to build out capacity in terms of its port facilities to capture the transnational shipping sector between Latin America in general and Europe.

Madam President, also the Government needs that leeway in terms of running a fiscal deficit to enable the social services to be provided to the vulnerable groups in our society, as Senator Durant mentioned in terms of the work in the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, be it in the provision of home-help programmes through the National Assistance Board; the David Thompson Memorial Constituency Football Classic Tournament, which has been won by the City of Bridgetown on consecutive occasions and which was criticised the Opposition Party, but which we on this side make no apology for because again we are catering to the important needs of the vulnerable groups in our society, the unemployed. Madam President, rather than they getting involved in negative behaviour and going on the fringes of society, being involved in drug abuse, crime, et cetera, we are able to instill discipline in them in terms of that team effort which they would have to harness in terms of engaging in this disciplined, David Thompson Memorial Constituency Football Classic Tournament which has achieved tremendous buy-in, where we have teams from all 30 constituencies doing their very best, honing their skills so that they could win prizes.

Madam President, even by participating only they are able to get financial tangible benefits that they can be a man and provide at Christmas a ham for the family or a gift for their progeny, their spouse and so on, Madam President. Madam President, these young men throughout Barbados thank the Democratic Labour Party for remembering them in ensuring that the David Thompson Memorial Constituency Football Classic Tournament can become an annual event. We congratulate the private sector partners

who have stepped up to the plate and have offered sponsorship in recent years.

Madam President, again the financial outlay in terms of this social service gives rise to the deficit. Madam President, in fact, I remember a few years ago, certainly as Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, being invited by the Inter-American Development Bank to an event abroad where they were focusing on the use of sports to reintegrate those on the fringes of societies and inner city communities throughout the Inter-American Development Bank Member Countries and Caribbean and Latin America, utilising sports such as football to reintegrate them back into mainstream society and keeping them away from crime, violence, prostitution, et cetera. Madam President, this is internationally accepted as a very important intervention, so this is what I am talking about.

Madam President, I will go into more details later in my presentation of the deliberate strategy used by this Administration in terms of sourcing foreign exchange to finance the fiscal deficit through these capital works and other projects. Madam President, before I go there, just focusing on the social services provided by Government in its programme, I would wish to focus or refer to the fact that Government in this year's Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure is committing to providing over \$1.2 million as its annual contribution to help support the very important work of National Initiative for Service Excellence.

Madam President, I have the privilege of serving as Government principal Director on the Board of this not-for-profit company, which is a tripartite arrangement made up of the Social Partnership, the private sector, Government and of course the Labour Movement. I would wish at this stage to congratulate the sterling contribution made by the current Chairman of the Board of National Initiative for Service Excellence, Sir Keith Hunte, the retired Principal of the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus who has served as Chairman of National Initiative for Service Excellence. He is one of the three Directors representing Government and has served for at least 10 years as Chairman. Madam President, Sir Keith must be congratulated for going beyond the call and really ensuring that service excellence is never forgotten in the Barbadian national discourse.

Madam President, the fact that Government is living up to its commitment made over a decade ago to match the funds provided initially by the private sector who were calling for this National Initiative for Service Excellence to be introduced, we have lived up to our obligations in providing these funds on an annual basis. (S34) We have lived up to our obligation in providing these funds on an annual basis, and I will take this opportunity to call upon the private sector to match this \$1.32 million which

Government is providing to play their part. They sit on the Board and have three representatives there just as Government does, and I am calling on the private sector to put their money where their mouth is and ensure that the work of NISE (National Initiative for Service Excellence) can go from strength to strength. To execute its mandate, funds are necessary.

Madam President, I just wish to focus very briefly on the important work done by NISE in terms of promoting service excellence throughout our society, to ensure that best practices obtain and that productivity in both the public and private sectors is optimised so that national development can really be escalated, and so that we get optimal output by workers as well as management in the various sectors of our society. Of course, the 100 Improvements in 100 Days is a flagship programme of the National Initiative for Service Excellence, where we have been able to achieve tremendous buy-in by many companies, especially the private sector and, of course, the public sector. They are not to be left out, and these various agencies are very competitive and cherish tremendously being recognised and winning the various categories of prizes that have been identified.

I have been able to attend a gala which is the culmination of this exercise, and I have seen the tremendous excitement displayed by management as well as line staff of these participating and successful companies, both in the private and public sectors, to such an extent that companies, after winning these awards, at their own expense publish full-page ads in the media highlighting the achievements of these companies and making the report that they have seen increased productivity and increased morale in their various departments as a result of participating in this NISE 100 Improvements in 100 Days. In this programme, they are seeking to identify weaknesses in the day-to-day operations of these agencies, and provide the necessary interventions to increase productivity and service excellence, Madam President. Of course, there is the open enrolment programme where individuals can go down to the Harbour Industrial Estate at the NISE conference facilities and actually be trained in service excellence over a protracted period. Even politicians are taking advantage of the services provided by NISE; of course, they have to pay for these services as they work in their respective constituencies, Madam President.

I must say that as part of the 100 Improvements in 100 Days programme of the NISE, in the last cohort what we have been able to do is actually run a challenge where we identified at least 50 young and not-so-young entrepreneurs or prospective entrepreneurs through collaborating with the Cave Hill School of Business. I was able to visit them on occasion, and those highly motivated and professional resource persons on staff at NISE were

able to really galvanise the interest and buy-in of these participants, to such an extent that they were able to engage in sales pitch presentations to prospective venture capitalists and some were able to actually get tangible support from companies to the extent that some of these companies were in partnership with these entrepreneurs. They worked in teams and, for example, one group was able to use palettes that are used in the shipping industry and transform that wasted wood, as it were, into very high quality furniture. They were able to display these final products at BMEX with tremendous public interest. Another group used parts of the coconut plant and fruit to make jewellery, while others were able to use material to make very high-quality bags, Madam President. This is just a part of the tremendous work which the NISE has been executing over the years.

Madam President, we have also been able to get buy-in from entire companies. I would not call individual names, but large companies where management and line staff over a number of weeks were able to engage in one-day seminars where the NISE team would actually engage these staff members in improving service excellence. These are agencies that actually interface on a daily basis with members of the public, be they tourists or locals, in providing services. Again, I was able to attend some of these sessions and saw the tremendous interest and full support, as I said, from management right down to line staff; the entire complement of staff of these agencies was able to be trained by the NISE. I really congratulate the management and staff of the NISE; a small group but working very hard to promote service excellence in our country. I would also wish, Madam President, to congratulate NISE for not just focusing on the larger companies but even small entrepreneurs such as sno-cone vendors, where again they have been able to get financial support from larger companies which sponsored, for example, the painting and refurbishment of the sno-cone carts and the provision of attractive T-shirts and other shirts in order to improve the image of these vendors. This builds self-esteem and gives training in terms of service excellence, best practices in terms of hygiene, the use of gloves, napkins, hand sanitisers and so on. I was able to meet with these participants who were very grateful for this initiative, Madam President. We were able to transform a fledgling small business operation which provided aquariums and sold pet fish but was in dire need of assistance. We were able to get sponsors to actually assist in refurbishing the plant and, again, what we got was buy-in from other businesses getting involved, and we were really able to showcase this. Madam President, as I close that aspect, I would just reiterate my call for the private sector to play their part in terms of matching the \$1.32 million provided by the Government in this year's Estimates as our contribution to the work of NISE. I would call on the private sector to match this contribution so that the work of NISE can go from strength to strength, Madam

President. As I continue my presentation, Madam President, as I mentioned, our administration is looking seriously at these social programmes. I talked about the Ministry of Social Care, and I would just allude to a very important initiative taken by that Ministry in terms of what they call the Identification Stabilisation Enablement and Empowerment (ISEE) Bridge programme, or Puente in Spanish, a model which was sort of embraced from Chile. What we were able to do in the pilot phase was to identify a household from each of the 30 constituencies throughout the country, and we were able to execute interventions on a multi-pronged basis, where we looked at the complete transformation of those vulnerable families in terms of the provision of education, housing and other social services, such as home help and so on, so that we have a comprehensive assistance provided not just to give these recipients a handout but rather a hand up. I was fortunate to attend the final graduation as it were of this pilot phase at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre and I can tell you, Madam President, that those recipients were very grateful for this intervention. We saw a young teenager from one of these households who was actually able to give a speech where he was very articulate and very fluent and he had been able to secure several passes at the CXC General Proficiency Level, thanks to the interventions of the IC Bridge Programme. What the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development is actually executing in terms of a follow up to this is that they have approached the Inter American Development Bank and are looking at a multi-million dollar loan programme in which hundreds of families throughout Barbados would be able to benefit from this intervention. Madam President, I am just using this as an indication of the direction of this administration where we are using sometimes grants, sometimes loan financing from foreign sources to address the issue of financing the deficit, so rather than going on the open market and sourcing by way of loans at high interest rate to improve the foreign reserves of the country and to finance the deficit, we are using loans at very concessionary rates from development agencies such as the Inter American Development Bank and the Chinese Government and so on and their agencies to source this foreign exchange to build capacity in term of infrastructural and other development. We are achieving more than one objective in these individual initiatives where we are financing the deficit in terms of foreign inputs. For example, in this year Estimates 2016, whereas 88.7 per cent of the fiscal deficit on the Accountant-General basis will be financed from domestic sources, the balance of \$191.4 million will be foreign finance in the form of capital project inflows. I will seek to identify some of these as time permits.

Madam President, firstly, let me look at the issue of the Chinese. Madam, before I go there, I just want to be pellucid in this point that by sourcing these funds in terms of concessional loans be it from the IADB or CAFF, where

the interest rate is very much lower than on the local market. We are not talking about bullet loans where you have to pay back massive amounts at a particular point in time in the future, we are not saddling future generations of Barbadian with that serious debt burden but we are being forward looking and saying, let us borrow this money to build capacity and to develop the country so that we can provide jobs and eventually earn foreign exchange when we build capacity in the tourism sector for example. This development financing is critical to ensure that the country as a whole can grow down the road and provide jobs and develop in a sustainable manner. We are financing the deficit in terms of \$191.4 million of foreign capital inflows from these grant and loan facilities from abroad, but we are building capacity and generating jobs in the present.

Madam President, I remember just a few years ago, when the Minister of Finance talked about this same thing and about a stimulus package. At first, the Opposition was calling for a stimulus package and they were telling us to spend all the foreign reserves and not to worry about that but this is a stimulus package but in a more responsible manner. We are not going on the open market to borrow expensive money at high interest rates but we are using the development agencies and staying away from the IMF, we do not have to go there. We are utilizing the development bank such as the iadb1, the Caribbean Development Bank and getting these concessional loans without the draconian measures that the IMF and other Bretton Woods institutions would require in terms of massive layoffs, devaluation and that kind of thing. We are being responsible in the development of our country.

Madam President, this is very exciting. I am saying that the Opposition is running scarce because they know that we are on the right trajectory. They know that we have stabilised the economy and are now moving towards sustained economic growth. Madam President, these capital works programmes that we have identified and I would allude to as time permits will generate jobs. This means that people will realise that the Democratic Labour Party is the Party of choice and therefore, the Barbados Labour Party is running scarce because they know that once these projects are executed, we stand a very good chance of being re-elected when the bell is rung, so that is why they are running hot and sweaty. They know that we are on to a good thing. They were calling for a stimulus package but now we are executing it, as other said, they are just opposing for opposing sake but this Democratic Labour Party administration will not have time for them. We are focus on bringing success and development to the people of Barbados.

Madam President, I heard the lead spokesman for the Opposition, Senator Dr. Walcott, referring to the Chinese and trying to criticize our Honourable leader Senator McClean about views on Chinese project. Madam

President, is Senator Walcott saying that the Barbados Labour Party is opposed to funding the Sam Lord's Castle re-development programme by concessional loans from the Chinese. Is that what the Barbados Labour Party is saying? I am sure they are not going to say that, Madam President, so they should keep their mouths shut and support the Government if they want to say anything, Madam President.

Madam President, the Barbados Labour Party was in office for 14 long years, and I am saying that the Barbados Labour Party was not able to negotiate with the Chinese Government to have more local employment in their projects but I understand that in these projects that at least 40 per cent of the workers would be from local sources. Madam President, we negotiated this but the Barbados Labour Party could not achieve that so they are jealous, very jealous but we are pressing ahead.

Madam President, I was at the ground breaking at Sam Lord's Castle early one morning. I went from Bridgetown all up there to give full support to this project and, Madam President. Again, Senator Dr. Walcott had the audacity to criticize the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc and the BTI flourished under the Barbados Labour Party. I remember the first time I met Senator Boyce was a couple of days after we whether or not the election in 2008 and I was invited as the new Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown to the opening of the Jewish Synagogue there and Senator Boyce played a leading role in BTI and did an excellent job.

Madam President, I am saying that the work of BTI continues under this administration and they are doing tremendous work in terms of building out infrastructure in the urban and suburban areas from Speightstown to Bridgetown. Madam, we had the Constitution River Re-development Programme. Phase 1 was executed and this administration executed Phase 2, which took the project right up to the gate of Queens Park, again, with the assistance of the Caribbean Development Bank and what we are now pressing ahead with is Phase 3 which would take that re-development programme right up the Globe roundabout. This Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration and Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTI) are very, very serious about it.

Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTI) is playing and integral part in the Sam Lord's Castle programme and the \$80 million being provided in this year's Estimates is just one tranche because we are looking at hundreds of millions of dollars to execute this project over the next couple of years, Madam President, so hundreds of Barbadians would be able to be employed in the construction of that Sam Lord's Castle Hotel, be it labourers, steel benders, masons, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, people from The City of Bridgetown, from

Chapman Lane where Senator Walcott is from, these people in Bridgetown and through Barbados are very excited. These young men and women are looking forward to the work that this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) will be providing through the execution of these projects so this is not a pie in the sky, this is not theory, this is tangible bread and butter issues. The business sector, Madam President, is very excited as well. When I speak to leading players in the business sector in Bridgetown and through Barbados they are very excited about this transformation of our economy because they know that when people get jobs in the construction of the hotel they have to eat so they will go into the supermarkets and buy food, they will go into the pharmacies, the clothing stores and keep the stores in Bridgetown and through Barbados opened, these persons will patronise the restaurants and the entertainment centres. Madam President, there will be a rippled effect in stimulating the economy where businesses will be able to expand and more people will be employed thanks to the foresight and vision of this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration. This is just one aspect of it, Madam President.

I know that Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTI) is working assiduously in terms the whole tourism sector. We have Carlisle Bay which is considered one of the best beaches in Barbados and we have lands, be it opposite the Bay Mansion where I remember BICO used to be in. I remember sitting in the Other Place as Member of Parliament for The City of Bridgetown and saying this is prime location for hotel development. Do not mind that a call-in programme host chastised me for this. I am not saying that we are going to exclude open windows to the sea. Right next to that area identified on Bay Street, there is a well-maintained public bathing facility with washrooms and so on. That is a open window to the sea so I am not saying be irresponsible and remove complete access to the beaches. Clearly Barbadians must have access to the beaches and another thing, Madam President, that same location to the West of the Bay Mansion, when I was a child a building was there. I think one of the local paint companies was located there at one stage in the early 70's so that space is prime for tourism development.

I remember attending an event by the Vector Control Department where they were training food service operators in the van stands and so on in best practices in terms of vector control and at that time, there were housed on the top floor of the old National Insurance Building. I remember that Sunday morning going there and when I looked down at that same area of Carlisle Bay and saw the people there bathing in the water and sun bathing it was very, very breathtaking. I am saying that we have prime areas for tourism development in this Bridgetown area and I know that Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTI) is working assiduously to attract the necessary projects that we can perhaps public private partnerships can really build

capacity in terms of increasing the room stock to accommodate the tourists so that when we get increased arrivals we would not have bottlenecks but we would have the increase accommodation so that we can harvest this increase in the accommodation of tourist in our island. The work of Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTI) is very important and this work, again, will generate more jobs, Madam President, and when Sam Lord's Castle Hotel is finished you will have permanent jobs. I know people in St. Philip are looking forward to Sam Lord's Castle being rebuilt. I would have spent a weekend there on one occasion where our party had a retreat for executive councils and we had a weekend there on the original site and I know that former students of mine from that St. Philip area were employed as barmen and in the kitchen. Those residents of St. Philip are very excited about the prospects of being able to gain jobs there be it in housekeeping, reception, even the farmers supplying vegetables, fruits and meats to the hotel and certainly other people in Bridgetown and throughout Barbados would be looking forward to being able to secure jobs in a rebuilt Sam Lord's Castle, Madam President. There is nothing for this Administration to be ashamed of.

We have not ended there, Madam President, as I said, over \$191.4 million in this year's estimate will be provided by way of foreign capital inflows in terms of grant funding as well as concessionary loan financing. Of course, we should not forget the work of the private sector which I look forward to, for example, the proposal to construct the Hyatt Hotel in Bay Street. With the necessary Town and Country Planning Department permission, I look forward to that project being executed. Again, the residents of The City and the business community are very excited about the prospects that will transform The City of Bridgetown providing jobs in construction, as I mentioned, and full time jobs. Taxi operators will be able to get more work. Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison as Senator Professor Sir Henry Fraser talked about who mentioned the whole issue of capitalising on the heritage tourism. It is a very, very important and feasible drawing card, as it were, and certainly by having a massive hotel in the city centre will be a very positive development, Madam President, because we would generate economic activity in Bridgetown and keep those stores and restaurants opened. In fact, it would give rise to more nightlife in terms of Baxters Road and other entertainment centres throughout The City so that Bridgetown would not be asleep at night, as it were, but will be a 24-hour operation.

Madam President, I would also wish to note that this Administration has been able to raise the necessary financing that we could join up in this region development bank based in Venezuela and we in this year's Estimates will be able to access at least \$12 million to facilitate our road rehabilitation programme, again building infrastructure by improving a lot of the roads that were

neglected by the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). They were in office for 14 years and they talked about CAF but were not able in that long 14 year period to join CAF and this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration is not just talking we are actually getting results, and this is just Phase 1. This is the sort of pilot in that when we execute this \$12 million road rehabilitation programme through CAF in terms of draw down of concessional loan financing, we are learning the various conditionalities, precedence and so on, learning the routing so that again. As we speak, CAF official are excited, coming to Barbados often and negotiating with the various Departments and we are looking at projects because we would have access to, I believe, at least US\$300 million, Madam President, in terms of the amount that we can eventually draw down in concessionary loan financing over the (\$37) short to medium term from the CAF, lots of money, and what happens by identifying these projects more and more people will be employed.

We understand, Madam President, why the Barbados Labour Party is running scare. They talked, for example, about part of this CAF financing. They are looking seriously at the Fairchild Street Market. The Barbados Labour Party left the Fairchild Street Market there abandoned, all the asbestos roof and we were able to remove the asbestos roof and remove that serious health threat from all of those thousands of commuters in the Fairchild Street Bus Stand and the people who flock to Bridgetown on a daily basis.

We have already received presentations from the architects and so on in terms of drawings for our massive Fairchild Street redevelopment programme where we would have the bus stand properly built and have a seamless transition into a fully redesigned market, not the strange edifice which the Barbados Labour Party constructed in Eagle Hall that does not provide any sort of shade from the elements, sun or rain, not utilised by the vendors. We are making sure that any redeveloped Fairchild Street Market would be functional.

I visited St. Vincent a few years ago and they have a modern market with elevator, not completely sort of enclosed, but ensuring that you can have this genuine market ambience but functional to ensure that you are shielded from the elements, Madam President. I am saying that this multimillion dollar Fairchild Street Market Bus Terminus Project, the CAF is very seriously interested in. The architectural drawings are done so this Democratic Labour Party is serious transforming the nation's capital making it the most beautiful capital in the region by the time we are finished. This is what this Democratic Labour Party Administration is about. The Barbados Labour Party was in office for 14 long years and could not deliver but the Democratic Labour Party is delivering day by day, minute

by minute. Madam President, again more jobs would be created in terms of the construction phase.

In fact, Madam President, I was very fortunate to be invited by the Minister of Transport and Works to the groundbreaking ceremony for the refurbishment of the River Bus Terminal just to the east of our location here. Again the Barbados Labour Party was in office for 14 long years and they left that River Van Stand flood prone and the vendors not having running water. I know this, Madam President, I use that ZR Stand on a daily basis because I am not like some people who have this inferiority complex. I know of at least one other Honourable Senate of this Chamber, I will not call their name, who I see a bus stop catching a bus and I am saying that we are equal. I am very happy to hear Senator Hunte make the point that he does not genuflect to anyone. A good catholic like me I genuflected to the Lord, no one else.

I am saying, Madam President, to the tens of thousands of Barbadians who use the public transportation that the Democratic Labour Party cares about them, the working class people who takes public transportation, and therefore we are addressing these pressing issues. I was at the groundbreaking ceremony and what in this multimillion dollar project this Administration is executing is that we were are going to refurbish that southern building of the old Queen College Complex. I remember when I attended sixth form at Harrison College that was where we used to have the annual social between the Queen's College girls and the Harrisonians and I remember when that building was operational. The Barbados Labour Party allowed that building to run down and we are going to refurbish that and have a modern terminal where we are going to have a modern concourse where we are going to bring order to that sector where you have several parking bays for the ZRs and minibuses so that the members of the public would not be having to risk life and then fighting among themselves and negotiating between the ZRs and minibuses as they enter and exit the terminal as it occurs now. We are going to bring order separating the commuters from the vehicles and really improving the standard and quality. This would augur well for the image of Barbados because tourists utilise public transportation along the South Coast and even the West Coast and this would definitely bring Barbados public transportation into a more modern way of operating.

Again, we have promised in the second phase of this River Terminus Rehabilitation Programme to actually provide better quality vending facilities for those dozens of entrepreneurs who must be commended for not waiting on the Government or the private sector.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Honourable Senator, you have 15 minutes more.

Senator P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, I have now started my speech, but in the 15 minutes left I will try to cover some more ground but we are very serious about what I am saying. In fact, talking about public transportation, this Democratic Labour Party Administration again have done all of the necessary drawings and so on. We will promised the people of Barbados a multimillion bus terminal at the western end of Bridgetown on in terms of what they call Seaview which is just to the west of the Cheapside Post Office location. The site has been cleared. We are looking at initially public/private sector initiative but again CAF is looking seriously at coming in to provide concessionary financing for this, which would again bring the public terminal down there to modern standard because under the Barbados Labour Party they erected some huge covers down at the Princess Alice Bus Terminal which were not functional because when the rain falls there is no shelter from the elements but this Democratic Labour Party will provide a modern state-of-the-art terminal for the public sector in terms of the ZRs and minibuses, the public transportation area.

Madam President, let me continue, within our Estimates I would just like to highlight some of the other capital intensive programmes which that we would be initiating. We have the amalgamated lab of the Ministry of Health, \$11.96 million. You see it being constructed there to the north of the bakery just above the old Enmore Complex, that is in the Estimates. We have several other areas. The Public Sector Smart Energy Programme, \$7.5 million, enhancement of the immigration services \$6.2 million. For years the staff at the Immigration Department complained to the Barbados Labour Party about the poor conditions there but we are addressing it we are going to refurbish what they called the Barbados Tourism Investment car park there and they would be housed down there so these funds would facilitate this.

Talking about the Estimates for Senator Abrahams, The Lodge School which is the alma mater of your humble servant and Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott, \$8.1 million is being provided in this Estimates to complete The Lodge School rehabilitation (\$38) 8.1 million is being provided in these Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure to complete the Lodge School Rehabilitation Programme, Senator Walcott and mine alma mater, yet the Barbados Labour Party, when they were in office for 14 long years, neglected the Lodge School.

Madam President, I remember visiting that school and I was so hurt, there was mildew all over the place, there were windows and door falling to pieces. This Democratic Labour Party executed a multimillion project where we transformed that school. This final phase will now complete the hall. Madam President, we had to endure under the Barbados Labour Party the hall being too small.

The students had to risk rain and sun for assembly on mornings but this will be a thing of the past when this project is completed with the funding provided in this year's Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

Madam President, I am sure that the Skills for the Future Programme to which other Honourable Members referred to, for example, Senator Adams, we are providing \$11 million through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation to carry forward this project, thus building capacity and empowering those young people so that they can get the necessary skills to be able to build out the development of our country. Madam President, I am sure that Senator Husbands would go into more details.

We are also going to have \$4 million provided through the Inter-American Development Bank to access credit for productivity where the Central Bank of Barbados would administer this. This is where entrepreneurs, the small and medium enterprises, the microenterprises will be able to access loan financing to develop their businesses. This is a serious Government, we are serious about developing our country.

Madam President, you know there is the West Coast Sewerage Treatment Project, a multimillion dollar project, I think that is over \$200 million. Again, this a project that the Chinese are very interested in providing concessionary loan financing and this Government is committed to pressing ahead with this project. We talked about when we were in office, prior to 1994 and the Barbados Labour Party was aware of this. They were in office for 14 long years. Madam President, this West Coast Sewerage Project is very important because we want to ensure that as we increase the tourist arrivals that we do not have environmental issues, because we are committed to being environmentally prudent, ensuring that best practices are obtained, that we do not disturb, in a negative way, our delicate ecosystem.

Madam President, you can have E-coli and other bacteria going from the sewerage along the west coast and inner parts of the island and killing the reefs and contaminating the water, so that this West Coast Sewerage Project is critical. This Democratic Labour Party is committed to executing this project in the short to medium term, where we are actively negotiating with the Chinese agencies to provide the loan financing so that this project is a go under the Democratic Labour Party Administration.

Madam President, this will also provide hundreds of jobs to Barbadians in the construction of this sewerage work. Let me say again, good news to the good people of Chapman Lane where Senator Jerome Walcott is from, the people of New Orleans and the rest of Bridgetown, we are socially balanced, economically viable, environmentally sound and characterised by good governance. This is the

commitment in our Manifesto and this West Coast Sewerage Treatment Project is a manifestation of this.

I am saying good news to the people of Chapman Lane, New Orleans and Greater Bridgetown because whereas Senator Walcott was Minister of Health in the Barbados Labour Party when that sewerage system in Bridgetown was not properly managed, where the stench was so great that the people in his good Chapman Lane where he is from, they were crying out from the noxious fumes coming from that sewerage treatment. Well, good news for the people of Bridgetown in this West Coast Sewerage Treatment Project that Bridgetown plan will be decommissioned and we will have a massive West Coast Sewerage Treatment Project which would ensure that that stench would be a thing of the past.

Moreover, Madam President, whereas under the Barbados Labour Party those good people in Emmerton, Chapman Lane in Bridgetown had to endure the stench and they were not even hooked up to the sewerage treatment system. In this West Coast Sewerage Treatment Project they will be hooked up to the sewerage system in the Greater Bridgetown. This is what this Democratic Labour Party is promising to the good people of the City of Bridgetown of Bridgetown and indeed Greater Bridgetown. Madam President, we are very serious about this.

Moreover, Madam President, currently we lose millions of gallons of water monthly, in terms of the discharge of both the South Coast and West Coast Sewerage Treatment Plants in terms of discharge out to sea. In this project we are going to treat the water up to tertiary level so that that waste water does not have to be pumped out to sea but that it can actually be used to recharge the aquifers. Madam President, there is nothing to fear about that because when that water percolates through the limestone formation in our island, you would have the purest of water because of course we will be treating the sewerage affluent to a tertiary level.

Madam President, I remember as Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown going to the Inter-American Development Bank Board of Governors' Meeting to the launching of Sustainable and Emerging Cities Initiative, the brainchild of the current President of the Inter-American Development Bank. As part of that project I was able to visit a state-of-the-art sewerage treatment system in Calgary, Alberta. They treat the sewerage to such an extent that the final stage, the purified liquid product, is passed through ultra violet light and that water was used to irrigate neighbouring fields. It was also discharged into the Bow River passing through.

Madam President, this is the modern technology that we have around the world and so there is nothing to fear. That would also augment the potable water in our country.

As I said, the tertiary treatment of the water that liquid would then be used to recharge the aquifers. There will be a number of options, you may be able to irrigate. As I said, the natural permeation throughout the porous limestone would finally purify the necessary water, again in augmenting the water supply in our country.

Madam President, there is so much more that I can talk about. Madam President, in talking about that, as I said, a few years ago in Calgary, as the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, I was there for the launch of the Sustainable and Emerging Cities Initiative, the brainchild of the President of the Inter-American Development Bank and what they did was that they were looking at a comprehensive upgrade of the infrastructure and capacity building of Inter-American Development Bank Member Countries. The then Mayor of Trinidad and Tobago was there, he was making a power-point presentation. There were other pilot cities in Latin America.

Madam President, you know that I can be persistent and so on every opportunity that I met Inter-American Development Bank officials I would lobby for Bridgetown to be included in that project. Madam President, I am now happy to report that the Cabinet of Barbados has signed off onto that Sustainable and Emerging Cities Initiative. We have extended it not just to Bridgetown but to Greater Bridgetown, that is the whole of St. Michael, parts of St. James and Christ Church and ongoing. We have senior public officials who are attending regional activities and I am happy to report that we will be able to draw down at over \$1 million in technical grant funding in this Sustainable and Emerging Cities Initiative. Again this programme will enable us to negotiate down the road concessional loans to build capacity, be they housing or water improvement in the Greater Bridgetown area.

This Democratic Labour Party Administration is serious about urban renewal and about the development of the country Barbados. Madam President, in today's newspapers we would have read that the Chinese Government, the People's Republic of China is providing \$19 million in grant financing to rehabilitate the Gymnasium, something that Senator Walcott seems to have a problem with. (S39) They are going to rehabilitate the Gymnasium, which the Democratic Labour Party built.

Senator Dr. J.X. WALCOTT: Madam President, on a Point of Order. I believe the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable Chamber. I have never expressed any opinion, either in favour or against the Chinese. What I did say was that the Leader of Government Business had expressed much opposition to them in the past. If there is anyone who was in opposition to Chinese coming to work in Barbados, it would have to be that person who at the time was a moderator on VOB.

*Asides.*

Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Madam President, this is the Lenten season and as one good Catholic to another, I implore Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott to say, when the devil tempts us, "get thee behind me, Satan". When the devil tempts him, let him get behind him, Madam President. As I was saying, Madam President, Chinese funding of \$19 million in grant financing which this Democratic Labour Party has been able to secure from the good people of China. South-south cooperation, Madam President. It is the Democratic Labour Party that built that Gymnasium in the first place under the then Minister Sir Wesley Hall, and I remember that the initial plans were for a fairly small, modest gymnasium. However, we were forward-thinking and what we did was to decide to have a proper facility even if it was delayed a bit, and now we have 4 000-plus capacity seating at that very well utilised Gymnasium.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member would want to be wrapping up at this time.

Senator Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Thank you, Ma'am. What we did in this Gymnasium project is that we will be able to provide photovoltaic electricity, alternative green energy generating systems to drastically reduce the electricity costs, which is a God-send to those people, be they sporting organisations or churches and other groups which use the facility. Of course, we will provide street lighting; not the darkness that the Barbados Labour Party left up there in, so that the people who go jogging there would be able to jog in security and safety with proper photovoltaic-powered street lighting in that area, Madam President. Of course, the floor will be properly recast and the roof repaired in terms of waterproofing and so on, Madam President. This 15-month project is much appreciated, thanks to the Democratic Labour Party administration. We have so many other things that I can talk about, Madam President, but time has expired and I, in closing, would really wish to fully support the passage of this Appropriation Bill and congratulate this Democratic Labour Party administration for being very visionary. As I have outlined, we are going to provide thousands of jobs for Barbadians. Stick with the Dems. The Dems are caring people. Thank you.

#### SUSPENSION

Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 6 p.m.

*The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 6 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Her Honour the PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.*

## RESUMPTION

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Trotman, you have the Floor.

Senator Sir ROY: Madam President, I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill before this Honourable Chamber and I would wish to commence any statement I need to make by saying that an Estimates debate permit the Senate to range a little more freely into the realms of the economy steerage of the country and this is precisely what I think Honourable Members have been doing yesterday, again today and I am sure will continue to do tomorrow. I would wish to congratulate and compliment each of those who have spoken already for their excellent presentations. The debate also provides for a studied reflection on what was done and what might have been done. It excites our views on how steerage was effected and it informs our judgement regarding the effaciousness in maintain the steerage crew and the sailing styles which we may be using during a particular period.

Madam President, in my reflection, there is my solemn belief that the sail plan is honourable. I believe that the Minister of Finance, given the difficulties with which he is faced has a task before him which is not easy and that his staff and he together are working honourably to do what is best in the interest of the country. However, there is a parallel conviction that I have that the handling of the ship of State is deficient because some of the key steerers are diverted for whatever reason. I take no joy in making that statement of my conviction. My sadness lies in a number of things among which are the following, that members of the ship's crew has been heard publicly declaring that this is likely to be their last swan song.

Madam President, crew members are wantonly and without regard for the negative consequences allowing their boards and their consultants to disrespect the passengers, raping whom they will and confiscating the jewelry of others. The captain is busily engaged playing his mouth organ effectively muting the cries of anguish which unheard below are mounting up to be answered by a merciful God who slumbers not even though some may think that he is wearing his pajamas.

Madam President, the passengers in steerage, that is the cheapest part of the ship, wait impatiently for answers while in the staterooms can see they rescue hovercraft just off their port side and we are left to hear their cries which you have to imagine, "Captain, Captain, the ship is sinking", and if the ship is sinking and the sharks are there, and the ship is not being steered properly what about our future.

Madam President, this is the picture not of the entire ship but it is the picture that is being conveyed by elements within the crew of the ship.

Madam President, on the plus side, the ship's purser with his staff is doing a fine job. He is aware of the significant reduction in the foreign reserves down to just about \$0.5 billion and, in my view, he is aware that care and caution are necessary. I have no doubt particularly given the excellent statements of hope and joy that are being put together in the presentation by Senator Todd, I have no doubt whatsoever that recovery is something which is possible.

Madam President, I have no doubt that can be done but if we are going to make the progress which we all hope would be made then I would wish to insist that the recovery which we hope for will be pursued in this year starting in April through increase spending through wages and salaries, and that is where I am starting.

Madam President, increases in wages and salaries will not be mindless or wasteful. I have spoken on several occasions towards such an approach as one of the very critical measures through which we can effect recovery from the very terrible economic and financial crisis which we have gone through. I know that labour economists do not all say the thing and if there are 10 labour economists, you may get 10 or 11 different positions but labour economists who have studied situations like ours here in Barbados have advocated the rebuilding of this economy by increasing spending capacity by the working class particularly and they make that point very very clearly and for very good reason. I was impress that though he is not a labour economist that Senator Todd made the very same statement just a few minutes ago. I am not denying his perspicacity, I am merely saying that he is not a labour economist.

*Asides.*

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN: Well, fair enough.

Madam President, wage increases will flow immediately back into the economy. They do not have to go anywhere to engage the parents, the directors in schooling overseas or in meeting commitments to people who are silent partners backing the enterprises. They flow immediately back into necessary purchases which Senator Todd about as being food and other basic commodities. They stimulate the economy as a direct consequence causing other economic activity to take place and they will commence the task of building hope or keeping hope alive. It is very important, therefore, that in the Estimates we would have seen a little figure somewhere indicating that it was a consideration that there would be an adjustment in salaries and wages in the public sector. When I was looking for that little figure, I do not think that I saw it but I am suggesting that by the time the Estimates have been fully debated should signal such a recognition to re-energise the Barbados workforce.

Wage increases are only part of what our constituents - I know that we are Senator therefore we do not directly have a body of persons that we have to approach but on all sides there is a possibility that outside of this Honourable Chamber there may have constituents that we may have to go and speak to. In my case, although retired and put on the heat, as Shakespeare said, go out to pasture and do what with your years, you just your ears beaten. Those of us who have constituents that we have to refer to know that our constituents are not mainly looking for a question of wage adjustments or promises of wage adjustments. In fact, the Estimates have to provide for resources in time and personnel to treat conditions under which our ship of State travels, to treat with the methods of interaction, and to treat with the levels of respect, humaneness and interpersonal consideration that they ought to be if we are going to progress as a nation particularly as we arrive or hasten to reach our 50th milestone as a proud independent nation.

Madam President, I put my statement this way because I do not wish the harshness of my criticism to cause us to move away from the very essential thought that I would each one of us to take away and the thought is that now in our 50th year as an independent country, we ought to have reached a stage where we can agree to disagree without being disagreeable and Honourable Members of the Senate agree. I am grateful that I do not have any divide on that although I do not see any smiling faces at the picture that I have drawn.

This Government has fallen, in my estimation, well below the expectations which reasonable people look for. Respect, once a revered word in democratic circles, is scoffed at and terms like mutual agreement, peaceful coexistence, polite consultation, have to be subsumed under the more urgent concern regarding who is the dog and who is the dog's tail or which one is wagging which one. Madam President, it needs not to be this way. There is room for change. The question is, is there a will for that change to come about and is there time for that change to be affective.

Most times when I speak in this Chamber I tell myself that His Excellency demands of me that I speak for the parents of those voices, thousands whom he visits in his school tours and that I speak for the duty I still have by my experience to safeguard and to enhance their own future and their own future work environments and so although I may have, in a lighter moment, said that I have been placed on the dump heap, I certainly to not consider myself as fodder on that heap to be rejected and to be silent for if I do become silent then the very stones would cry out and I would have failed in my stewardship. I do not intend to sit by without saying a word to the orchestra that is the Government that the discords which I hear are not intended to be the noise of a people building a nation but rather they

are the noises of confusion because some are not clear. Those that will be clear are allowing their own clarity to be clouded by those who do not face the electorate. Because I will not keep silent, Madam President, I have drawn attention to the commendable plan in the Estimates, even if they may be good reason to recommend some adjustments, but I have also drawn attention to my fears that the obvious absence of the crew to lead by example and to inspire confidence and trust is likely to lead to disaster.

It ought to have been possible, Madam President, for persons like me and I would include persons like Sir Philip Greaves, Sir Morris King, and former Ambassador, the Honourable Frank DaSilva, as we did in 1991-1992, to quietly remind the current ship's crew, of our 1991-1992 experiences. Indeed in January 2013, I sought to do just that using the goodwill of Senator Geoffrey Cave and Darcy Boyce now Senator Darcy Boyce. We visited with the Prime Minister and put together suggestions where we could restore hope to the country, particularly after there seemed to have been that petty rebellion of (S42) the dirty dozen. Our efforts worked for a while. Three committees of my suggesting were set up and they were supposed to work towards helping to bring the country back together into an understanding that the ship is owned by all of us and not by the Democratic Labour Party, the Barbados Labour Party or employers or one political group or another political group but that the ship of that state was the concern of all of us and that an injury to one as with labour is an injury to all, and that if we allow pockets of our country to run into poverty that poverty anywhere will constitute a danger to prosperity everywhere.

The committee was working for a while but it seems as though Prime Minister's preoccupation with his mouth organ permitted some of the less gifted members of the band to trumpet discords for the entire orchestra. It is not unlike another kind of trumpet like 'trumpism' under Donald in the United States of America. In the Estimates regarding United Commercial Autoworks Limited (UCAL) where I turn to one of the areas of the discord, this is how I see that 'trumpism'. I see insult, I see threat and I see hate, not necessarily in that order.

It is not the Minister of Transport and Works whom I would ask this Honourable Chamber to blame if blame is to be attached in this kind of circus. It is true that he may have gone on call-in programmes and may have made the point that the current Government, which is the first Government to have made the life of UCAL miserable, and if that is what he said in the call-in Programme, he is absolutely right, and I will endeavour during the course of this afternoon to give some rather brief report regarding the life of UCAL.

The person would need to blame in a responsible position is the Minister of Anti-unionism and the Minister

of Anti-me. Ever since my comrade Dennis Clarke whose name I do not use pejoratively may have put him in his pale when he was still the General Secretary of the National Union of Public Workers, and the other one was a Minister, it would seem as though any General Secretary of any union has to be taken before the firing squad by someone who was previously a shop steward of a union.

Speaking in the Other Place just last week, that Minister was heard to say that Government pays UCAL's wages and salaries and Government pays UCAL Board fees, I suppose a swipe at suggesting that Government pays UCAL. I have put up a straw man, Madam President, so I can knock it down and if there are people who do not recognise my style of presenting a straw man then I regret very much and I apologise.

Perhaps, Madam President, persons who make those presentations do not quite receive the reports which UCAL makes from time to time and so to set the record straight let me advise that I have been Chairman of UCAL from its inception and though I have been advised by the International Labour Organisation accounting staff when they visited Barbados many years ago that we should insist on having board fees paid, because we were experiencing difficulties with having the Government pay on a regular basis for work that was to be done, I decided that I would encourage my colleagues we would not accept any board fees because we felt the day would come when some politicians would maliciously say that the Government was paying us either board fees or entertainment fees like some of the big... drink at some board meetings and other places or anything else, so we do not have board fees and we do not have refreshment paid for by anyone unless the colleagues from time to time join one another.

For the record I also wish to say that UCAL by written agreement invoices the Transport Board for work provided and that for more than 13 or 14 years the Transport Board has been underpaid sometimes by more than 50 per cent. I will get back to those figures in a minute. To correct this particularly during the last six or so months the Ministry of Finance has been paying UCAL directly rather than having any ministerial sums of money paid either through the ministry or the Transport Board itself. Now, that is well-known and everybody should be able to recognise it and hence there is no need for anyone to suggest the lie.

The information which I think this Honourable Senate needs to know, sometimes I wish I could speak to the public but of course you know I speak only to you, Madam President, but if I were able to speak to the public, I would be in a position to tell you that for the year 2015 the Transport Board has paid some money but it still owes UCAL \$22 057 796, 096. That is what the Transport Board is owing to UCAL, a poor company that is made of

workers who lost their work at the Transport Board and other people who put in some pittance like Senator Walcott who put in \$5 000 and other people like that. I cannot go calling names, I can call his because he is in the Senate and I do not think he would object to say that is untrue. (S43) He is a shareholder. Madam President, but these are people who lost their work, and I will explain that loss of work, and who are in the business not only of being shareholders but of workers.

Madam President, I should be able in a minute or two to explain what the basis of this entire UCAL enterprise was and still is, for I am of the view that the story has to be told and then it has to be repeated because it was not being envisaged for itself alone but it was being thought of as a new way for people to recognise that true independence does not come by taking down the Union Jack and putting up a Broken Trident but that there was much more to independence than the changing of the flag.

Madam President, the exercise represented and I will say still represents Barbados' journey from the Garrison in 1966, November, to Bridgetown. It represents the march from taking down the political flag that speaks to our previous colonial status and that speaks to political freedom, and symbolically speaks to the raising of the flag for economic enfranchisement. Madam President, that was what the intention was. Madam President, Sir Lloyd was Head of the Cabinet of Barbados when the first thought came. Sir Philip was Minister of Transport. Sir Maurice was Attorney-General. Expertise to carry this through was identified by us as coming from the Kibbutz Cooperative Movement in Israel.

Madam President, you would remember that the same people brought out the long knives for me but that they will never today admit that theirs was a malicious attempt to demoralize and to silence me when I did what was accepted and what is still practiced across the entire world of referring to a set of people as the Jews, first by their country of birth and then by their religion, or if you want to say their culture.

Madam President, like the Yemenese in yesterday's news, the Ukrainian as a previous Minister of Government in Barbados admits freely and of course is proud to admit, Ethiopia or Egypt, but that was only part of what I do not expect an apology to come forth, because the intention was not to deal with truth, the intention was to make sure that the tail was properly being wagged by the dog. The plan was, from that original moment, that the transport system was to be run by UCAL, the running of the buses and the operating of the garage, with guidance and support from the experts in the Cooperative Movement.

Madam President, but the Government fell in on itself, and we fell back therefore to a garage servicing, with

consultancy support from Darcy Boyce who is now a Senator and guidance from Owen Arthur who then was Prime Minister, who committed to part capitalisation of half million dollars to capitalise this venture in worker democracy. Unfortunately, that money never came, so that is a subject for which I remain saddened.

Madam President, among those others who helped us in the project was one Jerome Walcott, not then a Senator but now Senator Jerome Walcott, who was a Director of the Transport Board and who later became the Chairman of the Transport Board. He was signatory to our much heralded agreement of 1997 to have such an arrangement with one-third of the capital and therefore the possibility for one-third of the dividends that we would get, going directly to the Transport Board.

Madam President, within the second year of our being a business, we were able to pay dividends, one-third of which was the property of the Transport Board, but thereafter the long knives came out again and we never were able to get paid in good enough time to pay National Insurance Scheme, to pay the banks or to pay anybody and the period for our living like the Israelites in the wilderness at the whims and fancies of whoever chose to send us manner because we were not under the guidance of the Good Lord, we had to make do with those years in the wilderness.

Madam President, but even though that were so, it is still true to say that we were being governed by exclusivity contract, signed by Jerome Walcott and LeRoy Trotman, among other people. I can read for you what that exclusivity contract says and I will make it a document of this House. I will read it in a minute or two. UCAL was exclusive, UCAL alone of garages. We were structured in such a way that whereas all other garages in Barbados closed their doors at 4 o'clock on afternoons, UCAL was agreeably -- or was agreeable, let me say -- to an arrangement where we were from 7.00 a.m. to 7:00 the next day, a 24 by 7 arrangement. We worked on weekends 24 hours. We worked on feast days and on holidays, 24 hours, and working all those hours at basic cost to the Transport Board.

Madam President, the Transport Board did not have to pay any premium rates to UCAL the provider because the agreement was that UCAL and the Transport Board were in a partnership arrangement and that you could not have the buses running 24/7 x 365, but have UCAL working Monday to Friday from 7.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Madam President, nobody else in Barbados was doing it and nobody else in Barbados is doing it, and that is why there was an exclusivity within the contract because the workers were ready as owners of the business to surrender those benefits that would normally come from

working overtime or premium times for some of those arrangements.

Madam President, at the beginning Prime Minister Arthur, Minister of Housing and Lands, Gline Clarke, Chairman, Jerome Walcott, all helped in trying to identify a workshop site. (S44) The document that I am prepared to make available to this Honourable Chamber will show that Kendal Hill was identified as the place where there would be a state-of-the-art workshop, and that the exclusivity contract would be honoured and set in motion. Unfortunately, Kendal Hill had some problems with the land over there and that matter has only very recently, I think, been spoken to by the courts after very many years of waiting for decisions. We looked around for other areas, and it was our misfortune to have the Government of the day lose the warmth of its excitement about this matter; because when we did not manage to get Kendal Hill, we did not get the same kind of warmth either toward the state-of-the-art workshop or indeed toward the half-million dollars that was to capitalise this new venture.

Yes, there was that problem, and yes, we have had to fight even back then, though Senator Walcott was not involved in that. We have had to fight over the matter of competition coming through the back door. We had to be very careful about what we did because we were conscious that our agreement was for five years and then for five as we went on, but we were very conscious of the fact that, like Barrack, we had to be careful not to shake the tree. We had to be forced to accept an arrangement where the agreement was being broken, but we had to make a determination whether we would continue to exist with half a load since we knew that our excitement might very well result in the taking away of the full load. We were not bothered about this, and we still are not, because we were in a position where, if the money was made, UCAL would have made a profit and 30 per cent of that profit would have gone straight back into the pockets of the Transport Board, so that the Transport Board would have paid out money and would have been getting back one-third of any profit.

However, the Transport Board thought it was more prudent for them to insist on the hours that we would open, and we have shifted the opening hours time after time after time to accommodate them. Out of that, we have often found ourselves not being able to make our people fully productive; but when they were at the workplace ready to work, Transport Board found it more convenient to send the buses off to persons, some of whom we did not always know, although we had heard stories about them. They found themselves in a position where they were denying themselves the chance to reduce their operational costs by benefiting from the operational efficiency that UCAL could have provided. It was so then. It is still so now, but if you listen to the untruths that you hear surrounding this, you

would get the impression that everybody bent over backwards to help UCAL and that there was no effort by UCAL to return to the position where it was able to show dividends. We were able to show dividends on paper if we got our money, and that position is still so now.

That is not all there was to that particular problem. There was much more than that. We had a position where we had reached an understanding about an hourly rate for doing buses. We agreed to \$55, and then after five years, we took the payment up to \$75. That is the commercial rate. Madam President, would you believe that while we were happily working for \$75, Transport Board and the Ministry behind Transport Board were paying \$90 to people who had cut in on the exclusivity of the contract? The people were getting \$90 for the same work, much of which very often came straight back to UCAL because those people had no fundamental concern with doing the work with the same level of efficiency with which UCAL was doing it. Yet, they were paying \$90 and then they moved to pay those people, some of them, as much as \$102. We only heard, because nobody would tell you that. That was the point at which we said our \$75 had to go up. Now everybody has got to a position of \$90, and they took an agreement to pay us the \$90 as part of the back-pay because they were paying other people. The current Minister said if other people were getting, then the Transport Board must also pay UCAL, and that is \$8 million which they still need to pay and which they have not started to pay. \$8 million of the \$22 million.

Every day you are hearing that they could close it down and that they would close it down because they are paying directors' fees and because of several other reasons. While we are hearing those reasons, we have heard in this very House Senator Walcott make the damaging statement yesterday regarding an allegation that one of those people who, in my view, improperly services Transport Board buses in place of UCAL, is providing transport for a senior member of the transport arrangement. I have something further to say about that in a minute.

Madam President, well before 2008 UCAL proposed to the Transport Board that we, UCAL, should be allowed to prepare engines before they were required and to store those engines, so that when an engine broke down in a bus, all you would have to do was wait for it to cool, replace engine with engine, and in a matter of hours, that bus would be back on the road, thereby saving efficiency in time and productivity, and bringing a greater possibility for the Transport Board to meet the needs of the travelling public. That is what we proposed, and we had Eric Earl then as our managing director, who was a very good engineer and quite capable of assisting in this exercise. Senator Walcott would bear me witness. We put a simple proposal. I talk about his skills as an engineer. We made the same proposal for differentials. You get them, you

repair them, you put them aside and whenever a bus came in, rather than having to go and wait for a bus and then start the process on the bus repairing the differential, you replaced the differential because the buses would be in groups and you would obviously be repairing according to those groups. That is a proposal we put before 2008. UCAL undertook to develop a data base for the buses so that we would have a profile of every bus and would be able just by looking at the profile to be able to advise the management of what would likely to be the problem, what needed to be addressed, what parts had served their usefulness and thereby being able to have buses coming, be treated and be back on the roads in the shortest possible times.

Madam President, we also set that data base so that we could determine on routine presentation for legal inspection of buses but nobody took us on and today, as we speak, there are buses on the road which have not adhered to the inspection requirements by the Government of Barbados for all vehicles that are on our roads, they are not being prepared and so we do have a major crisis which UCAL had undertaken to help to deal with. It is my understanding that Trinidad has now come to Barbados and has suddenly discover that these same ideas which I put to you, Madam President, are the ideas it would wish to give to Trinidad preliminarily for six months but the people they are going to use are people from the Quality Assurance at the Transport Board, apprentices from the polytechnic and Trinidad staff members. Madam, nobody from UCAL as the exclusive provider of the service is to be able to discuss what we could teach Trinidad has to be the way it is done and not even the other providers by the letter that I saw was being advised that this was to be done. I need to ask myself what is the purpose of establishing this Trinidadian arrangement in Barbados that excludes the service provider but has somebody who is not a service provider being told how to provide the service. Madam, somebody would have to explain to me whether there is any right to govern or to manage in such an arrangement for the future of the Transport Board.

Madam President, I have said nothing and I will not say anything inimical or unpleasant about the Minister because whenever I have met him, he has endeavours to give me the assurances of his good wishes and his intentions...

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has 10 more minutes.

Senator Sir Roy: Madam President, that is very kind of you. I thank you for the extra five minutes. Madam, I am distressed to hear the repeated accusations about the operator improperly and indecently taking the work that is provided for on page 4 of the UCAL Transport Board contract agreement of 1997 which stipulates over the signature of Senator Jerome Walcott and Senator Leroy

Trotman as well as somebody else from the Transport Board and somebody else from UCAL stipulates that and I quote:

“BTN -- Barbados Transport Board shall procure all its services for maintenance checks, preventative maintenance and repair of Barbados Transport Board buses from UCAL alone”.

Madam President, that is what the document says and over time, we will push to change what parts of that but the agreement still even today says that the first requirement is for the Transport Board to demand of UCAL to perform the work and that it will get somewhere else only if we fail.

Madam President, that claim and that accusation made some time ago, yesterday to be precise by Senator Walcott is a kind of accusation that worries me considerably because I am of the view that else where such behaviour would lead to action by the Prime Minister of the country. Madam President, ministers have been removed from office for less and here there ought to be at least an investigation.

Madam President, this must not be allowed to become a banana republic. I am sorry regarding to what I believe to be a predicament which the Barbados Water Authority is experiencing. Madam, three weeks ago, I met with the Minister because I was invited as an advisor to join the General secretary of the BWU in an effort to settle a dispute between his Board and his general staff and I was convinced regarding the sincerity and integrity of the Minister who agreed three weeks ago with the BWU that the Board would meet and finalise a base position on which to negotiate how much of a sum owed to the workers as increments would be paid and how we can have an arrangement where the parties could treat with the subject in such a manner as to recognise that the Barbados Water Authority has very limited resources at this time, so that we had together to be able to have some kind of careful but imaginative thinking regarding how we could best deal with the problem which was made particularly worse because the Barbados Water Authority had been given to hiring people when in fact, some of the staff felt that the jobs were more theirs. There was no internal canvassing. There had been given to an arrangement where the leadership of the Board openly declared in the presence of the Chair Person of that meeting about a year and a half ago, that he had better things to do than to meet with with trade union and the worker. They have the same Chairman now still.

Madam President, it was clear to me that the Minister was full of goodwill and decency but it is equally clear to me that goodwill and decency is being treated in contra distinction by a Board that does not have to answer

to any elector and that therefore, takes it upon itself to behave as though it was Lord and master of the entire universe. I ask myself where is the moral authority for such a Board to govern.

Madam President, I am going to speak very quickly to the matter of labour because I was challenged by one of the speakers. I think he did it just to make sure that he would hear what a trade union's position is on labour.

Madam President, some years ago, the Chinese were doing work in Barbados and I had reason to challenge how many of them and what they were doing and I spoke to the Prime Minister at the time and he called in the Chinese and they said they had only done dozen people doing the work, and this was the work being done at the head of Nelson Street. If you asked me, they were working seven days a week around the clock and yet they had seven people. I never believe it but, of course, they are a large country and they wish to be able to render financial support but they also want to have labour as part of what they will export.

I have said myself in Barbados, in Geneva and in Beijing to the Chinese that in the same way that they consider themselves to be a developing country they must see us equally as a developing country who needs not exploitation but who needs, brotherly and comradery support from them. If they really want to be friends of the Caribbean what they should be doing regarding labour is treating Caribbean labour, not just Barbados, because we have the CCL, the Caribbean Congress of Labour to take a similar position. What they should be doing about labour is ensuring that the money that they would lend us, they would lend us as developing country to developing country and making it clear that they were not trying to suppress or depress us so that 70 per cent of the labour, not 40 per cent, should be local labour and of the next 30 per cent, half of those people who were coming from China should have understudies for the transfer of technology. That is what the Caribbean Labour Movement put many years after I had already told Beijing that was my position - of course now I do not have any position you might say because I am a “has been” - but the truth of the matter is, that if we are going to have people who will give us support, the support should not be to wrap up our hands so tight that we do not have any freedom with which to be able to develop using the resources of those who claim they want to help us. We may have a problem I know of labour because a number of projects are coming to the market at the same time but there has to be a philosophical position where we do not see ourselves as a dump for labour from anybody and if people wish to help us, that help should be with a clear understand that our sovereignty and our independence are not for sale.

Madam PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member should not be wrapping up at this time.

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN: Thank you very much and I will wrap up by saying that I come straight back to the question, not of the Prime Minister or of some ministers of Government. I have no doubt from what we have heard that several people are working and working very hard and should be complimented for the tremendous work that is being done but that in other areas, we have problems where the statutory boards, directors, board chairmans and leaders are refusing to meet as in CBC, NHC, Barbados Transport Board, Sanitation Services Authority (SSA), NCC, and at some other they are refusing to treat as in the Airport Control area, the BRA and in the QEH. The question is: why is there a breakdown as there is a breakdown at the CXC? Why do we have the problems in Barbados at this time when we have a social partnership that talk about the mutuality of respect that people should be ready to respect, to listen, to consult and to work together? Madam President, we ignore these warnings at our own peril.

Madam PRESIDENT: Senator Worrell, you have the Floor.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for 2016/2017 at this what would considered to be the 11th hour of our Sitting for today, but Madam President, I would want to support these Estimates, and also to commend the Minister of Finance and the enter Cabinet for being able to bring what we would consider to be a decent package in terms of the Estimates in difficult economic situations.

Madam President, I would want to say that when we look back on the period of time over which the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has held the reign of Government one would recognise that we have dealt with a number of challenges and obstacles along the way which have certainly tested our ability to govern and I think that we are on the right path in terms of governing Barbados and developing a Barbados which is socially balance, economically viable, environmentally sound and characterised by good governance. One would be able to say, in terms of our stewardship of the economy and the country that we have done well. I would want to offer this quote, which would be the quote by which persons would recognise our performance in that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which have been overcome while trying to succeed.

From the time we came to office in 2008 we have had a number of obstacles in our way and yet still we have overcome them. We did not run from them, we met them face on and we have overcome the challenges. The Estimates before us today is a testament to that and, as a country in our 50th year of independence, we should be recognised and be proud of what we have been able to

accomplish because we have dealt with an economy for the majority of our time which has been facing economic downturn and recession. We have dealt with a terrible world financial crisis and in every single area of the economy, the majority of the sectors which have driven our development were under tremendous threat, not necessarily by things here in Barbados but also from external sources. If we look at the international business sector, that was under tremendous threat because the larger economies which we depended on to make the international business sector work, they wanted to get back some of those resources from which we benefitted. The UK, the Canadian and the American economies imposed legislation which would encourage those businesses which were domicile here in Barbados to return to their home jurisdiction so in the years prior to 2007 where the international business sector benefitted from tremendous revenues from that sector, and a lot of that was slashed because of changes and difficulties which those economies faced. The Canadian, the UK and the American economies wanted to get back some of their moneys so obviously they dragged it out from a small economy such as Barbados. That sector faced some changes but we did not give. We implemented a number of new packages and programmes within our international business sector so that we would still be competitive and we would still be able to function as an economy.

Madam President, we did that in tourism as well. Under to tourism, in the UK unemployment went up to as much as 8 per cent. In the US, they faced high unemployment as well and obviously in a situation where or major source markets faced high employment levels, our source market for tourists would not be coming so we would have seen downturns in the performance of the tourism sector as well. Not only that but we recognised that we have a mature tourism market and over the years, a number of our properties failed to upgrade and to modernise (\$47) and so forth and persons who were taking vacations preferred to go to places where they would get more bang for their dollar, so we would have recognised that we face some challenges in our tourism sector, but we did not hide, we did not say well, no longer are we going with tourism.

We recognise that tourism is important so we did what was necessary to restructure that sector. We started with an overhaul of the entity which was the Barbados Tourism Authority and we broke it down into two entities and we also did some work within the market as well to make our properties more competitive and we also improved on our advertising and marketing and expanded our base so that instead of just relying solely on the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America, we also went to new markets such as South America, Central America and even further in Europe to Germany and other areas as well, so we started the process of diversification.

Agriculture faced challenges for several years. We have done some work with agriculture but we have also butt up on a drought which has lasted us for over two years so again that impacted on our ability to see the necessary gains that we would want to see in those sectors.

Everywhere along the road we have faced challenges, and I think it is important for us to recognise the challenges that we have gone through and the solutions that we have brought to the table as a Government and how it has helped us to be able to develop an economy which is going to be economically viable and sustainable. We are in the process of restructuring our economy and that would take Barbados forward. We are not necessarily today going to see all of the benefits but if you have a long term view you can actually see the benefits of the work which was done.

It worthwhile for persons to remember some of the challenges that we were faced with. When we came to office in 2008 there was the issue of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We know the situation there in terms of the fact that the majority of the equipment for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were packed in crates either in corridors or outside with grass growing around them. We did the necessary upgrades to the electrical so that the majority of that equipment could be installed. That was one challenge that we faced and we dealt with it.

A second challenge was the collapsed of CLICO. We did not create that problem but we dealt with it in two ways. CLICO would have collapsed because the insurance industry in Barbados was not properly regulated and a few years ago we saw the opening of the Financial Services Commission in Barbados. I think it started in 2013 or maybe 2012. We brought that solution so as to make sure that a similar collapse of the insurance industry would not happen.

Up to a few weeks ago we would have debated and passed Bills in this Chamber which would see policyholders for both CLICO and British American Insurance Company being able to get back some of their benefits, another major challenge that of running from we dealt with and created solutions for that challenge.

We had the financial impact as well. We also had to correct mistakes that the previous Administration would have made and there were plenty of them. One that I would bring to mind would be the fiasco at the National Housing Corporation with what has become commonly known as the Barrack Building. Now, we did not sign off on the contract for the building in Warrens. As a Government a decision was made years ago that the contract was taken away wrongfully and they should be compensated but they refused to pay. When we came to office we had to take on that responsibility and we were saddled with a debt of

millions of dollars that we had to look to find so that instead of the National Housing Corporation being able to fund their mandate of providing houses for the people of Barbados, they then had to use that same money which they would have used to provide housing to pay off a debt which the previous Administration should rightly have settled in the first place.

We did not create that problem, we did not negotiate the contract with the contractor and we did not break that contract either but we had to take on the responsibility. We had to stop the gentleman from painting his face white and parading in front of the building. We had to deal with that problem. We did not run from it or we did not sweep it under the carpet and say this is not our fiasco and we are not dealing with it. We did not do like the previous Administration and treat with scorn that building and abandon it completely the way how they abandoned the St. John Polyclinic. We took it on as our own responsibility because we see it as our country and to benefit the people of Barbados.

We also did the same thing with the Sherbourne Conference Centre, the greatest white elephant in Barbados yet still they carried several conferences to that centre but they refused to finish it and we are in the process of doing that now.

When we look at this period in terms of what is happening in Barbados now, a lot of the things that are being implemented now you often hear from the Opposition, you know what, we were thinking about doing this, this is our plan that they are now implementing. I think that what we can really say that is happening to Barbados is that we are now doing the necessary work and the development which should have happened more than 14 years ago but because of the interruption of the Barbados Labour Party the development of Barbados was stunted or cut off by 14 years because whenever we bring legislation or a project here, I am certain that Senator Walcott and his colleague Senator Abrahams often would say this was conceptualised by the Barbados Labour Party but they failed to implement it. We are doing all of the things now that should have been done over the years to make Barbados a developed country to help us to reach that status. A lot of what we are doing now honestly should have been done years ago, and I want to give some examples.

In the Ministry of Transport and Works, there is a plan, I believe, for the electronic monitoring of the vehicle registration. That should have been done years ago in Barbados. I am certain that Senator Walcott could take credit for it. He never sat in the Ministry of Transport and Works so he probably never saw the file but yes it was probably there a long time ago. It could have been easily implemented when we had the funds to do it, so to speak

today that we are now at the stage where we are going to move to have electronic registration of vehicles so that when the policeman are on the road they no longer have to look at a faded disc. This has irritated me for years, and I spoke about it in this Chamber several times over the six years that I have been here, that you go to pay your road tax it, has improved because before they used to write the information on a circular disc but when they made it electronic they still kept the circular disc that when you paid your road tax they print the receipt and then when you get home or to somewhere where you have a scissor you then had to cut out the disc and then you have to put it into the pocket and stick it on to your windscreen. That is very irritating and it gets on my nerves quite frankly, and I am glad to see that we have finally taken the decision to move to the stage where we would soon be having electronic vehicle registration so that the police officers no longer have to strain their eyes to see whether or not you have paid your road tax or if you are current. I am saying that would help a number of people who are currently breaking the law to get right because with this system there would be electronic monitors at various junction which would automatically flag the CS48) vehicles which have breached the law, so I am looking forward to having that here. Madam President, we should not now be talking about this in 216, this should have been implemented since 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 or 2007, so I would need to ask Senator Walcott why it has taken so long and why they have never implemented it when they had the opportunity.

Madam President, there are other areas of development which I would like to see us getting to as well. We need as a Government to better utilise technology because if we speak about improving the efficiencies of this country we have to utilise technology more, so that is one example. Madam President, we also need to make it easier for persons to make payments. We have started to do that in terms of being able to make some payments online but we need to go a little bit further in terms of being able to accept more payments online, so that instead of having to go through the Barbados Licensing Authority to stand in a long line to be able to make a payment, I know that my driver's licence is up for renewal, I should be able to make that payment online. I am certain that you would have more people who are complying if they can do things from the convenience of their home and office. Madam President, I am hoping that we would get to that stage, in terms of really doing e-commerce in Barbados, especially at the Government level and making it easier for Barbadians to do a number of payments online. If you have to make a payment on your income tax, you should be able to make that payment online. You can do your land tax online through the E-Z Pay but I think that the process in terms of registration needs to be made a whole lot simpler.

Madam President, with regards to e-commerce, moving away from Government to the private sector, we

need to make the e-commerce platform more accessible to small and microbusinesses in Barbados. There is a lot of money that can be made from trading over the Internet and if we are really serious about small business, manufacturing and the cottage industry in Barbados, then we need to make it easier for persons to be able to make payments online in terms of credit card transactions.

Madam President, right now it is not that easy for a small business person to accept online payment, you can use some of the online payment sites but a lot of them are outside of Barbados and you do not necessarily get your money on a timely basis that would help with your cash flow, some of them pay in cycles or when it reaches a certain volume, so for a small business person who is doing a business transaction online, who probably sells creative postcards costing \$5 each, where you can ship that postcard all the way to China, if you so choose to, or someone who may want to bottle whatever and sell online or even registration fee here for a tour in Barbados, even to sell art or jewellery online, it is not easy for you to be able to trade online. There are commercial sites that can do it but oftentimes they do not recognise Caribbean countries, so therefore you cannot receive the payment directly into your bank account, so that if you make a sale today you can go to your bank account tomorrow or the next two days and collect that cash.

Madam President, we need to make it easier to do e-commerce in Barbados. Recently a local company was launched in a similar area which I think is a good thing because we have a number of innovative young people in Barbados who are utilising the technology. A company was recently launched in terms of Bit.com which to some extent would help to facilitate that, but not everyone may be comfortable going that way but it will still help.

Madam President, we need to make it easy for people to use their credit cards. I can go on E-Bay or on Amazon and can buy things from people all the way in Hong Kong or China for \$2 or \$3. Why can persons not in Hong Kong or China do the same thing for small and microbusinesses here in Barbados? If I can sell 100 pieces of an item for either \$2 or \$3, in a month that is often enough to keep a family, to put food on the table and to pay a few bills, so that we need to make that more accessible. I think too that the banks need to come on board and make it easier for persons to be able to access those payments.

Madam President, not just banks but we also need technology companies within the Caribbean as well, because this is not a problem that is unique to Barbados, you face the same problems in Trinidad and Tobago and in Jamaica, among others, so maybe we need to look for a Caribbean solution to that problem, in terms of one platform which will deal with Caribbean e-commerce so that you can legitimately register to take online credit card

payments. I am certain that would help to boost our micro industry in Barbados, in that area the e-commerce platform.

Madam President, I am going back to Government's performance as well, there are still some things that we need to improve in terms of the performance in Government. We have talked a lot about the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure moving from cash accounting to accrual accounting but if we are moving to the accrual accounting system, we also need to improve on our revenue collection, we need to manage our receivables better. I believe that as a Government we have started to look at that.

Madam President, the 2014 Auditor-General Report, a Special Audit was done of the Inland Revenue and the VAT in terms of their Accounts Receivables. It was recognised that over the years that the account receivables have been expanding. Some recommendations were made by the Auditor-General as to how that can be improved. I am pleased to say that I do believe that in terms of the Barbados Revenue Authority, that steps were taken to implement some of those recommendations, in that a separate department is being created to deal with revenue collection within the Barbados Revenue Authority, so that you can have people who will actually go after those receivables that are outstanding.

Madam President, this is going to be important, especially as we are dealing with accrual accounting, so that the money that we said that we are supposed to earn during a particular period, we need to make sure that we collect that money during that period. That is going to be important in terms of looking at how we manage our receivables and we need to treat Government as though it is business. If you are working in an agency or entity which can collect revenue, you need to go after that revenue as though it was your own and not just say that it is the taxpayers' money. You need to go after that revenue, you need to be just as aggressive as the commercial banks would go after outstanding revenues. Our revenue collecting agency under the Barbados Revenue Authority which includes VAT, Inland Revenue, Land Tax Department, National Insurance Scheme, but all of those agencies which collect revenue you need to become aggressive and go after all of those outstanding taxes that need to be collected.

Madam President, we need to start thinking in that way in terms of being more businesslike in the way how we go about things, we can no longer say this is the Government, we can no longer have that *laissez faire* approach to the way how we do business but Government, just like the private sector, needs to be aggressive and they need to be driven and go after the revenue that is out there to be collected and increase the level of compliance amongst the taxpayers as well.

Madam President, I am beginning to see signs that that is happening, so again the Barbados Revenue Authority is beginning to do the work that it is supposed to be done. You will hear on the radio, in terms of the advertisements, reminding you that the deadline for the payment for land tax for the financial year is the end of this month and that after the 31st March interest and penalties will be added. (S49) These are the things that you need to hear so that people would quickly go and settle those accounts, and so that you can receive the necessary revenue. Madam President, in the way how we as an administration have approached the affairs of this Government, we have not done business as usual. If you look at a number of the Government agencies over the years, we have started the process of transforming those agencies to make them more relevant to the needs of the people of Barbados. I would just want to share some information with regard to a few Government agencies and the way how they have changed over the years. One that I would go to is probably not an agency that would be mentioned too often in these debates, but it is the Commission of Pan African Affairs. Over the years they have started to develop some very interesting programmes which are more in line with what is needed right now in society in terms of transforming this country. When the Commission of Pan African Affairs started, the first ten years of its existence were used to build awareness of Pan Africanism and the issues involved. Since 2008, it has shifted in focus, has done more research and brought critical local initiatives that have sought to build identity, empower people and promote innovation and entrepreneurship, especially among young people. There are a number of programmes which the Commission of Pan African Affairs has developed over the years, and I would just want to share some information about those programmes which make it more relevant to Barbados at this time.

One of the programmes is called the Mabalazi programme, which is implemented within the schools, from nursery to primary to secondary, and it involves the training of teachers to deliver Afrocentric content that compliments the existing curriculum, while seeking to build self-esteem of children who are African descendants. This is a very interesting programme, and I think these are things that we need to relate more back to our culture and our roots. Most Barbadians are descendants of Africa, and we need to have that. Every year, I believe it is January or February within the primary schools, a lot of the children are very proud to go to school wearing their African garb. It has created an industry in Barbados, because many parents go hunting to get African prints for the children to wear. Then there are the programmes that extend to the secondary schools, where they also portray different styles and you have that African awareness in the month of February. This is good for Barbados so that we can be in touch with our roots, our culture and our heritage. It also

speaks about building trade relationships with persons within Africa as well, so that you can have that south-south cooperation. All of that is needed.

Another project which is done by the Commission for Pan African Affairs is one called the Mirror Image Media and Innovation Lab. Now I like this. It is based on the mirror image which the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow spoke about, and it is about getting young people in Barbados to develop media content which reflects on Barbados and its heritage. This is media content not only in terms of video but in terms of sound and every single aspect of media. Out of this, there is an online television station called Identity TV where this content can be uploaded. This is important. We need to have more awareness of our culture. Many of our young people can tell you more about what is happening in the hip-hop world in North America than they can tell you about what is happening in Barbados. Through programmes like this and also the programme at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination, over the years we have seen a tremendous evolution within media in Barbados.

There are a number of young Barbadians who develop content by simply using their mobile phone, and you have some very entertaining videos online. It is also encouraging them that where you have produced songs, for example a song for Crop Over, you can produce a music video to go along with that, which helps in terms of promoting that song. This would therefore help us in terms of building out a new sector and a new industry in Barbados in terms of the cultural industries, so that you would have writers who would be able to get employment or recognition through this programme. Dancers, for instance, and photographers would be able to get some exposure through this programme. There are a number of young entrepreneurs who have started using their small businesses to develop some entertaining videos, and then they move from there and develop the content for followers on social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube, where you can also earn revenue from the number of persons who go on your site. After attracting a number of viewers, they would approach business houses in Barbados and those business houses would start doing promotions for them. It is the same way that Hollywood does it in terms of product placement. When you watch some of the major television shows, you would see the person using a Samsung phone; that is product placement. You pay for that and you charge a fee. We have a number of young people who can do that now for a number of businesses in Barbados.

If you have an event coming up - it does not have to be a major commercial event but it could be a charity as well - you can utilise those young people to share information on that charity or that event. It is probably something that the Heritage Trust, which has been

established, can do to help in terms of getting more persons to buy those raffle tickets for the BMW to raise funds for the Carnegie Library. The Trust can use some of those young entrepreneurs here in Barbados who post videos daily and have a following on the social media. That is the cheapest form of advertisement that you can ask for. They can help you to promote the events you are having.

It is an area that is ripe for further exposure, and I am certain that if we integrate it well, it could help a number of the areas in Barbados which have been suffering in terms of being able to get exposure. One such area would be sports. Outside of football, other sporting disciplines have a difficulty in attracting an audience to their events. Football has a unique way of attracting people; you just go into the middle of a field with a ball and somehow, persons are drawn to that, but if you try to do that with basketball or volleyball, you do not necessarily get the same response. Oftentimes, and I have been saying this for years, you would go to events at the Gymnasium or see it on the news that there are basketball games happening but there is no audience. If we utilise a number of these young businesses to help to promote these activities, it would be giving them an opportunity to earn some revenue while giving your event some exposure.

In terms of this Mirror Image media project, I would want to say that this can also be utilised by the 50th Anniversary of Independence secretariat in helping to promote their activities. This is where I will say that there is absolutely nothing wrong with a country celebrating its 50th anniversary of Independence. We are not doing it for the persons who were there 50 years ago in 1966 to see the changes in Barbados, but we are doing it for the young people in Barbados who never experienced it; to give them an opportunity to understand where we have come from, where we are right now, and where we are going. It is important that we celebrate these milestones such as the 50th Anniversary of Independence and such as when we celebrated the 375th Anniversary of Parliament. Madam, we need to build awareness among our young people and get them involved in developing the content for that period of time in researching to see where we have come from so that they would have an idea of what they can possibly accomplish in their life as well, to make them more aware of who we are as a country, our culture and our heritage and that is why the \$5 million that has been earmarked in these Estimates for the 50th Anniversary of Independence, I am hoping that a good set of that \$5 million would be going to young performers, young writers and young people generally within Barbados to help develop content and activities to help us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Independence so that they would remember this period and be able to share this milestone with future generations. We could do it 25 years from now and then in another 50 years as well. Madam, that is also important.

Madam President, there is also another component of the mirror image programme which involves the culinary arts as well. There is one company within that which has sought permission to mention. There is a company called the True Laurel Taste Bajans, a company which came out of a programme by the Commission of Pan African Affairs. This company is managed by Dale Jones, who is hearing-impaired and others from the Deaf Community. What they do is that they collect, display and promote original Barbadians condiments, wines and sauces. This is a programme that came out of the Commission of Pan African Affairs, so we are not just telling people about Africa, we are empowering them to start businesses as well and empowering people of African descent to be innovative, to be creative and to create businesses as well. Madam, that is one programme that I wanted to mention because it also shows we are looking out for persons with disabilities and we are catering to the needs of a wide cross section of Barbadians.

Madam President, years ago, in 1966, we would find it strange to think that a company in Barbados would be operated by persons with disabilities but this is to show how far we have matured and how far we have come as a country that now an entire company can be operated by persons with disabilities and they can go out there among other Barbadians and compete just like anyone else. I think that is something that should be lauded and we should be proud of our achievements as country.

Madam President, there is also the General Bussa Youth Leadership Programme. The name itself sounds very interesting. Madam, this programme empowers youth leaders, again, to be entrepreneurial, to be innovative and creative, so quite a few things have been coming out of areas such as the Commission of Pan African Affairs. It just goes to show the work that we have been doing as a Government.

Madam President, we have not continued with business as usual but we have taken a number of the agencies and entities which have existed before and we have changed the way how they operate. We have changed their focus to do things which are more relevant and to come in line to the overall goal of the country because we have said that we want to create a cultural industry in Barbados, that we want to see small business development as the way forward for Barbadians, so why not get our agencies to develop programme to channel persons in those areas, to focus on those areas and help to build and develop them.

Madam President, another agency which I would like to focus on in terms of the Ministry of Environment. Madam, this is a challenge which is very topical in view of the fact that we have issues in terms of solid waste management in Barbados. Madam, last year, it dominated

quite a bit of this Estimates debate where the talk was on CAHILL but surprisingly, we have not heard much about that in this year's Estimates debates. Madam, nonetheless, we still have issues with solid waste management and we know over the years, the challenges which we have had with the Sanitation Service Authority but I am happy to say that the Ministry has not buried its head in the sand under the challenges but have started to implement some very interesting programmes and projects which would help us to find solutions to these challenges.

Madam President, one initiative which they have called is something called the "Waste Buster Game", which is going to be piloted to students within the schools. The whole idea of this game is to make children more aware of what they can do in terms of solid waste, what you can recycle, what you can reuse and so forth. You need to start getting children involved in that process from early so that they can share the information that they have learnt with their parents and you can see it more easily implemented in the home and at the community level. Madam, as a country, we create an awful lot of waste and we do not have the land space for it and we would have discussed that in here. Madam, these are initiatives that the Ministry of the Environment have started to undertake and this is a game which would be launched in the schools quite soon to get our young people involved so that they can be actively involved in helping us to come up with solutions for our waste management.

Madam President, they have also gone further in conducting a waste characterization study in that we need to know the quantities and the composition of the solid waste generated in Barbados so that we can devise the appropriate solutions to dealing with that, so we are not sitting idly by and just allowing things to happen but at the same time, you cannot rush and tackle every problem without fully understanding it. You have to do the appropriate analysis because often times, you would treating the symptom but not necessarily dealing with the problem and anybody who understand business knows that you need to identify the problem, so that you can implement the appropriate solution and not just do cosmetic surgery as the Opposition would have us do in terms of making certain things look good.

Madam President, they have done the Waste Characterisation Study and they have also done things like starting community recycling projects. Madam, something that we need to look at in terms of solid waste and the Sanitation Service Authority is that they have started a route optimization study and this was done through grant funding from the Bank of Korea at a cost of US\$250 000. Madam, I understand this study is almost completed and the report would be shared with not only Barbados but persons from throughout the region because it is not just a problem in Barbados but throughout the Caribbean. We

know as householders the issues that the Sanitation Service Authority has been having in recent times in not being able to collect the garbage with the frequency that we would like. Madam, in some areas, they used to make it twice a week but now they may only make it once a week or once every 10 days. It is nothing we have hid from anyone. The Minister has said it, the authorities at the Sanitation Service Authority have said that there is a problem, that they do have enough truck to go out and collect the garbage.

Madam President, the demographics of Barbados has changed considerably over the years and no work has ever been done in terms of determining what is the best way of collecting the garbage. Madam, over the years, a number of houses have been developed in the St. Philip and Christ Church areas, so we have more housing development in a number of areas. We need to do a route optimization study, so that we can best be able to determine how to deploy our fleet or what is the best fleet to satisfy the garbage collection within the country. Madam, once this study is completed, the Sanitation Service Authority would be in an informed position that they would know well look, we need to have X-amount of trucks to properly collect the garbage in Barbados and so that we can collect the garbage on a weekly basis from every community or twice a week, whatever the case might be. It would also give them an idea of the size of the trucks that they need to have on the road and how they need to plan out the routes so that they can also save time instead of a truck having to go to Sam Lord's Castle, pick up garbage and then haul all the way down to St. Andrew or whatever the case might be or you may find it going to Sam Lord's Castle then going to Oistins and all over the place, better rationalisation of the routes so that the Sanitation Services Authority (SSA) would be more efficient and effective.

As was mentioned yesterday by Senator Walcott, we have also taken note in terms of the cemeteries as well. I would want to bring it to the attention of this Chamber that instead of using only the resources within the Government to make the necessary work, we have gone further in terms of looking at opportunities where we can get donations or in terms of doing some of the work. Senator Walcott would have yesterday made the comment about how the cemeteries are looking, that they are very unkempt and so forth but work is actually being done. It has been budgeted for work to be done at the St. James Cemetery which has been in a terrible state for a number of years and I think it is at a cost of \$1.7 million. Thankfully, that money is coming from an organisation called the Maria Holder Trust and we should really thank that organisation.

Madam President, this may be news to Senator Walcott because the Maria Holder Trust was knocking at the doors of Barbados for years wanting to do work in Barbados. Over the years that organisation has come into Barbados and they have helped us tremendously. They

have built pre-schools, they have built, I believe, the Diabetes Centre as well, they have given back to the people of Barbados. They were knocking on the doors of Barbados all the time when the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) was in office but they treated them with disdain and scorn.

Senator Dr. J. X. WALCOTT: Madam President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable Chamber. This is not a point for us to be in any discussion and have any agony about. The Maria Holder Foundation was not treated with disdain and ignored by the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). In fact, when I was Minister, I meet with people from it before it was even known as a Maria Holder Trust. As a matter of fact, she never wanted her name to be revealed. Indeed, seven ambulances that we acquired in 2007 were, at the time, through the Trust. We were also working on the need for a National Rehabilitation Centre in Barbados so it is not true to say what he said and there is really no divide on this. Thank you.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Thank you, Madam President. As I said in my earlier contribution, much of what is being done right now by this current Administration, the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) would always jump and say that it was their idea, they were doing it and Senator Walcott just proved that. It was their intention to do work with them but we ...

*Asides.*

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Okay, I will correct it. It was their intention to do work with them but they never came to do the actual work. I hope that is acceptable to Senator Walcott.

Madam President, we have go about that process in terms of getting grants or using assistance from charities to get some of the work done within Government and this has helped up to be able to meet our obligations and our responsibilities to the people of Barbados. The Hospital has launched a prospectus in terms of the needs and a number of agencies give to the Hospital on an annual basis.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has 11 minutes.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: This has helped to reduce the amount of money that the Government had to spend to meet the needs of the people. We have found very creative ways of being able to do the work to benefit the people of Barbados with the limited resources which we have at our disposal and I am certain that if we continue along this path, utilising this innovation and ingenuity when the economic situation picks up in Barbados, the people will recognise that this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has done a tremendous job for them. We have held the hands of

the people of Barbados. There is no Government which is uncaring, there is no Government which would want for the people to suffer. This is the impression that the Opposition tries to give, but there is no Government that will do that because just like the Opposition, Government also has to make sure that they are favoured by the people. Why would you shoot yourself in the foot by being cruel and vindictive to the people? This is not the approach that we are taking. We have set out, in terms of our 2013 Manifesto, to develop a Barbados that is socially balanced, economically viable, environmentally sound and characterised by good Government. Over the years we have held the hands of the people of Barbados.

From 2009 when the recession broke in Barbados and the private sector companies were sending home persons because of decreased earnings and revenue, another challenge which we faced, we said that we would try to keep persons employed so from 2009 to 2013, we did what we could in terms of maintaining the employment levels. As a result, the unemployment rate in Barbados did not reach the high figures of 30 per cent, 16 per cent, 21 and 22 per cent that some of Caribbean countries reached. Our unemployment rate never went pass 14 per cent because from 2009 we said that we would expand in terms of the unemployment benefits we moved it from six months to nine months, I believe and we encouraged persons to retrain so that when the economy picks back up they would be able to find employment and we continued that for as long as we could.

In 2013 when our foreign reserves were under threat, we recognised that we could not longer continue with the size of the Government sector that we had so that is when we made the tough decision that we had to cut the numbers within the Civil Services. It was a tough decision to make but oftentimes if you want to correct a problem, you have to make the tough decisions to correct that problem so that you could see the benefits of the corrected procedure down the line and now we are beginning to see the benefit of that corrective procedure now because if we go back to the financial details of the Estimates, all of the major indicators are heading in the right direction. Our expenditure has been reduced, our revenue is increasing, our deficit has moved from 11.8 per cent in 2013 to 6.8 per cent in 2014 and now to 4.2 per cent. The indicators are trending in the right direction. We are spending more money on capital projects, many of which were outlined by Senator Todd so I would not go over them now, which is what ought to be happening. More or less, expenditure on capital works is now taking up a larger percentage than it use to before so we were able to decrease the current expenditure to 90 per cent and increase the capital works expenditure somewhat so that we can have increase in the capital works which would be things that would help to develop the country and spur on economic growth. A number of those capital work projects which will be implemented in this year are gladly

financed by concessionary loans. (52) A number of those capital work projects which would be implemented this year are gladly financed by concessionary loans. A few years back you were hearing constantly about Moody's and Standard & Poor's and the threat that the Barbados Government would have in terms of being able to seek financing because they would have to pay very high interest rates, but we were very innovative and creative in being able to go out there and find alternative sources of financing. We joined the CAF which instead of paying interest rates of 8 and 9 per cent which people assumed that we would pay when we were downgraded by Moody's and Standard and Poor's, we are were paying interest rates of 2 and 3 per cent. We were able to negotiate loans from the Chinese Government, again at very concessionary interest rates of 2 and 3 per cent. We have loans from our development agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the European Union. We even have the USAID grant funding which is being utilised to build labs for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We have found very innovative ways in being able to finance a number of the capital work projects which are needed to grow the economy and to assist us in our economic development, so that is an area that this Government needs to be commended for.

We are working hard to ensure that we do what is right for the people of Barbados as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary of Independence and even beyond so that we would have a Barbados that we can continue to be proud of. Barbados is the beacon within the Caribbean. Many of our Caribbean neighbours suffered as a result of the financial crisis and many of them had to go to the International Monetary Fund for assistance, but up to this day Barbados has not done that. Any initiative that we have implemented have been homegrown initiatives. Just as we did back in the early 1990s with the structural adjustment programme we are so doing now. In the early 90s with the restructuring adjustment programme we saw the benefits of it in that in 1997/98 the Barbados economy was booming when all of that restructuring had taken place, so just imagine what would happen when all of these initiatives that we are implementing finally takes place, this economy and this country would be booming.

We had to make some tough decisions in terms of the University of the West Indies in terms of the tuition fees. We recently implemented a solution to that in terms of the tax on cell phones which will go towards financing the university education. It was implemented only in January of this year so when the Governor of the Central Bank gives his report in April or so, we would be able to see what revenue was raised in the first three months of that implementation, and that money would go toward financing tuition fees at the University of the West Indies.

We have made decisions which in most cases were unpopular but there were necessary so that we can protect what we have so that it would be available to future generations of Barbados, and that is what is important, that we do things in the interest of this country and to protect the future generations of Barbados so that 25 years from now when we are celebrating 75 years of independence we would still have something to celebrate, that those young people would be able to benefit from many of the things that we came along and have benefitted from.

Madam President, I would want to say that as a country we are doing well. As Government we are making the right decisions and we are doing things in the interest of the people of Barbados and when the times comes around we would be judged. Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life but by the obstacles which have been overcome while we are trying to succeed. We have overcome a number of obstacles and we have been very successful in doing them. As a Government we have nothing to be ashamed of and as a country in its 50th year of independence we have absolutely nothing to be ashamed of but everything to be proud of. I, therefore, encourage Barbadians to continue to celebrate the achievements of this country and to go out there and get involved in all of the activities as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary of Independence and the work that is being done within this country.

I thank you, Madam President.

#### SUSPENSION

Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McCLEAN: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

*The question that the Sitting do now suspend Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.*

## CONTENTS

## RESUMPTION

Prof. Sir. Henry H.S. Fraser, 1; Senator Dr. T. A. Carmichael, 4; Senator Alwin A. Adams, 8, 13, 14, 15; Senator Ms. V.G.A. DePEIZA, 15, 20; Senator V. DePIEZA, 20.

## RESUMPTION

His Honour Senator the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow, 21; Senator Carol Lady Haynes, 21, 29; Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. Durant, 30, 36; Senator P. M. T. Todd, 36, 42, 44; Senator Dr. J.X. Walcott, 44.

## RESUMPTION

Senator Sir Roy, 45, 49; Senator Sir Roy Trotman, 45, 51; Senator A. R. Worrell, 51, 57; Senator Dr. J.X. Walcott, 57.

## SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

**ADAMS, Senator Alwin A.**  
**BYER-SUCKOO, Senator the Hon. E.**  
**CARMICHAEL, Senator Dr. T. A.**  
**CRICHLLOW, His Honour Senator the Very Rev. H. E.**  
**DePEIZA, Senator Ms. V.G.A.**  
**DePIEZA, Senator V.**  
**DURANT, Senator Rev. Dr. D. L.**  
**FRASER, Prof. Sir. HENRY H.S.**  
**HAYNES, Senator Carol Lady**  
**McCLEAN, Senator Hon. Ms. M.P.O.**  
**ROY, Senator Sir**  
**TODD, Senator P. M. T.**  
**TROTMAN, Senator Sir Roy**  
**WALCOTT, Senator Dr. J.X.**  
**WORRELL, Senator A. R.**

**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. Masthead.** The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

**Q2. Masthead and date.** No sitting date was found in the text of the source; the date is taken from the file name. Please confirm.

**Q3. Appropriation Bill, speech of Senator Prof. Sir Henry Fraser.** After an aside, the interjection ‘Are they not, Senator Sir Roy?’ carries the label ‘Senator Dr. T. A. CARMICHAEL’, and the rest of Sir Henry’s speech (about 3,800 words, on the care of the elderly, built heritage and the Carnegie Library) runs on under that label until the President calls Senator Adams. Printed as in the source; the speaker label should be checked.

**Q4. Appropriation Bill, end of Senator A. A. Adams’s speech.** After Senator Adams’s last paragraph on Coleridge and Parry School, a paragraph beginning ‘Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Like my colleagues on this side ... I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill’ and the passage following it (on public-private partnerships and the BTPI budget) appear without a new label, so the opening of Senator Ms. V. G. A. DePeiza’s speech prints under Senator Adams. Printed as in the source.

**Q5. Appropriation Bill, Chair.** Senator Ms. DePeiza begins addressing ‘Mr. Deputy President’ and the Deputy President gives her a time warning, but no note records Madam President leaving the Chair; the note ‘Mr. Deputy President vacated the Chair and Madam President resumed the Chair’ comes only after Senator Carol Lady Haynes’s speech. Printed as in the source.

**Q6. Suspension for lunch.** The procedural note reads that ‘Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly’, although the motion was to suspend the Sitting until 2.30 p.m. Printed as in the source.

**Q7. Reporters’ marks.** Reporters’ sequence marks such as ‘(S7)’, ‘(S8)’, ‘(S12)’ and ‘(S39)’ (24 in all) appear inside speeches. Printed as in the source.

**Q8. Appropriation Bill, speech labels.** Labels vary: ‘Prof. Sir. HENRY H.S. FRASER’ (without ‘Senator’), ‘Senator Sir ROY’ and ‘Senator Sir Roy’ for Senator Sir Roy Trotman, ‘Senator V. DePIEZA’ for Senator Ms. V. G. A. DePeiza, and the Chair calls ‘Senator Carol Lady

Hayne’ for Senator Carol Lady Haynes. Printed as in the source.

**Q9. Appropriation Bill, speech of Senator Sir Roy Trotman.** The President’s warning reads ‘The Honourable Member should not be wrapping up at this time’, where ‘now’ appears to be meant. Printed as in the source.

**DEBATE SUMMARY**

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

The record of the Senate for Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016 opens with Madam President resuming the Sitting during the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2016-2017 and the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2016-2017. No papers or other business were taken.

Senator Prof. Sir Henry Fraser offered ‘bouquets’ for proposals made in the other Chamber, including fire extinguishers for 3 000 households and lay-bys for vendors. He said the Queen Elizabeth Hospital had been the first cut in every budgetary crisis since 1973 and needed an annual budget of close to \$200 million, against the \$185 million mentioned the day before, and suggested a health care contribution and tax incentives for private health care. He urged churches to open day care centres for the elderly on the model of St. Barnabas, and called for the restoration of historic Bridgetown and the saving of the Carnegie Library. Senator A. A. Adams spoke of the 50th Anniversary of Independence and the Broken Trident, nursery and primary education and the differences between boys and girls, a backyard garden project, and asked that Coleridge and Parry School have a sixth form.

Senator Ms. V. G. A. DePeiza said \$3 million was provided under Subhead 7005 for the maintenance of built heritage, denied that ambulances had been withdrawn from the St. Thomas outpost, recalled police stations housed in containers under the former administration, and spoke on sports, culture, the film industry and the Partnership for Peace programme. After the luncheon suspension, His Honour Senator the Very Rev. H. E. Crichlow in the Chair, Senator Carol Lady Haynes supported the Bill but voiced concern at the heavy debt burden, spoke of Zika, debushing and the regional task force at UWI, asked whether the Queen Elizabeth Hospital’s allocation under Head 23 had been cut from \$155 357 500, and welcomed the National Youth Policy.

With Madam President again in the Chair, Senator Rev. Dr. D. L. Durant supported the Estimates, speaking of the National Assistance Board and the care of the elderly, and asked that the churches help former prisoners and that

the Government consider pardoning well-behaved prisoners in the jubilee year. Senator P. M. T. Todd argued that a fiscal deficit was necessary in a developing country, reported that the Cabinet had joined the Sustainable and Emerging Cities Initiative for Greater Bridgetown and that the People's Republic of China was providing \$19 million in grant financing for the Gymnasium; Senator Dr. J. X. Walcott raised a point of order on what he had said about the Chinese. The Sitting was suspended until 6.00 p.m.

On resumption Senator Sir Roy Trotman described the country as a ship whose 'sail plan is honourable' but whose crew was mishandling the passengers, argued that

wage increases would flow back into the economy, read from the agreement requiring the Transport Board to use UCAL for bus maintenance, and spoke of problems at the Barbados Water Authority. Senator A. R. Worrell said the Government had overcome the recession, restructured the Barbados Tourism Authority into two entities and dealt with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's equipment and the collapse of CLICO; Senator Walcott rose on a point of order about the Maria Holder Trust.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Miss M. P. O. McClean, the Sitting was suspended until Wednesday, 23rd March, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., with the debate still in progress.