

**WEDNESDAY
1ST MARCH, 1989
10:10 A.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT:
and Natural Resources.

Prayers by the Honourable Member for Communications, Works

PRAYERS

HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:

Let us Pray.

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings of the House are resumed.

Continuing the Debate on the Throne Speech and the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town continuing.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH
AND SECOND READING ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989**

MR. ROY BODDEN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, when we adjourned yesterday afternoon I was addressing the issue of Education. I had reached a stage where I wanted to speak a little on the discipline and attitudes of the students, particularly at the High School level. I would preface my comments by stating that I note with some concern that we now have to have a system of wardens on the buses. I believe this is a development that we should monitor closely and carefully. While it may not be detrimental at this stage, the fact that the behavior of our students at this time warrants such a measure should lead us to believe that some of our standards and some of our mores are weakening.

I believe the cause of this is not borne by one faction or one group alone. Consequently, to redress it successfully will not necessitate the efforts of one group but will necessitate the efforts of parents, teachers, and the students themselves. I would respectfully like to suggest that (as far as discipline goes) I believe should get back to the point, if we are not there already, where we take a serious look at introducing Civics and Citizens' Responsibilities as a course in the school, whether it be at the formal stage or at the informal stage at the High School level. Let me make the distinction: When I say the formal stage, I refer to a subject for examination, an informal stage is where it would be an inculcation of the values of good citizenship and respect.

In this regard I would suggest if it is not currently being done in the school system, particularly at the Middle and High School levels, we ought to see about developing things like Debating Clubs, Parliamentary Clubs, and these kinds of what I call constructive extracurricular activities that might have some significant bearing on the attitudes and the discipline of students so that they are taught respect for one another, respect for the institutions in our society, and respect for people from outside our society.

When I was in Canada I taught at a school which I still consider a model High School. We had all of these extracurricular activities. When the normal school hours were over at 3:00, the students could not go home. The buses had to wait because we had extracurricular activities from Monday to Thursday. It was mandatory, particularly for the students in the upper years, grades 10, 11, 12 and 13 were to be in these organisations. The choice of the organisation was entirely voluntary, but they had to be

members of at least two organisations and they were chosen according to their interests.

In addition to that, we had a time set aside in the mornings where all of the students were taught some semblance of civics - government and political development in Canadian society, where we discussed the flag and its significance, the Country's motto, the National Anthem. In addition to preparing them for jobs, we were also preparing them to be good productive and respectful Canadian citizens. I would say the programme was very successful, indeed.

I would like to say also, on the matter of attitudes, that I lament the fact that attitudes in Cayman are changing, and I believe these attitudes are changing from the infant level. It bothers me when I read that we are no longer the honest people of integrity that we were. It bothers me when I read about people who betray the trust and responsibility placed on them by their employers; when they misappropriate funds or they embezzle. I believe we must inculcate this kind of discipline and attitude in school where we drill - because sometimes it will have to be done through drill and repetition - that honesty is a good policy and we must not betray the trust people put on us. To lose face by being dishonest is a grave and serious crime. It is a loss of pride and a loss of self-esteem to have to be dragged before the Courts because we embezzled, or we misappropriated the funds we were handling or were entrusted to handle for other people. I believe that the school, and particularly the High School, is the place to reinforce and inculcate these kinds of values and attitudes in society.

High school is the place to emphasise family life education and the values of being careful and protecting our bodies and developing a respect for one another. In this regard, I would respectfully like to submit that we think about implementing (if it is not already being done) some kind of formal family life education. I do not like to say sex education because a lot of people misconstrue that, but I am a progressive, and a pragmatist, and I believe that adolescents especially have to be attuned, and have to understand the natural instincts and urgings of a normal body. We can prevent a lot of unwanted teenage pregnancies if we educate people.

Here again, I have to draw reference to the school I was at, Crestwood High School. We had set aside a little office where all of this information was contained in pamphlets. The youngsters had access to special education and special consultation because we had a nurse and we often had a school psychologist visit, and we had a doctor. That was their area and their domain. It was entirely confidential, out of bounds to the teachers. During my tenure at that school, as I recall we had only one case of an unwanted pregnancy where a young lady's education was interrupted by her having to drop out of school. It was a school of 3,000 students. I was there for a period of two years. I think that is an excellent record. We should pay some attention to that.

It does not mean that we are encouraging any loosening of our moral values, it does not mean that we are encouraging promiscuity. Rather, it means that we are helping our young people to understand themselves, their bodies, respect each other and to be prepared. Certain diseases we have, including the dreaded one we spent some time discussing in this Honourable House some days last week, are behavioural diseases. Since there is no known cure, the remedy to slow this down lies in education. This is one area I believe that family life education has a role to play.

Our education system can be improved by the establishment of a school inspectorate, and for this I have as a model Her Majesty's Inspectorate in the United Kingdom. Currently we have a system of curriculum advisors. We need to take that a step further. When I say school inspectorate, I do not necessarily mean that the school inspectors are going to be looking for weak teachers and are going to inflict punitive punishment or damages or that they are going to run anyone out of the teaching profession. Rather they are going to ensure that our curriculum is followed, that our exam syllabus is properly gone through and those teachers who may be borderline get all the help necessary to develop their skills and themselves into self-assured, relevant and strong teachers. The time has come for us in the education business in Cayman to take a serious look at the establishment of a school inspectorate system. It can only improve our process.

We were talking about the necessity and importance of having more Caymanian teachers in the profession. I am very interested in this from the point of view that I was for the most part of my working career a school teacher. I have sympathy with teachers. They have a very important role to play in our society. Quite logically I started at the beginning to analyse this problem. I had a look at the salary scale. I found a very interesting discrepancy, which I am going to share with this Honourable House.

In the Government system at the beginning level for someone who has a B.A. degree, or a B.S.C. degree, entering the regular Civil Service, and for a teacher with the same B.A. or B.Sc degree who, in addition, has a teaching certification, the difference in salary is about \$4,000 in favour of the person entering the regular Civil Service with just a plain degree and no teaching certification. We need to rectify this. We need to remove this anomaly before we can talk about attracting more teachers. This is something we should give some serious thought to.

I would also like to say that, globally, communities are moving away from respecting teachers like they used to. It is a globally recognised phenomenon that teachers are not as influential and as respected as they should be. In this regard we in Cayman can maybe start here with the Members of this Honourable House and seek to find and develop some ways to let our teachers know we are conscious of the job they are performing and that we appreciate the task they are doing.

I would implore parents who are listening to our broadcasts to realise that teachers are playing an important part and to help them as much as they can, because for five hours of the day from Monday to Friday teachers are entrusted to mold the future of this country, to mold offspring, the siblings of these parents. They can only do a successful job if they have the cooperation of parents and guardians. They cannot do it by themselves. When they give homework, if parents are not interested in seeing that it is done, then the teachers have a doubly difficult task. So I would appeal to them, and I would implore them to be

interested, to help the teacher, to encourage their children to respect them.

This Honourable House should pay more attention to the efforts exerted by teachers, many of whom have been teaching for years on end without any form of societal recognition. I appreciate the fact that we pay them, but I lay the argument that a good teacher can never be properly paid in dollars and cents. It is like a good doctor, a good lawyer, a civil servant, or any other good worker. You can never accurately equate the salary in dollars and cents. I am suggesting that sometimes the teaching profession is a good example of this. Sometimes the people will feel better if we honour them publicly in the community and nationally. I believe we should pay more attention to these kinds of things. It would do them good. It would be a good source of moral support.

For education to be successful in a community of this size, indeed in any community, it would be nigh impossible for the Government alone to provide the resources - physical and otherwise. I say that because there are private institutions that are doing a good job, and I would like to take a little time out to give credit to these institutions. At the risk of omitting any I will not call any names at this stage, but there is an institution that has been established in this country for nigh on to 20 years. It has been playing a role here. It is small, not ostentatious, and sometimes its efforts are overlooked. I believe that it is accurate to remark that the graduates of that institution are employed in all sectors of our community, in the private sector as well as the public sector. I am speaking about the International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI), a very modest institution. Some people will sneer. Let me tell you that I have never been one to be an educational snob, I believe this institution is important because it offers a service and an avenue that Caymanian people would not have otherwise been able to take advantage of.

Education, particularly education at the higher level, is very expensive. For a country like Cayman it is very inconvenient, especially for those people with established families, to have to leave their families and go overseas and have to subject themselves to living at a reduced income. The International College of the Cayman Islands plays a positive and constructive role in our society. I invite the Government and the Members of this Honourable House to take a closer look to see if there is any way we can assist it in helping to make its contribution to our society more positive. I believe it is something, if we are serious about educational developments in this country, that we should give some thought to. I invite the Government to take that up.

A line to education has to be culture and the recreational aspect of development. I noticed with interest that in our budget these aspects and avenues are well covered. I would like to take some time to talk about the notion of recreation and particular organised sports.

I am somewhat prejudiced - and I have to admit that, because I am a member of the Football Playing Fraternity. In addition to that I have a club of which I was the founder and which I currently manage. Let me suggest, my prejudices aside, that the Football Association is doing a tremendous job in this Country. I believe there are 500 youngsters between the ages of 16 and over currently playing in the league. There are about 16 organised teams. This is no mean feat. The people who administer the organisation (it is entirely a voluntary association) are not paid. They give up their time, they sometimes subject themselves to a tremendous amount of humiliation. They need some help. The Association cannot be run by the funds received by the gate receipts alone. I believe the time has come for the Government to seriously look at providing some kind of steady subsidy, and in order to qualify for that I believe the Association should be required to give some accounting of the money and to present every year an annual budget.

I am concerned about this because I know enough about the football organisation to know that many of the youngsters - I would venture to say all of them, who seriously participate - are drug free. I see the area of organised sports, particularly the Football Association, as an area which can be tapped into to help us combat the scourge of drugs. It would also help us inculcate discipline, sportsmanship and respect for one another.

I would like to make the case for the Football Association and also for other organised sports. I know most about the Football Association. I think that they need help. I think their association warrants some serious looking after. They currently have a technical director, and if you would go down to the Annex field you would find them there at 4:00 A.M. training under the lights, inculcating discipline and sportsmanship in these youngsters. I know that every day, from Monday to Saturday, different age groups, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 19 year olds... I think they are doing a tremendous job.

I do not want to be presumptuous, but I am sure it would make them feel good to know that we legislators are aware of what they are doing. Frequently I go to the football field to watch the games. The officials who come to officiate are often voluntary. We have a lot to be grateful for. We should give these people all the moral support we can give them. I believe they deserve it.

I would like to speak a little now on the notion of culture. I am saddened to know that what started out as a brilliant venture, namely, our Cultural Foundation and our National Theatre Company, has seen fit to fall into the doldrums. You know, quite often we get taken up with personal rivalries, little personal vendettas, and games of one-upmanship. We have examples of that right here in our hallowed Halls, but not enough of us see the detriment and downfall in getting carried away like this. Right now our cultural development is suffering just because of these little petty rivalries, one-upmanship games and vendettas that we may have against each other. I hope that we can get that straightened out.

I am disappointed because I believed that we were on our way and, indeed, the efforts of a young Caymanian playwright were of such a nature that I had reason to believe that in a couple of years, if development and production had continued, we would have had some recognition in the Caribbean for cultural development. I am talking about the efforts of Dr. Frank McField. I hope that we can find some way of mending the fences, of bringing this young man who demonstrated so much ingenuity and so much skill back into the mainstream of getting the Cultural Foundation back on track, of getting our National Theatre back

on the footing it should be.

I believe the problem was division that might have stemmed from what I call cultural imperialism. We could not quite arrive at how we should divide, we could not quite arrive at whether we should go West Indian or whether we should go United Kingdom, whether it should be headed by a West Indian or a foreign national. My position is that, while I am open minded, if it is a Caymanian theatre then we should have for the most part Caymanian personalities and we should perform Caymanian plays. We are in the West Indies and I can appreciate some diversity. I hope we can get that straightened out. Perhaps it is a challenge for those of us interested in the culture.

This is a nation that does not have much to offer. We do not have rich cultural traditions like Jamaica, we do not have rich cultural traditions like Barbados and Trinidad; but that is an aspect of life which is very important because we cannot work all the time without having some outlet for recreation. I am reminded of the old adage which says: "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men." This is an important area of our national life and development which is lacking. We should move to get this developed.

This leads me to mention our library. For a nation as rich as we are, our library facilities are sadly lacking. It is a joke. We have a good building, but the material in that building is a little outdated. I would like to see if we could develop a library where those of us who are of an intellectual bent, or who just like to read for the purpose of recreation, could go and spend a Saturday morning browsing respected international journals, documents and books; where, if we had the space to bury ourselves for an hour or two in a little cubicle, we could carry on research unmolested and undisturbed. I believe if we are to grow and develop we need to think seriously about developing such a facility. It need not be a multi-million dollar complex, the building does not make the library; what makes the library are the types of books we have in it, staff who are interested, who know what is going on and who are sensitive to the public's needs and requests. I would hope that in all of our wealth we could be able to develop that.

I note with some satisfaction that our Museum is under way to being developed. I think this is a positive thing. I wish it success. I would urge the support of not only the Members of this Honourable House, but of the public to bring artifacts, to help in whatever way they can. Above all, when the Museum is established, visit and let the staff know you are interested. All these things together make up a positive, well-rounded, well developed nation.

I would like to pass now to the area of Health and Social Services. My initial remark would be that we are making strides in this direction, but there is much left to be done. I would like to posit that health care is becoming increasingly expensive. It may be time for us to think about some form of Medical Insurance for our citizenship, a form of insurance that would not allow anyone to be precluded from needed medical attention because they were not able to pull cash from their pockets. I would suggest a system such as Blue Cross, a system like they have in Canada, a Health Insurance Plan where the subscribers each month make the remittance and that remittance goes towards any bill they may incur. If they do not have any medical expenses, it goes into a pool and from that pool comes the money to pay the bills incurred by other people. Such a system would be sensible. It would not be onerous because people contribute as per their means or salaries, the number of people in their families and their dependents. It is a system that works well. We would have to be careful that it was not exploited.

In Ontario (where I lived) the system was only good in that province. If it was outside of that province, it was only good if it had permission of the health authorities, meaning, if you were a resident and you came to the Cayman Islands and you were to get emergency medical attention, in order for that expense to be placed on your card it had to be vetted by someone in authority in the Ministry of Health. That was so people could not go abroad for all kinds of cosmetic surgery and pad the bills and rip the system off.

If we take those kinds of safeguards it would be a sensible system and it would not matter whether the Hospital here was private or Government. They would not have problems collecting outstanding monies because when a patient presented his card that bill would go to a central pool where the Health Insurance office was and the money would be remitted to the hospital each month. No one would have to be taken to court because of delinquency in their bills. We have to gear ourselves to the fact that as we are exposed to more foreign influences, so too will we be exposed to more kinds of maladies, ailments, and diseases that we never had when we were just a small community almost self contained. In that respect I welcome the efforts of the Honourable Member for Health in his campaign to educate people to the seriousness and the dangers of the disease AIDS. I think that we should not only stop at AIDS, but we should take this into other social diseases so that we can try to inculcate in our citizens that these kinds of things are purely behavioural.

Education, especially an education that leads us to change, to be more strict in our morals and more strict in our associations, can only be of benefit - an education which would allow us not to be prejudiced or to discriminate against people who are so unfortunate as to have contracted these maladies and ailments. That is important, too. We have to be very careful because I am sure that no one, of his or her own volition, would allow themselves to contract a disease as dangerous and as serious as some of these diseases. When we have people in our community who are in that unfortunate position, we should not be discriminatory, or we should not ostracise them. We should seek to understand and to be as sympathetic and helpful as we possibly can, while at the same time educating the others to the dangers and consequences of a loose life-style, without sermonising or moralising.

Social Services in a community like this, which is vibrant and growing, is challenging. It is sometimes frustrating and taxing, especially in a department where we do not have many of our own people. It is difficult for someone to come from the outside and to easily understand the Caymanian way of life and the Caymanian's mores. I appreciate that it is difficult for us to recruit social workers and

social service officers from overseas and to tell them, "I want you to go into this area and try to solve this problem." It is a challenge that can only be met by cohesiveness and a sensible organisation of the Social Services section. It is a challenge that can only be met by empathy and by understanding the members of the community at large; it is a challenge that can only be met by cooperation, respect, consultation and communication between the member, the staff of that department and the public. That is no small challenge. I feel good to know that the Department is headed by an energetic, educated and capable young man and I am sure, when all is said and done and the accounts are rendered, that the Member responsible for that Portfolio will do a good job as I hear reports that he is doing so from the inception.

I welcome the efforts of the Government to implement a sensible and an affordable housing scheme. In this regard I have to commend the Member responsible for that area in bringing to this Honourable House a proposal to float a debenture. I wish that venture well, and I would implore Caymanians, when it goes public, to support it. I think that it is a worthy cause. I think that Housing is an area of concern which many Caymanians, especially young Caymanians, feel discouraged and frustrated about.

As we look around we see good houses, expensive houses, we see houses that are well landscaped. Many of them are not occupied by indigenous Caymanian peoples but, rather, by people who have come from outside who have made it well. We do not begrudge them; what we would like to see is the opportunity and the affordability of us, the common middle class people, the plebeians among us, to be able to afford the type of houses we would feel comfortable in. That does not mean it has to be a palatial mansion costing a half million, or one million dollars, it could be something from thirty or forty thousand dollars.

I would not want to see any of that kind of eyesore called a housing scheme, where people can pass and say that is where all the poor people live, where all the houses are uniform with all the tops the same colour and all the verandahs the same size and exactly the same angle. I would not want that. I would rather see the tradition (the good old Caymanian tradition) continued where individuals can secure a little plot of land and put up the kind of house in the style they like, which is pleasing in architecture and to the ambience of this Island. I think that would be good. If the Government can accomplish that feat, I believe that when the day of reckoning comes Government will go down in history as a popular Government, indeed. For those Members seeking re-election, I would venture to say they would have an easy task because that is the situation many Caymanians are looking forward to.

I want to speak a little about Agriculture. I want to pay credit to the efforts of the Agriculture and Industrial Development Bank (AIDB) because I think they have begun to do a good job. It is becoming widely disseminated. People who are interested in farming and the agri-industry have a source of funds and a source of expertise which is available and which can only have positive developments.

I would suggest that the machinery could be further improved, perhaps the people responsible could take note of this. I do not know if this is a practical request, I have an observation in regards to the agricultural loans. It is recognised that the money should ideally be a little softer in terms and conditions than the purely industrial, the reason being that agriculture is one of those vocations where a lot has to be left to the elements. If the weather is not good, if there is a drought or a hurricane, all the farmer's efforts could be wasted. If that person borrowed money he might not be able to meet his repayments because his crop did not yield as much as anticipated. I wonder if there is any sense or any feasibility in varying the terms so that on a purely agricultural loan, the term could be a little softer, a little lower interest rate, a little longer moratorium as distinct from the purely industrial loan where somebody may borrow money to establish a restaurant or go into the heavy equipment business where they can make in one week more than a farmer can make in a month. Maybe we should give some thought to that and if it can be achieved. I believe it would be good.

I would suggest that the Agriculture and Industry Development Bank (AIDB), to improve its effectiveness, should monitor the situations and monitor its clients, customers and patrons, so we can be on top of situations before the arrears are to such an extent and such a level that it presents a problem and embarrassment. I do not know how feasible it is to have case officers. Maybe we would need to have one officer look after two or three cases so that he will be able to know; 'Well, I better go and run a little check on Roy Bodden, because I have not heard from him in a couple of months.' I believe if we could have machinery set up, if we could include that in the administration, it would be good for all of those involved. Improve the communication lines, be a little more open and available with the consultation process and do not just leave the customer once she or he has the loan. Do not just leave them to fend for themselves. Periodically come around and ask: 'Are you doing all right? Is there any area that you think that you could be strengthened in.' This would greatly enhance the effectiveness and production of the farmers and the people who utilise the services and the funds of the AIDB.

The Farmers Market is now in place and doing well. I welcome that. I was always of the opinion a farmer's business is farming, and any farmer who has to plant the crop, tend it, reap it and then sell it... it is not a good business to be in. A farmer should be able to just plant the crop, take care of it, reap it and take it to an outlet where, when he produces it, he gets his money so he can keep his commitments and he can plough back the profits and investment into his original venture. In that regard, the Farmers Market is timely, and I wish it all of the success in the world because I think it is deserving.

My colleague, the Second Elected Member from Bodden Town, will no doubt have more to say on this. I believe that the business of farming and agri-industry is important in this country, if for no other reason than the fact that we lose a lot of money on foreign exchange buying things that could otherwise, and could normally and quite easily, be produced here. It goes further than that. We, as consumers, have to shed the image that unless it is made in the United States, unless it is imported, it is not any good. A lot of the fruits that are grown here have the advantage of being fresh, of us knowing how they are grown, actually being able to see them grow if we are interested. That is one reason why we should patronise and encourage our farmers. Then again, if the money stays here and it circulates in our little area, all the better for us,

all the easier for us. So we should pay attention to this and we should be encouraging our farmers and be supportive and give them all the help they may need and desire.

As regards Communications, Roads, Postal Services, and the like, I would like to say that we are doing well, but the strains of development are now beginning to show. In some places we are bursting at the seams. There is some great inconvenience suffered, particularly along the West Bay Road, because of the recent work on the sewerage and water supply schemes.

It will take, as we realise, no small amount of money to get an effective and sensible road system in this country. Quite frankly, at the rate at which we are growing and increasing in terms of the number of automobiles, it will not be something that will be easily achieved. I do not think it will be an insurmountable task, I believe we can do it, and I hope we can do so without being onerous on the people that have to use the roads, be they cyclists, automobile or other drivers.

There is something that we need to pay attention to along the West Bay Road, something that I am very concerned about. I believe that on certain sections of that road, there should be a strict no parking area. At least, no parking overnight. We have one lane down and one lane up when we use that road. Some vehicles such as buses and trucks have to pass comfortably and safely, they cannot easily navigate the areas where construction is going on and other vehicles are parked along the side of the road.

There is one particular area that I am very concerned about that is the area where the old Royal Palms Hotel used to be. I notice that there is a derelict vehicle that has been parked there for weeks, license number 18967. I notice that one of the doors is even off that old vehicle. It is an eyesore and I intend to make a formal complaint and request the police to tow that vehicle away at the owner's expense. I believe it is a matter for our Communications and Works Department, or the Police Department to seriously look into. I do not believe there should be any overnight parking in these areas and perhaps it should be limited, especially with the growing number of pedestrian traffic along that route. I am going to suggest that in these areas, where the Police or the Government have to tow the vehicles away, that they are towed away at the owner's expense and impounded at the owner's expense because it is high time that we be sensible and responsible about the transportation system in this country, particularly along the stretch of the Seven Mile Beach.

I believe there was some talk of our Post Office being a little small. On days when we have three or four cruise ships in the harbour if you go to the booth to buy stamps there is great congestion. I would say that if you only have 15 minutes, depending on what time you go, you cannot very well accomplish the feat. I wonder if it is feasible for us to set up some stamp vending machines. I know in order for that to operate profitably you have to sell a stamp which is normally priced at 25 cents for 50 cents. I have not gone into the economic ramifications of it, but maybe people would not mind paying 50 cents for a 25 cent stamp knowing that if they are in a hurry they could just put the money in a slot, pull a lever, get their stamp and be gone.

Coupled with that, we could have drop boxes, so once the envelop is stamped you just go to the nearest drop box and drop in your letter and the postman would come an hour or two hours, whatever his time was to collect the mail, take it to the Central Post Office and it would be processed. That would alleviate many people, particularly tourists, who would prefer to spend their time sight-seeing or shopping rather than crowding and congesting the Post Office during peak hours. This would allow the rest of us who operate businesses and offices and are on strict time schedules to accomplish our business at the Post Office conveniently and in a reasonable time. I do not know if it can be feasibly done. I merely threw it out to say it may be something which the Government finds worth investigating.

I am going to try to wind up this rambling *tour de chant* and make some kind of sense of all that I have said, but not before I make a few pertinent comments on the Budget as a whole. I believe we have reason to be proud and I said at the beginning we should also be concerned. We have a Budget now of \$103,000,000 and the recurrent expenditure is \$75.3 million or 11.7 per cent over the revised 1988 figure. We are entering an area where we have to be vigilant. The vigilance has to come from all of us, including those Members who are on this side of the House. I hasten to remark that with vigilance must go responsibility. We must clearly, respectfully, and with dignity convey our concerns. We must not wait until something happens to say, "I told you so", and then go and try to break down the walls and make each other look bad. The eyes of the Cayman Islands are watching this House; the ears of the Cayman Islands are listening to us legislators. We have to be constructive.

We have a good Financial Secretary, but the Financial Secretary is only as good as his supporters, only as good as the people (the team) he has. While we are not sitting in his office at the Government Administration Building with him, we are sitting in this Honourable House with him and when he brings suggestions or we give him suggestions we, as legislators, should ensure that we work together in the best interest of country and constituents. He, with all his brilliance, cannot do it alone. He cannot do it without our help. I say that because we should set him up, or not make his task any more difficult than it is. Those of us who sit on this side of the House should especially take note of that. When we have a contribution to make, we should try to do so in a constructive, respectful, and polite way and not take things out of bounds and make a political football out of issues which could have been dealt with better, sensibly and civilly. That, too, is a challenge.

We are growing up. We are growing economically, culturally and, I suppose, we have to grow constitutionally and politically as well. When people speak about political organisation it is always very difficult, and Roy Bodden especially realises that because I have suffered much in this regard. The saying goes: "A man who suffers much, knows much; everyday brings him new wisdom."

Our relationship with the Mother Country is a sensible one. It is one where, if any changes that come, I would have to be satisfied that they are slow, well thought out and based on the wishes of our constituents. That does not mean to say that some improvements cannot be made. That is why I like the American system of Government, because they amend their Constitution as and when they see fit, if they are convinced that an amendment will make the system work smoother and better.

I remark again, I would not like to see the Cayman Islands go into full internal self-government and independence because any independence you talk about which is purely political is not worth a dime. I have said that we are surrounded by politically independent countries and what have they got? A national flag, a national holiday, with a frustrated populace. Who cares about that? I believe that we are sensible when we seek economic independence, because when we go to the United States and we hit the point of entry they do not say, "What flag are you flying? When is your independence day?" They ask, "How long would you like to stay here?" And when you tell them, they say, "How much money have you got?" I believe that Caymanians should remember that. You can have the prettiest flag in the world, you can be as 'independent' as independent can be, but if you have a starving, illiterate, and disgruntled populace, it is nothing - all you have are problems.

I am saying it as a caution to myself too, you know, but also to the other legislators because we are in the hallowed Halls here. You see it is easy to get inebriated, it is easy to get carried away and to beat one's chest and to say I want to take you somewhere else. It is like what my mother told me when I told her I was getting married. She said, "It is a one-way street; you can go, but you cannot come back". We have to remember, you can go but you cannot come back.

I believe that there may be room for some improvement, there may be room for some amendments, there may be room for changes; but they have to be sensible and they have to be taken with the permission of the populace. We have a system that is working well, except for some little bumps and bends that need to be ironed out, but that is not impossible. We can continue to operate if we modify our relationship. We have to remain. I am a believer in the Commonwealth, in all its nuances and all it stands for. We have to always remember that to do otherwise, to cast off on our own, we will be but a pawn in a sea of giants; we would not last long. We can make some modifications and perhaps, if we are sensible and in agreement, they will naturally evolve and we can further smooth the process, constitutionally and politically. These things will flow out of a natural evolution of the ideas of this Honourable House and of the workings of Government. Then, we have to see how best we can fit them in the system so that we maintain our order, our sense of dignity and respect for one another, and, above all, our sense of national direction. I believe, that there is enough said on the matter of political and constitutional maturation.

In winding up, I would like to say that the Cayman Islands, like many other countries in the developing world, are affected by what Adlai Stevenson said when he was the United States Ambassador to the United Nations and he spoke about the revolution of rising expectations - we are very much affected by such a revolution.

I would like to read an excerpt from a document of which I am the author. It is entitled, 'Politics Society and British Colonialism in the Cayman Islands from 1950 to 1980'. I stated that: "Caymanians are becoming increasingly preoccupied by the revolution of rising expectations. Satellite television, two-car families and shopping junkets to Miami have become attractions at the expense of education, family life, and the economy." I went on to remark that we have to be careful when we get taken up by these false attractions and false measures of success and progress. I am not saying or suggesting that I do not want Caymanians to be able to buy two cars or buy a satellite television or go on a shopping junket to Miami. Rather, I am saying that we should get our priorities right. These things are merely material. I believe in order for us to do this we have to do other things. We have to be introspective, we have to take a careful look at ourselves. We have to take a careful look at where we are going.

I would like to end by touching on a sensitive subject, one that is a challenge for the Honourable Members of this House; one that is a challenge for this Government; one that is a challenge to the Managers in the private and public sector. That has to do with meeting the expectations of Caymanians as far as opportunities, promotion and, as far as certain facilities go, if I were asked to put it in one word it would be "Caymanianisation". I believe that the public sector has to set the tone here. The Government has to be the leader, the Government has to be the model.

During my tenure in this Honourable House (this my first sitting) the answers to some of the supplementary questions received from Members of the Government do not leave me as encouraged as I should be in this regard, because I have seen Departments where the process of Caymanianisation should have been greater. There should have been a larger number of Caymanians, where the ratio of Caymanians to foreign nationals should have been greater, particularly in some areas where I understand Caymanians have the necessary expertise and qualifications.

The Government has to set the tone, because if the private sector sees that the Government is sluggish in this regard they will think that it is not important and they will drag their feet. So, in the Computer Services Department, and in the Police Force, the record is not bad, it, too, can be improved. In the Courts office, these are Departments and areas where I would be happy to see the process of Caymanianisation - Caymanian people who have the qualifications and the experience moved up. I would like to see them get the opportunities and the promotions that they deserve and the respect and recognition that I think that they should have. I will be watching to see the developments, to see if there are any improvements. While I can say that I will not be obnoxious or outrageous, if I have occasion to bring it to the attention of this House I will voice and express my disappointment very ably as I know I can. That is very important.

We have a tremendous challenge. I give the Throne Speech and the Budget Debate an 'A'. Like a good academic, I have outlined certain areas I think we should be concerned about, areas that we should pay attention to, areas where we have to work together to achieve better results in. I underscore that when we get to the stage where we make quantum leaps, we have to ensure that we get maximum value for the dollar spent. We are living in a good country, we are living in a good society; we are the envy of the Caribbean, if not the world. Let us, as legislators and citizens, work together to keep it that way to meet the challenges that we have to meet. Let us complement each other, let us exaggerate similarities, rather than

exaggerate our differences.

Thank you, very kindly.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 11:12 A.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:42 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are resumed.
Continuation on the Debate. Does any Member wish to speak?

The Third Elected Member for West Bay.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR.:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to congratulate you on your Throne Speech and, through you, also offer my congratulations on a job well done to the Honourable Financial Secretary for his comprehensive and detailed Budget Address and Budget of Government's Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1989. I intend to offer my comments to the addresses in the order in which they were delivered.

Therefore, I would first like to offer my comments on the Throne Speech delivered, by yourself in the capacity of the Queen's Representative here in the Cayman Islands. I was pleased to see that it is considered, or planned, that a review of the General Election process will be undertaken, and that this process will also include the arrangement for postal voting. I think that it is necessary to ensure the continued confidence of the people of these Islands in the Electoral process. We need to expedite the whole electoral process. This should include consideration of the permanent establishment of a Supervisor of Elections Office.

Tourism: I am concerned about the visible slow-down in tourism, which is one of the two main pillars of our economy, the other being banking. We have read about many of the possible causes of this. I think one of the main culprits of this slow-down was Hurricane Gilbert. I personally feel that not enough effort was made to advise the rest of the world that the rumours spread on T.V. and radio during this period of time were not true, and that we were still in business, unlike some of the other tourist destinations such as Jamaica and Mexico.

I feel that this loss or this slow-down was the result, possibly, of the Royal Palms Hotel and the closing of the Cayman Islander Hotel which are basically the only two moderately-priced hotels on the Island. I am also concerned that this slow-down could have been affected by the high price, or cost, of accommodation, food, etcetera, to tourists wanting to visit these Islands. It is my belief that the cost or fees that are being charged are not justified by the level of services available. In order to correct this trend in our economy the Member for Tourism, the Tourism Department, and the others involved in the industry should make every effort to see that the costs here are reduced.

I also feel, because of the limited resources that are available, that strong, joint-marketing efforts must be undertaken between Government and those in the private sector involved in this section of our economy. The solution, I feel, is that this sector of our economy must be managed rather than expected to grow despite proper efforts and policies. I think that for a long time, we have relied on our reputation, our beaches, our sun and the other natural attractions of the Cayman Islands. I think what we should always keep in mind is that there are other destinations that are also in the business. They are making every effort to attract those tourists that would naturally come to the Cayman Islands to their destinations. So I think that we must be conscious of this and every effort must be made to ensure that we keep our percentage of this market.

I was also pleased to hear that we now have qualified Caymanians filling the positions of Chief Environmental Officer, Director of Lands and Survey, Hospital Administrator and Superintendent of Insurance. I would like to offer my congratulations to these young Caymanians on their accomplishments. The training and promotions of Caymanians was one of the key issues that I campaigned on, during the recent political campaign. It makes me happy when I see my Caymanian people moving forward.

Civil Service: I notice with some concern that once the new services proposed in the Budget for 1989 are implemented, the Civil Service will exceed 1800 persons. I also noted that there are still 310 posts in the service that are filled by persons from overseas, broken down as follows: 70 in education; 80 in personal health services; 40 in the prison service; and 20 in computer services. These figures reflect those areas where I feel we should be emphasising training, promotion and the attraction of Caymanians.

I also noted, from the figures put forward in the Budget, that we are proposing a \$1.3 million increase in salaries for Civil Servants, which I believe amounts to about 4 per cent. I want to say that I support this and the only thing that I am not happy about is that this increase should have been much larger.

I also noted from the Budget that there is \$700,000 in the Budget for gratuity for Contracted Officers. There is also \$2.2 million for Housing of expatriate members of staff. The cost of doing business here in the Cayman Islands, as far as the Government is concerned (and this also includes the Private Sector), is very high indeed. This is because of the expertise that is required from the outside and anything that we have that is worthwhile is going to cost us something. I think it emphasizes what I have been saying all along. It is now time for us to implement proper policies and measures to ensure that our people are trained so that they will be in the position to take up some of these posts that are now being, or are required to be, occupied by people from the outside.

The subject of crime. I also noted, with continued concern, that crime continues to increase. I was encouraged to see that the number of drug cases dropped by 18 per cent. The fight against crime, I feel, must be intensified and if we are ever to be successful in this area, we must all join efforts. By that I mean that the community, the police, the courts, and the prison.

I noted with some interest that the United States is thinking about installing a Radar Surveillance System here in the Cayman Islands. That would assist us with drug trafficking. I want to say that this measure would be a good one, but in order for us not to create any national waves, I think you must insist that we manage or man this particular system. The thing that you must always keep in mind is that from here to Miami, we cross over Cuba. We have never had any problems in this area and the reason for that is that we have maintained a very neutral position. I think that is essential for the continued safety and relationship that we have now in this area.

Cayman Airways: Cayman Airways continues to provide an excellent service to the residents and visitors of our Islands. I did note that charters have been reduced to basically Philadelphia and Baltimore. I do not see any problem with this if the reason for the decrease was because we were not making money in this area. I am a firm believer that the services should carry themselves. If that was the reason for the reduction, I have no problem with it.

What concerns me is that the Company is now looking at the possibility of replacing its planes. The two 727s that we now have initially cost us \$24 million. To replace them now on the open market, I would estimate the cost at a minimum of \$30 million per plane. Taking into consideration that Cayman Airways presently loses over \$1 million a year and requires a Government Subsidy of approximately \$1.5 Million on an annual basis. My question is, who will pay for these planes? The other question I have is, where is the new business to come from to support this operation?

I feel that efforts should be intensified to improve the present service, starting with a recruitment of more Caymanian Flight Attendants. I personally believe, and I am quite sure that my feelings are also voiced by many other Caymanians, that Cayman Airways' main attraction, and the reason why they have been able to hold their own against Eastern and Northwest in the Cayman Islands, is because of the attractiveness of their own personnel on those flights. Caymanians are special and they go out of their way to make visitors, as well as residents that are travelling on those aircraft, very comfortable and welcome.

I want to say that I am proud of the quality and number of Caymanian pilots which we have. In my opinion they are second to none and I think this only reinforces my argument that, given a chance, Caymanians can hold their own against any nationality.

I was disappointed to see for the first time, in a long time, that we could not find a Caymanian to serve as Chairman of Cayman Airways.

I also noted in our Budget for 1989 there is a subsidy of \$1,050,000 to CAL. On wrapping up on this subject, I would like to say that I fully support the idea of us having our own National airline and I think that we, as a people and a government, must recognise the fact that we might have to continue to subsidise the service; but I do not think that we have any alternatives. I have heard people say that we should sell it and get out of the business and leave the other airlines to pick up the slack. I disagree with this argument, and I have seen it happen. For example, in the Turks and Cacios Islands, where Cayman Airways was providing a service for awhile, the service was not profitable. A management decision was taken that the service should be discontinued and they were left without air service. With us depending so much on tourism, I think that we should look at any subsidy that we pay to Cayman Airways as an investment in this very important sector of our economy.

Misuse of drugs. I am pleased to see that there are plans to expand the drug and alcohol programme, in the fight against drug and alcohol abuse, by acquiring half-way houses in West Bay and Bodden Town. I personally feel the problem of drug abuse in this country is a very serious one and one that we should give a very high priority as far as combatting it.

I am still convinced that an investment in a rehab center would be money well spent. I can appreciate the argument put forward by the Honourable Member for that area, that those people that need the service, as far as rehab is concerned, that funds will be made available to send them overseas. I have had some experience in this area on a personal basis, because I have been involved in helping a few young people get off to these rehab centers in the U.S. and that is a very expensive venture. It could easily be \$10,000 a pop. Taking that a little further, all we would need is a hundred persons requiring that service per year and you are right around a million dollars in cost. I think, personally, that the money would have been much better spent if we invested that in a center here that can be used by everyone requiring that service and once the investment is made, that is it. We have to staff it properly, we have to maintain it, but then it carries itself. It would not require an additional or subsequent recurrent expenditure in this area to ensure that funds are available for people needing this service.

I would like to offer my comments on the 1989 Budget Address and the Budget of Government's Revenue and Expenditures. We are now looking at a Budget of \$103 million. From the political standpoint, that is a lot to boast about. To assure you that the areas that I am concerned about, revenue projection this year is 22 per cent compared to approved revenue for the 1988 Budget. That is fine, but on the other hand, expenditure for this year amounts to 19.5 per cent over last year's revised Budget figures; close to 20 per cent. Taken into consideration that we have limited resources available in the Cayman Islands, what I am concerned about is that if we continue to grow at such a rapid rate, where are resources coming from to finance future Budgets?

On the revenue, we recognize a 37 per cent increase in Custom and Import duties over approved Budget figures, and this is excellent. I think what we should do, taking into consideration how the high cost of living here in the Cayman Islands affects us all, is that Government should now

be looking at areas where they could probably reduce even, possibly, eliminate duties on certain food items, to give our people a break against the high cost of living here.

I also noted, with some interest, that revenue now from the Banking fees is projected to total approximately \$5.5 million. This is excellent and I understand that we now 527 banks licensed in Grand Cayman. I think the reason for that is that we have worked together, not only as a Government but also in conjunction with the private sector to weed out the undesirables in our financial community. We have taken a very strong stand against drugs and the other ills that permeate so many other communities and those efforts are starting to pay off.

I also notice that under revenue, that we are projecting the collection of \$300,000 in royalties from dredging. In my opinion, this is peanuts for running the risk of destroying our environment in the North Sound. I think that every effort should be made to ensure that this does not happen, because we here in the Cayman Islands, to a large extent depend on the sea as a way of life. We have visitors coming here to dive, to snorkel, and the North Sound is a natural attraction in this area.

Expenditures: According to my calculations approximately 60 per cent of recurrent expenditure consists of Civil Servants' salaries and benefits. That alarms me. If something is not done to address the rapid increase in the number of Civil Servants pretty soon, 100 per cent of recurrent expenditure will be just to service salaries and benefits.

Public debt: According to my calculations, at the end of 1988 stood at approximately \$28 million of which repayment has not commenced on over \$8 million. It appears that Government has now borrowed an additional \$4.5 million to help finance this year's Budget. If you add 4.5 to 28 you see that we are approaching about \$32 million in public debt.

Reserves. I understand that reserves now stand at approximately \$17 million. You know, upon researching this, I was amused to see that reserves consists of basically borrowed funds. In 1987 we transferred approximately \$7 million into reserves. In 1987 we had borrowed in excess of \$7 million to help finance our Budget. At the end of 1988 we transferred approximately \$6 million to reserves and in 1988 we borrowed in excess of \$6 million to help finance our Budget. Now, it does not take a genius to borrow money and put it into reserves. In other words, my argument is that Reserves should consist of surplus revenue generated by Budget activity, not from borrowing.

Banking Inspectorate: The Budget now stands at \$218,270. We have eight members of staff. For the benefit of those other Members of the House and public who may not be aware of it, the Inspectorate was established in 1975 after the collapse of InterBank in these Islands which, I might add, a lot of local Caymanians lost money in. I was the first Caymanian member of staff, and while there I was exposed extensively to training in the United States and on several occasions served as Inspector of Banks. I feel that I made my contributions while serving in this area and they now have another qualified Caymanian serving as Deputy Inspector of Banks. If the responsibilities of the unit are not going to be expanded beyond what they are at present, I see no reason why the young lady should not be promoted to Inspector of Banks. We can then get on with having a Caymanian Head of that very important part of our Government Services.

I also noted, with some interest, that 23 out of the 25 largest banks now have a branch in the Cayman Islands. Total assets at the end of 1987, of banks licensed here, were approximately \$250 billion. As a result, we are now 55 per cent larger than the Bahamas in total banking assets. The Bahamas has always been regarded as our main competitor in this area and I am pleased to see that we have made such strides in comparison to that other banking destination.

Customs: I personally would like to congratulate Mr. Carlon Powery, who is a young West Bayer, to his appointment as Collector of Customs. I recognise that this was in effect from the 1 April 1988, but at that stage I was not part of the House and I did not have an opportunity to congratulate him from this forum. So that is the reason why I would like to congratulate him on his appointment. I have every confidence in the young man that he will do a good job, that he will hold his own and I think under his leadership the responsibilities of his department will be enhanced. It will be an area in Government that we can continue to be proud of.

I would just like to suggest that in our fight against drug trafficking that security might be increased at points of entry, that is at the Airport, and at the docks during our cruise ship landings. I feel that every effort needs to be made to reduce, or totally eliminate, the evils of our society. Customs have a very important role to play in this area.

Legislative Assembly: I personally would like to thank the staff for their high level of service which they provide to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the general public.

Registrar General: I would like to continue to recognise the efforts of the Registrar General, Mr. Woodward Terry, and his staff, for the efficient service they provide for the general public and the important service that he provides. Company fees is a significant contributor to Government Revenues. This year it is projected that \$8 million will be contributed from the general revenues of this country. There are now over 18 thousand companies on the Register. Congratulations to Mr. Terry on a job well done.

Judicial: This is an area of great concern to me personally. I feel that the Courts should be a place of respect and decency. Judges and Magistrates must carry out their duties and sentencing in a dignified and consistent manner. There must be one set of rules for one and all. The Courts set the tune for law and order in any society. My observation is that the Court Chambers have been converted to a showroom, or a circus, by certain Magistrates.

MR. PRESIDENT:

You are shortly going to be Out of Order. You are not permitted Under Standing Orders to refer to the conduct of Officers of the Court.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR:

Sorry about that, Mr. President.

I think, personally, that greater care must be taken in the recruitment of people that are to serve in these very responsible positions. It concerns me deeply because our people have always been known for their friendliness, respect, and, in return, I feel, they should be treated with respect and decency.

Broadcasting: I would like to offer my congratulations to the Director, Mr. Loxley Banks, and his staff for the excellent service they continue to provide the public and, especially, the valuable role they played during Hurricane Gilbert. I personally was comforted by the fact that during that whole ordeal, we could be in touch with Radio Cayman and they briefed us on what was going on. They also must be congratulated on continuing to carry their weight with respect to the expense of operating this service.

Police: According to the latest statistics, the Force now stands at 193 Officers, 132 of which are Caymanian, or 68 per cent. The Budget now stands at \$5.1 million. What was interesting is that out of the 132 Caymanians, 64 per cent were at the rank of Constable; the lowest echelon of service. I trust that with the training programmes that are in place it will continue to ensure that Caymanians are properly trained to move up the ladder and to eventually occupy the two top posts in this area. According to my information, at the present time the morale in the Force is very low. There is presently a polarisation of Caymanians versus expatriates, which, I think, is very unfortunate. I feel that every effort should be made to reverse this trend. I have a great deal of respect for the Force and most Officers because they deserve it. But what concerns me are the incidents that have been brought to my attention, of certain Police Officers abusing their authority with regards to beating innocent suspects. I was made aware of two incidents in my own district where police, and these police are attached to the drug squad, came into ...

MR. PRESIDENT:
Order 35(7), which says:

I am sorry, I have to interrupt to draw your attention to Standing

"The conduct of Her Majesty, members of the Royal Family, the Governor, the Presiding Officer, Members, Judges and other persons engaged in the administration of justice or of Officers of the Crown may not be raised or impugned except upon a substantive motion; and in any amendment, question to a Member of the Government or debate on a motion dealing with any other subject any reference to the conduct of any such person is out of order."

And I think you are coming quite close to that. You can talk in generalities, that is perfectly all right.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR:

I am not referring to any specific Officer, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Squad, I understood you to say.

You were getting specific enough to say members of the Drug

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR:

I am sorry. We have always been a peace-abiding people. I see no reason why these kinds of measures should be taken when they are not warranted. If we are not careful, we run the risk of creating public resentment of the Police because of a few rotten apples in the Force. I think that this would be very unfair. I feel if we have a few that are causing those problems the matter should be addressed and be taken care of.

Tourism: The Budget for tourism now stands at approximately \$7.7 million. Approximately \$4 million is for advertising and promotion. Two Million dollars is for overseas staff and expenses.

I was fortunate enough to have the experience of working with Cayman Airways, our National airline, in the capacity of Budget Officer. As Internal Auditor, one of my responsibilities was to visit the different locations in the U.S., in an attempt to arrive at how well they were managing to ensure that our funds were well spent. My observation was that there is considerable room for improvement.

I feel with the rapid rise in expenditure, as far as Government's Budget is concerned, we need to seriously look at ways of saving, ways of eliminating duplication and waste. I am also concerned with the question as to whether or not our funds are well spent. I wonder if we have any statistics or statistical feedback that indicates what areas our dollars would be best spent in. I am also concerned that there may be ways of improving what we have. Our cost of tourism, in my opinion, is an investment and one of the pillars of our economy; namely tourism. I recognise that it is expensive to advertise or promote this very important section of our industry. I want to ensure that the funds that we do spend are well spent.

I see no reason, and none of my remarks are personally directed to the Honourable Member for Tourism (I think personally, he is doing a good job generally), but I think the time has come when we look at the possibility of combining the resources of the Tourism Department and Cayman Airways. Cayman Airways depends on Government to maintain its operation. Government, on the other hand, invests, as I said earlier, and the Budget this year reflects in excess of \$7 million and I think that the objective of both is the same. That objective is the promotion of the Cayman Islands. What I have observed is that there are a lot of people who want to build their own little empire at our expense. I think this matter should be seriously looked into.

Education: I would like to offer my congratulations to the new Acting Chief Education Officer, Miss Andrea Bryant. I would like to say that I, personally, have every confidence in

her and I feel that she is a very capable person. What makes me proud, is that, like her predecessor, she is Caymanian.

Now, education has been an issue for most political platforms. I think that my approach is not one of being destructive, my concerns are genuine because I went through the same system. I went to West Bay Town Hall which was Government. I attended the old Secondary Modern, which was also Government, and I was one of the fortunate few in those days, before that service was discontinued, to get a free Scholarship to the Cayman Islands High School. I appreciate the system; I appreciate the service.

The only concern I have is that we offer the very best in Education for the cost that is involved. Education Budget now stands at approximately \$9.2 million. We have a total staff and teachers of 302. According to my latest statistics, 30 per cent of the teachers are Caymanian. That concerns me. I think that the First Elected Member for Bodden Town touched on this very thing this morning. I think that more of a concerted effort must be made to make the profession of teaching attractive to our Caymanian people. If that means raising wages or salaries, offering a housing allowance or offering mileage, like we do to expatriate teachers, then we must be prepared to do it.

As I mentioned earlier on in my address, it is now costing Government in excess of \$2 million a year for housing and the only people in this country that are entitled to housing, at this time, are the expatriate members of staff. I would like to say right here that I have nothing against anyone, any nationality, I am a very open-minded, tolerant person, but my genuine priority and concern is to my people. I think that is one reason why I was elected, because the people that elected me felt that I would look out for our Caymanian people regardless of what sector of the economy they served in.

I am pleased to see that steps are being taken to eliminate or reduce overcrowding in the classrooms, which they have been experiencing at the middle and high schools. The one thing that really concerns me in that area is the lack of discipline. As I said, I went through the system, and I am not saying that we were angels when we were in the system, but when discipline deteriorates to the extent where we are now required to put wardens on the buses to keep order, I think that this is totally unacceptable.

What also concerns me, and I have had personal experience in dealing with some of the High School graduates that we are turning out, is that such a large number of which are functionally illiterate students, non-readers. I remember when I was serving in the capacity of President of Finsbury Bank we received some applications from High School graduates. While I am the first to recognise that we have good ones coming out of there, on most of the applications (my little eight year old girl could have put together a better letter) the spelling was atrocious, the grammar was atrocious. For what it is costing us today to finance public education I think, personally, that this is an area that we definitely have to be concerned about and should take every effort or make every effort to address immediately.

Not everyone can afford to send their children to private schools. The reason I went through the system is that very same reason. I started at Triple C, by that time there were three members of my family in school and my father just could not afford it. So the alternative is the public educational system.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Would you like to break? Fine, Proceedings are suspended.

AT 12:43 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:25 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The meeting of the Assembly is resumed.
Debate continuing, the Third Elected Member for West Bay.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Before the break, I was dealing with public education and I also voiced my concerns. As I said, my comments are not geared at any one individual, I raise my concerns because I feel that there is room for much improvement in this area, considering the large percentage of the Budget that is allocated to education.

I remember when I started in the public education system. Education was on a district level and went from primary to, I think, age 16; and that was the extent of the educational opportunities available when I first started. This system had many drawbacks in that it did not allow for the harmonious interaction of students of different districts and it had a very negative impact on persons or students from the different districts.

I think, personally, one of the best moves that was made, as far as a secondary education programme was concerned, was the centralisation of the High School system. This allowed for inter-action between students from different districts and this is very, very healthy.

Over the years our schools, because of the central secondary education system, have become overcrowded and I think that we have to take a very serious hard look as to where we go from here. Maybe it is time that we consider resorting back to the district education concept in order to ease the congestion of students at central George Town. I think that it would make sense for us, and I think some measures are now being implemented to effect this change. We need to take the same approach with education that we have taken with some of the other services that are being made available in this country. Yesterday we discussed the possibility of taking some of the Government services to district levels and I feel that the concept, to a limited extent, could also be taken with regard to our educational system.

West Bay is a very large district. West Bay has a primary school

and I do not have the statistics, with regard to how many West Bayers are in the Middle School/High School system, but I would daresay that this a very large percentage of the student population and it might make sense for us to consider investing in a high school for the district of West Bay. I recognise we have limited resources and this would require some capital expenditure. This would probably require the reallocation of some of the resources that we have; like teachers and other things in the system. I think whatever has to be done and, I think, we should consider all options available to us, we should be responsible enough to take those measures.

Since discipline is a problem in our system, I think that we should very carefully screen those we allow into the public educational system. If there are a few rotten apples, or a few culprits, that are responsible for these matters, they should be taken out of the system. I personally feel, even though many of my teachers were expatriate teachers (and I had some very good ones), I feel that part of the solution to the public education system's problems is the training and recruitment of more Caymanian teachers.

The problem, as I see it, is that we do offer scholarships. The students go off and get a degree in teaching, they come back here and they become part of the system. But, I think, a lot of times (because they are well aware of what is going on) they see, immediately, that there is a discrepancy between them and their counterparts who are non-Caymanians. I am one that feels that we have to look very seriously at the whole Public Service and we need to take whatever steps are necessary in order to make the service, as a whole, attractive. This address must also trickle down to the area of education.

Salaries and benefits of Caymanian teachers must be looked at and I do not see the difference between giving a Caymanian a housing allowance or mileage allowance if he is capable of doing as good a job as anyone else. I think the idea that there are two sets of rules is totally unfounded and it should be addressed at this stage. I wish the Honourable Member for Education all the success in his endeavors to correct the deficiencies of the system.

Medical Health Services. The Budget provision for 1989 now exceeds \$8 million. I would like to say I personally congratulate Mr. Connolly on his appointment as Hospital Administrator. I feel that this is a step in the right direction and I welcome more positive steps of this nature; in getting more qualified Caymanians involved in the system.

I am concerned with the level of services and the quality of services that are now available to the general public. I think steps need to be taken to improve the service. I would recommend that, in order to improve the service and upgrade the services made available to district clinics, included should be more frequent visits by doctors at the district level. I think this would reduce the overcrowding that we also experience at the hospital. For example, the people in the districts who are not seriously ill would be able to go to a clinic in their district in order to get the attention of a doctor. I understand that we have something like 10 doctors now as part of the staff, and I feel that the proper rostering of doctors is necessary to ensure that the services available to the public are at a very high level.

The Member in charge of Health is young, energetic, educated, and he is a Caymanian. I have been impressed so far with his approach to dealing with some of the problems in the health services area. I wish him all the best in further improving the services made available to our people.

Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU): When I was a boy, which is a long time ago, I remember on a Saturday afternoon going out to get my little ice cream and it required that you took along a smoke pan or a shamrock branch to prevent the mosquitoes from eating you alive. Today, mosquitoes are a thing of the past and that has only been accomplished by the able services of MRCU. If we had not addressed the problem of mosquitoes in this country, I honestly do not believe that we could boast today of banking and tourism at the levels that we do. So I want to congratulate the staff of MRCU for the excellent job being done to control mosquitoes.

Capital Projects: It was interesting to see the provisions in the Budget for Projects in West Bay. I noted that a feasibility study is going to be undertaken to look at the possibility of providing a tourist landing for the district of West Bay. I support this move. As a matter of fact, this is one of the possibilities that I promised that I would pursue if I was elected. I recognise the value of this in the district because what you will find is that some of the duty free shops and other tourist services will automatically spring up in this area.

I also noted with interest that \$40,000 is in the Budget for an office for Members of the Legislative Assembly, of which I trust some is earmarked for an office such as this in West Bay. I think that we as legislators need a place where members of the public are aware of the hours when we will be there so that they will be in the position to come and air their concerns and requests. I can assure you that if such an office is established in West Bay, and I have no doubt that one will be, that it will be greatly utilised by myself, and I am quite sure the other legislators from that area will do the same.

I was also pleased to see a provision of \$230,000 for the West Bay sports complex. This is very gratifying because one of the promises I made to my people was that I would work on getting such a complex for West Bay. Sports is a very important subject for me. I took part in competitive sports for a very long time. I played soccer, I ran track, played basketball and I recognise the value of sports to an individual's development. I look at sports as a wholesome alternative to drug abuse. If you are going to be any good at sports, you have to be disciplined; you have to be prepared to work hard, you have to be prepared to make personal sacrifices. I think it helps you become a better citizen in your community. Again I would like to say that I am pleased to see that such measures have been taken to ensure that we have proper sporting facilities in the district of West Bay.

What always angered me was that if you wanted to go to a soccer game you had to go to George Town. If you wanted to play basketball you had to go to George Town. I am pleased to see this trend being reversed. As a result of this provision I trust we will have hard courts in West Bay for basketball, volleyball and net ball. We will have a football or soccer field, where we can entertain international

competition as well as host some of the local soccer league games.

The Honourable Member for Tourism mentioned that he will not stand for us to take the Capital from George Town to West Bay. We are not interested in that, but what we want to ensure is that West Bay gets their fair share. I think we live in a very small community and, if we are going to survive as a people, we have to learn to work together. We have to learn to put forward a concerted effort to address the needs, not only of our community, but of our Island. I have no axes to grind. I came here to this Legislative Assembly with one purpose in mind: That is to ensure that our people are properly represented. I think if we are careful and continue to be wise and to continue to emphasise political and economic stability, only God knows how bright and how long our future can continue. We have a good thing, and I think we enjoy the best of both worlds.

Being a British Crown Colony lends to the image of stability. At the same time we have a large degree of independence, as far as the running of internal affairs. I think we can learn by the mistakes made by our neighbours, and I personally oppose any type of constitutional advancement that is going to be to our detriment. I am not saying that we should not look at making minor changes in areas that may be necessary - and we have done this in the past, as late as 1986 or 1987. I think that we have a good system; it works and I see no reason, at the present time, to change it. If change is necessary, it must be initiated by our people.

In closing, I would again like to congratulate you and the Honourable Financial Secretary for your able Addresses. I would rather be faced with the problems we have to deal with of overemployment, and some of the other minor hiccoughes that we are faced with, than to be faced with the problem of rampant unemployment like many of our neighbours are faced with. As a legislator, I will do everything that is within my power to see that we maintain the level and the standard of living that we enjoy in these Islands.

From your statistics, it now appears that we are just behind Bermuda, and not very far behind the United States as far as our standard of living is concerned. This is excellent. I think our future is bright. All we have to do is to be very careful as we are fast becoming the Monte Carlo of the Caribbean. Let us be wise, patient, prudent, and ensure that we continue on the track and the direction that we have established.

Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT:

(PAUSE) I really do not wish to hurry Members, but I shall have to ask the Financial Secretary, in a moment, if he wishes to reply to the debate.

Which Member of the House would care to speak next?

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:

I would just like to point out, Mr. President, as indicated in the Budget and the Throne Speeches, very much the Government's position. It is the duty of Members of Government to flash out, I think you used, so I think it is only fair that others speak so that the Government Members can reply to any problems that might be seen in the Budget and the Address.

I would just like to point out, Mr. President, as indicated in the

MR. PRESIDENT:

That seems to the Chair entirely reasonable. But it does not seem to stimulate anybody nevertheless. [pause] I do know that this has happened on previous occasions, as I have studied *Hansard*. I think what I should do is allow one minute from now then, in all conscience, the Debate must go on. [pause]

That seems to the Chair entirely reasonable. But it does not

Debate?

Would the Honourable Financial Secretary care to reply to the

HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:

Throne Speech and the Budget Address so readily?

Mr. President, I wonder if all of these Members accept the

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:

Mr. President, Mr. President. In our procedure of points, Sir, I believe that the First Member or the Member for Tourism actually Moved the Motion for debating simultaneously the Throne Speech and the Budget Address; so I am wondering, in fact, which Member... if it is not that Member who should wind up?

Mr. President, Mr. President. In our procedure of points, Sir, I

MR. PRESIDENT:

I think, I will have to check the records. The Honourable Member for Tourism moved that the Debate on the Throne Speech be deferred... sorry, first the Motion of Facts, second that it be deferred until the Appropriation Bill had its Second Reading and be Debated conjointly with that. That is my memory of it, in which case that Motion was put and voted on and agreed, so I do not think it arises to apply to that debate.

I think, I will have to check the records. The Honourable

HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:

That is my understanding, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Perhaps Members now feel that they might wish to speak on the Throne Speech and the Appropriation Bill. The Third Elected Member for George Town.

However, that interesting point was raised, giving us a little time.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

Mr. President, I guess first I have to thank you, on behalf of the House, for your indulgence. At this point, I would also like to congratulate you, Sir, in your capacity of Governor for the Throne Speech. It has covered in depth more areas than have been covered in the past. It has very efficiently

Mr. President, I guess first I have to thank you, on behalf of the

and effectively, yet concisely, dealt with the year in relation to Government's policies and views.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the Honourable First Official Member who, in his other capacity as the Honourable Financial Secretary, has delivered a very able, detailed and good Budget Address. It, too, is very detailed, somewhat longer, I think, than what we have seen in past years, but I believe as Government progresses, there will be the necessity for more details.

I have found that in an effort to deal effectively with these two speeches at one time it would have been much better if, perhaps, a couple of days free from the business of this Honourable House could have been given to us to go through it, because the speeches are integrally related; at least the Budget Address is related to the Estimates and these are extremely large and extremely detailed and difficult...

MR. PRESIDENT: You have made your point, but of course the House has voted upon this, and you are questioning a decision of the House.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: I am sorry, I did not mean to question...

MR. PRESIDENT: No, it is all right. I am just making the point that you have made your point. I thought that you should leave it there because under Standing Orders you can only question a decision of the House by a Substantive Motion.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: Oh, I see. Let me say, Sir, that I did not intend to question the House. I am just saying, in the future it would have been better... Well, be that as it may. I would like to move on to deal with parts of each of these speeches. I will be moving from one to the other in an effort to remain concise and to avoid duplication, but there may be some, Sir, because one speech does overlap the other in places.

MR. PRESIDENT: I see no problem with that, and I think that at the very beginning of the Throne Speech I did make that a possibility.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: I will try not to do that too often.

The area that has been mentioned in the Throne Speech relating to the increasing cost of living by 6.2 per cent for the year 1988, is one which we must look at and give some pause for thought. The cost of living is something that affects us all, but it also affects the persons in the lesser income brackets, somewhat more so. Every effort should be made to see that this is kept as low as possible, however, I do accept, and I do understand the Government's position, that this is something that will rise at times and it will fall at other times.

I was just wondering if I may borrow the podium, Sir. It would be much easier for me.

In my contribution under these two Addresses I will be pointing out areas that I think are good, other areas that I feel should be looked at more carefully, or which may not be in the interest of the Cayman Islands. I would ask Members of this House to look at this constructively and to realise that with every in-depth debate there are going to be areas that are good, which they will appreciate, and areas that are bad, that they may not be as happy when I deal with them. But I believe my duty to the people of the Cayman Islands, the reason that they have put me here, is one in which I have a duty to deal with the good and the bad and to point these out, in fairness, to them.

We have seen an increase in banking as has been set out by the First Official Member in the Budget, and this industry is one in which the contribution to the Cayman Islands economy is very, very important. I believe that everything should be done to ensure the steady increase in the licensing of banks in the Cayman Islands. Along with that should go the necessary measures and the regulations of the Inspector of Banks. We have been very lucky that over the years we have not had many difficult problems that have given us bad publicity in relation to banking. I think it is one in which we have to give much credit to the Honourable Financial Secretary in that capacity as head of that department, and also to the Inspectors of Banks who in the past worked with him and under him in that department.

I take the point as well that in banking, as well as other areas of business, shortages of staff can be a problem. While everything that should be done to clear those shortages to allow the banks to have sufficient staff through Gainful Occupation Licenses, it is also important that we see in the banking institutions the necessary training and the movement of local staff who are capable of taking their respective positions in those banks. I am happy to say that we do have a fair amount of local persons who have moved up in the banks and who have proven that we have the material out there. It just takes a bit of time, money, and training to groom them for the positions.

The area in the speeches relating to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and its effect on the Islands and industry is one I would like to spend a bit of time on. I was somewhat surprised when I saw in a newspaper recently that it appeared that the United States of America was really in no hurry to ratify the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. The enabling Law was passed by this House after the Treaty had been signed by the Cayman Islands Government and, I believe, at that time the United Kingdom Government (which naturally would have signed for us, but at least our agreement was given to it) was put through at a time, when more time was asked for by many of us, including many of the associations. I was not a Member of the Legislature. I am always somewhat unhappy when things move very quickly.

For example, at present one feels that one may not have completed the necessary research to deal with the matter. Having said that, and looking back now, there are areas

of it that perhaps, should be given a bit of time. The Second Official Member, The Attorney General, was not the Attorney General then, but looking back, we realise that perhaps given a bit of time, something could have been put in the Treaty to have limited the period during which it could have remained open for the United States to sign. That, perhaps, could have speeded up the process.

Secondly, I would like to mention one or two areas, briefly, that have continued to worry me, the areas that the Government has said were areas that were retrospective; the Treaty, itself is alleged to be retrospective and, perhaps, we could have put in the many offenses of the schedule - many of them which were United States' offences unknown to the Commonwealth or the U.K. or Cayman - it would have been good, if specifically put in there were offences under our Confidential Relationships Preservation Law, so that there could have been no doubt, at least not under the reciprocity clause, that we would have had cooperation and been able to point specifically to this area of our Law, which is somewhat different from that in the United States.

The thrust of the negotiations were, obviously, heavily on the shoulders of the Elected Members, as it was at the time when the Narcotics Agreement was signed. I am happy to say that in that there was a specific time for coming (it came into operation upon execution) and there was a specific expiry date in it. Even though I know it appeared that the First and Second Official Members dealt with the release here, I would just like to point out that it is the duty of the Council, including the Elected Members who do take an active part (I do know there were different Members then, who dealt with this) but perhaps it is good that it is behind us, despite the problems that we now face in relation to getting it ratified.

In the Budget Address, the First Official Member stated:

"Let us all, Government, Bankers, Lawyers, Insurance Managers, Company Managers and Accountants endeavour to see that by continuing to take care and by diligent enquiry our reputation is not tarnished."

Those I think are sobering words and it has been on that basis that the Financial Industry that we have today has been built. I think that the financial industry, is perhaps the second largest contribution to the revenue of this country and Government. I notice this time that Members strike mainly at lawyers rather than the bankers. Maybe they should sit back and think that perhaps a bit of kindness to that area of the industry could help with letting them realise that this Government, and this country, appreciates having the bankers, lawyers, insurance managers and the people in the industry. It is always good to strike, but we have to remember never to bite the hand that partly feeds us. It is a very important lesson that can be learned, one which, when I am dealing at a later stage with the question of the Constitution, I would like to remind Members of this House and the public of.

MR. PRESIDENT:
for 15 minutes.

Perhaps it would be convenient to take the break. Suspended

AT 3:21 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:40 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are resumed.
The Third Elected Member for George Town continuing.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

Mr. President, I would like to read from the heading in your speech under Public Service Commission, in which you said, and I quote;

"The Commission also has the major task of filling posts in the Civil Service with Caymanians as quickly as possible, while maintaining efficiency. In fact, with a continually expanding service, it has not proved possible to Caymanianize, if I may use that word, more than 70 per cent of the 1700 established posts. It seems unlikely this percentage will alter significantly in 1989."

The first part that I read is, I think, very important. I am sure that your view, and the view of the Government (which has continued throughout) that wherever Caymanians are qualified and competent to deal with posts, then they should be given the opportunity to fill them. I, too, realise that with the policy of Caymanianization, has to go some balance against the training and gaining of sufficient competency to fill those posts. Quite rightly, I believe that the in-service training that the Government continues to give, and with the continued increase in scholarships from the Education Council, and with the continued on the job training, to such an extent as possible, we will continue to see this process move forward.

The rapid increase of the number of persons in the service, however, does give some concern. What always worried me during the eight years that I was a Member of the Government, and prior to that as a Civil Servant, was the weakness of the Government with top posts. Many times heads of departments or principal secretaries had no visible deputies in the post. The gap between the Head was that of a senior competent person and below that person, was an assistant, who many times was really of such a level, junior-wise; when I say that, I am not referring to intelligence or incompetence, but there was not normally a good Deputy in many posts, or in the Portfolios. I think that this is very important because in the type of triangle of hierarchy in Government, if you get a crumbling at the top it is going to go all the way down through the ranks of the service. I am happy to say, that in the past 10 years, we have seen more and more Deputies put into these posts. Perhaps in the past, with some of the civil servants of the older days, there was that worry of challenging the

person in the substantive post in due course, but I believe that this is somewhat past. I believe, and when I deal with the salary increases I will mention this, that if we are to get and to keep good people in those posts, be they local or foreign, we are going to have to pay for them. That is, perhaps, one of the early decisions that the Government and this House will obviously have to face. We cannot afford to lose good civil servants to the private sector, having an exodus through salary conditions or any other conditions in the Service.

I think the way the Service is increasing, it is no longer good enough to lag a long distance behind the private sector. I guess it comes back to the hard fact of life that you get what you pay for when it comes to dealing with the employer/employee relationship. So I agree fully with your statement and I believe that those efforts will continue towards the aim of Caymanianization within the service.

I would like to move on to page nine of the Budget Address dealing with the Currency Board and also to look at page nine of your Address and deal with the two differing aspects. I do not mean that there is any conflict in them, but they do deal in two different areas.

Firstly, I would like to say that the Currency Board, the subsidiary or secondary function of producing coins is one that I am very happy to see move on. I am somewhat sad to see that there was perhaps a dip in sales on the proof, but I am a coin collector and I do have a full set of the Cayman coins, I keep up to date on them. I would recommend that people buy them. In due course they do increase in value. The quality of them is very high. The Royal Mint where most of them come from, do a very good job. One or two, when we got into the two hundred and fifty dollar gold ones, got somewhat expensive, but when we compare those against what, traditionally, I collected and still do; the Roman, Greek and Spanish colonial and Spanish cog. The quality is good and I think that it is something that can also preserve a lot of our history which we can learn from coins and, perhaps, future generations will look on our coins the way we look, at this stage at Roman, Greeks, Spanish or whatever, for part of their history. I would hope that in the new museum that we will have a good collection of those, as well as stamps, displayed in it.

The Currency Board is one that is the least troublesome, perhaps I should say trouble free from what I can see. It takes over well and it operates well and it does contribute steady, substantial sums to Government's revenue.

The Companies Registration continues to increase the number of Companies at the registry. I believe that with the Head, Mr. Woodward Terry, becoming one of our new lawyers, it has undoubtedly assisted him in his task of dealing with what is now a large and somewhat diverse department, because it does include several other things. Unfortunately, the shipping has been removed from that department and I guess time will tell with that, but, I believe that it well may have lost the expertise that he had. Hopefully, there will be some liaison to let that remain within an area, because I think the shipping area going to be challenging to deal with in the future.

On Agriculture, I believe that sufficient effort has not been put into this area in the past, and perhaps in the immediate past as well. Sometimes, it gets put with Portfolios that are heavy and the time and understanding that go with it, is somewhat less than it takes. It does take a lot of time, because agriculture in this Country has been difficult to get on a sound footing and it has really been only recently that Government has put more money and expertise into it.

I believe that a considerable amount of scope and sympathy should go to farmers, from the point of view that they are subject to nature; hurricanes and bad seasons. In relation to loans and grants, and I believe that there are instances when there should be out-right grants to farmers, and I should say that is not by any means untraditional in any of the developing countries. I should say that this is not, by any means, untraditional in any of the developing countries. We should see somewhat more sympathy and I hope that this Government and the Member for Development and Agriculture would see it that way, that more sympathy should be shown in relation to loans which should be given at soft interest rates, it is also an area of commerce where profits are hard to come by. The risk is high and it really takes a lot, in my view, to get a good return from the soil in Cayman.

We are lucky to have in this House two Members on the Backbench, The Member for East End and The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, both of whom have considerable amount of expertise. I believe that the Member responsible will draw on that expertise. I guess the best example I heard was one that was told to me and it was put like this. It may take a farmer four months to make sufficient to pay four months' of his loan, but the heavy equipment, which also comes under the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board Loans, could perhaps, in one week make sufficient to deal with the four months' of repayments on the loan. While that may be out slightly as to the time, I think that it is a clear example of the contrast between the two areas of commerce. I would hope that the Agricultural and Industrial Board would also look sympathetically at this area.

I am happy as I move on to speak about the Insurance Industry, which is now becoming very important here. While this really got its footing sometime prior to the last Government's period of time, they have moved it forward and it is now quite a large part of the financial industry. Once again, I believe that Members of this House should always be cautious whenever they attempt to criticize the general industry a bit hard, I will not put it beyond that point.

One of the things that was brought out is the problem of getting insurance coverage. I think this was dealt with in the Budget Address in relation to Management Companies, but in the industry, there is a difficulty in getting any type of Professional Indemnity Insurance. It is becoming harder and harder and the premiums are now getting to the stage where they are just about prohibitive.

Along with that, many of the Insurance Companies these days, not just in Professional Indemnity Insurance but also in matters such as liability, Third party Liability Insurance, many times exclude the jurisdiction of the United States because of the extremely large judgments that juries in that country have given. The cost and the rapid increases can be seen and I will just give one example, in that what was

paid for Professional Indemnity Insurance by my Law firm, back a few years ago, of \$7,500 premium per annum, has escalated to where it is close to \$40,000 per annum. I believe, as in the United States, Britain, and here, we need to look carefully at this and look at the measures that the United Kingdom has brought in, which, I believe, would assist in reducing the premiums of the Professional Indemnity Insurance because now the United Kingdom will not enforce the very large, the multiple and the triple and this sort of judgment that is awarded in the United States, they will not enforce it in the United Kingdom. In fact, some states of the United States are actually bringing in measures to deal with this. I believe that it is an area that is now very real and the insurance department of Government along with the legal department should look at ways of trying to assist in the private sector by some of this Legislation.

The Budget Speech specifically dealt with legal firms and I am very happy to see that our contribution to our economy now extends to some \$6.8 million, employing in excess of 160 employees. I would just like to remind Members of this contribution because, occasionally it may be simple, I guess to refer to the specific lawyer that it is aimed at, we do get a few bangs on lawyers but, generally, I think there should be some caution because, not only do they inject the amount of money that is substantially the same amount as the accounting firms, but law firms also provide Articles for young student lawyers and those, depending on the salary paid, can run a law firm anywhere from \$12,000 to \$14,000 per annum and it is five years that we Article them for. It is an area in which the legal profession has taken on its share of promoting, studying, and qualifications for young lawyers. I am very proud of the Law School which you, Sir, referred to because it has shown that despite the size of the Cayman Islands, if we are prepared to deal with education in a forceful and forward way, we can get good results. In fact I doubt very much that there is any country, with the population that we have, that has any type of professional college or university which can stand out like the Law School.

I believe that this has allowed Caymanians, who otherwise would not have been able to leave the Islands to qualify, to become lawyers in these Islands. I would say that I was very happy that one of the first of the graduating students and one who, substantially throughout her time in there, stayed top of her class was the first Article Clerk that I took in to my Law Firm, Mrs. Karen Thompson.

Along with that, we have seen that the standard is now accepted at university level at Liverpool. Students are now being exempted from a substantial part of the academic degree at that university and are now coming out with degrees of distinction, which as you know, Mr. President, has happened within the last few years.

The article clerks, at least the ones that have been personally articulated to me, I have endeavored to see that priority was given in time to studying and not really doing a lot of drudgery-type work in the law firm. I believe that this is something that all law firms strive for and I am happy to say, that the new law student at the firm has, once again, done very well. It does take time and effort.

Despite the fact that sometimes in the heat of arguments we hear a few things thrown here and there at Lawyers, this appreciation of what is done by law firms, accounting firms and banks could be looked at in a, sometimes, more sympathetic way.

I would like to go on to deal with a somewhat heavy topic, that of Tourism. Tourism as it has been pointed out by you, as well as by the First Official Member, is the largest contributor to the Cayman Islands' economy. It is one that has to be watched very carefully and it has to be handled with kid gloves at times. Like the offshore industry, it is fickle and if it declines a little bit, the tremors of it are felt deep into the economy of this country.

The tourist dollar moves down through the obvious, by way of the hotels and restaurants and it reaches the clerks in the stores, the taxis. It reaches people who do handicraft work. It gets to the supermarkets and it spreads, basically, throughout the economy.

I believe that the Member for Tourism has done a lot to advance tourism in the Islands and I believe that he has every good intention of continuing that. I believe that this House fully appreciates how easy it could be to run away areas of tourism or hurt it. I will be making suggestions, and I hope that the Member responsible takes those as constructive, because I have found that, as with anything, it takes a certain period of time after something is done, such as advertising, or any reduction in airfares, or whatever, before the effect of it is seen.

Similarly, and conversely, I guess I should say, there is also a delay between the time when a bad effect hits tourism and when you actually see it. It is this lead time that I think is most important. That the foresight within the Portfolio and the Department is geared to ensure that we do not have the effects coming on us and it is going to then take a period of time to correct the effects, rather than being able to see it earlier. I am not here to judge as an expert in tourism, because I am not. I would say that I believe that efforts must be made to foresee the possibilities, at the earliest stages possible, perhaps six or eight months, one year in advance because we do have a seasonal business here. The seasons are never very forgiving, when it comes to the money side of tourism. If you miss part of a season; you have missed it. You do not get another round at it till many months later, when you get back into the season. I know it is less seasonal now than in the past.

I would believe that the Member should look carefully now, in his strategy, to ensure that he puts in place whatever infrastructure is necessary to be able to better monitor the possibilities of having a slowdown in tourism and perhaps correcting it at an earlier stage. This last one, obviously, caught the Government a bit by surprise. Perhaps it could not have been foreseen earlier, but there were/are many indicators and I believe that if some things could have been dealt with earlier (and I will mention a few of these) that it may have assisted.

With the Hurricane, that was mentioned by the Third Elected Member from West Bay, when there is damage caused by statements in the press, I believe the most effective way of correcting it is to get favourable statements through exactly the same media from which the damaging ones

came. In this case television stations like CNN, and to do so very rapidly before it sets in the minds of people. I know that hurricanes are not very nice. The Member did all he could there but, I believe, that he should have asked for a reasonable amount of money to go on a blitz advertising campaign at that time, through the same media, as early as possible. However, I understand that one has to go through Finance Committee. I give the Member the benefit of the doubt, as he may not have had the funds available at that time, and there were also other problems on the Island from the Hurricane.

Secondly, I believe that it is going to be easier to direct advertising towards tourists who are in a higher income bracket and who can afford the prices in the Cayman Islands rather than attempting any sizeable reduction in the cost of services locally. That is a very difficult and unpopular thing to do. You can only do it within certain restrained limits. The goal of tourism, therefore, has to be to find a tourist to fit the Caymanian dollar cost. I believe that while the increase in numbers is important, it is far [more] important, at this stage, to see that we are getting tourists who leave happy because they could afford to stay here. To do that, we have to find something that is sufficiently unique and something which is sufficiently attractive, I should say, to cause the tourist to come here and to spend the extra dollars. I believe that we have many things in our favour.

With the targeting at a higher income tourist than we are now getting, I do know that the Member for Tourism, says he does target, I think he said, upper income and upper-middle (or words to that effect) and I think that is the proper way to go. However I think we now need to look more at the economic quality of the tourist rather than getting into the increases in numbers. We only have a limited amount of facilities on the Islands and the number of tourists here are minute compared to larger countries. Therefore, I believe that it is easier for us to get a few hundred thousand tourists in that higher-income bracket than it would be in one of the larger countries, where they are dealing in the millions.

We do have the advantage of being small. In this effort to bring in tourists who feel comfortable, who can pay the prices here and who will go back happy, as I understand it, is the best for the Islands; it saves a lot of advertisements. It is perhaps the best way that we can expand tourism.

I also believe, and I, once again, say this constructively, that there should have been a more concerted effort to bring Europeans in at a time when the European currency was high against the dollar. We may well have missed that two or three year period when we could have been in a far better position to bring them in. There has always been advertising there and I accept that. If we do find, in the future, that the currency of a country with acceptable tourist gets strong against our dollar, where we are more likely to bring them in, then they are really the people that we should put our efforts on.

With tourism goes the heavy responsibility, also on the Member, to ensure that tourists who come to the Island do not detrimentally affect our way of life here. This can many times be better controlled with persons who are coming into the Islands. Many who invest here, if they invest in a condo or in property, have a vested interest in the Islands. I also believe that this type of person, which was quite predominant in the past, when there were a lot less tourists, is a very good quality of tourists because they do contribute, be it to the Pines or to the different charities as we have seen in the past. Everything should be done to attract tourist who, within reasonable limits are prepared to invest in the Islands. Basically, they are obligated to visit more than once a year and they are less likely to go to other competing countries.

While the Member responsible, I believe has done much to pull the industry together in a more unified way, I believe that one has to tread carefully, at times, in doing this because it is about as fickle an area, or segment, of the economy. If the Hotel and Condominium Industry can be laid into doing and assisting with improving areas that the Government is involved in, such as advertising, whether it is jointly or otherwise, these too should continue to be pursued. A very heavy responsibility does rest on the Government itself to ensure that the tourism industry continues, and as it continues to take a larger and larger amount of money, we must look at it as money well spent.

I would now like to turn to the area of Customs, as you have dealt with in page eight of your speech and also as has been dealt with in the Budget Address at pages 16 through 18. This department is, undoubtedly, Government's largest revenue collector. It is one which has now become efficient and is working well. The amount of revenue which comes into that small department, compared to some of the others in Government, is fairly phenomenal. Over the years its system seems to have improved and settled in well.

The efforts by Customs to deal with illegal drugs is one that has been intensified in recent years. I was happy to see the cooperation of the United States Customs in the giving to Customs, through the Government, the pursuit boat, Derry's Pride. It is important that the efforts within the Ports of Entry, whether it is the Airport or the seaports, be intensified in what has, undoubtedly, become a war on drugs.

I would just ask that perhaps one thing be looked at, and I think that this could be within the area of the Port. One of the main topics of tourists, I understand, is why the coliseum (as I would call it) does not have a roof. When one stands under it, as I did a few weeks ago, under what appears to be a substantial structure and it rains, one looks up, as if to say where is the roof? While I know that it was meant to be something specific, I really believe in fairness to the tourists that, perhaps, the middle of that could be enclosed or something done to it that would assist the tourist beyond the pleasant looks of his eye when he comes to shore.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Perhaps we might take the adjournment here?

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

This would be good, Sir. I finished on Customs.

ADJOURNMENT

HON. THOMAS C JEFFERSON:
House until 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

Mr. President, I move the adjournment of this Honourable

THE PRESIDENT:
until 10.00 tomorrow morning.
against No.

The question is that this Honourable House do now adjourn
I shall put the question. Those in favour please say Aye...Those

AYES.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Thursday morning at 10.00.

The Ayes have it. The House is accordingly adjourned until

AT 4:30 P.M. THE HOUSE STANDS ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. THURSDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1989.

**THURSDAY
2ND MARCH, 1989
10:04 A.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT: Prayers by the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

PRAYERS

MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:

Let us Pray.

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived:

We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are resumed.

Government Business. Continuation of the debate on the Throne Speech and the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1989. The Third Elected Member for George Town continuing.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH
AND THE SECOND READING ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989.**

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

Thank you, Sir.

The ship registration is an area referred to in both your speech, Sir, and the first Official Member's. I have watched and followed the trend of this over the past few years. While I appreciate it is still in the development stage, I think, looking back at its history, that perhaps the Government may have gone a slightly different route which may have avoided some of the problems. I also see, Sir, that there is a new Merchant Shipping Act 1988, that is now going to replace the old, but time tested, 1894 Merchant Shipping Acts and their subsequent amendments. At present, the revenue estimated for this year from it is \$150,000. The expenditure was approximately one quarter of a million dollars, and we have in place several of the surveyors.

The information I have come from page 17 and 20 of the Estimates. One of the problems as I understand it is with the crewing aspect in which the United Kingdom (and I know for years we have not necessarily followed this) required that we have the Master First, Chief Engineer, and some of the crew as British subjects. I appreciate that negotiations leading toward getting that expanded (from what I understand from reading the papers) to the European Economic Community would include a substantial amount of countries to choose from, crew-wise, but it would be somewhat better if we could extend it to the North American Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries themselves. I do not know whether this is possible. However, my only caution is that with everything there is risk, and I know that the risk is there.

I notice we are adding a further member to the staff and, again, a reasonably high paid member. It would have been good to have cleared the crewing arrangements if at all possible prior to adding to the registry to the extent that we have done. Perhaps there are reasons for this, but I think it is a question of what came first, the egg or the chicken, but I would hope that in the not-too-distant future the United Kingdom would smile on us in this area and ease this crewing arrangement so that the registry itself can move on to becoming a viable proposition.

I also notice that the Registry will be further shrunk with a request for the removal of small fishing craft. I am sure there is good reason behind this. I believe, however, that with the negotiations, such as the MLAT, where perhaps the Elected Members did not find good cause to ask for something when we are cleaning up the Registries as we have done with the adoption of the different conventions - loadline, solus, that sort of thing - that perhaps the United Kingdom would see fit to allow the one barrier that we

have relating to the crewing to be allowed. If that was allowed, I believe, we would be in a good competitive position. Until that has been cleared, I believe the registry is probably going to continue to operate at a loss. I appreciate that with the Estimates being the size that they are when one goes through the hundreds of pages one may miss something occasionally. I believe I am right, at page 17 the revenue was \$150,000 and at page 20 the expenditure was \$225,000 .

The other aspect I would ask the person in charge to look at is the cost of the surveys which are carried out. This is a competitive edge which other countries may have, and if it is required that we send the surveyors abroad on occasions, that this is paid for by the ship's owner, the people registering the ship. If this can be kept to a minimum, I believe it will also give us a competitive edge. I feel that we are not going to get anywhere if our registry offers nothing more than the United Kingdom. I would say that a lot of work has been done on this, and it is my hope that in due course, we can sort out the last of the barriers that are there.

On the Statistics Department: I agree that this has made great strides and that statistics are vital to the Government and to the community at large. I would just like to caution that we should look very carefully to the extent of information that Government requires. While it may have every good intention in the world to ask for it, unless areas which are very touchy, such as income of firms, companies, whatever, persons, are absolutely necessary (and I know Government has been cautious in testing the water on this), I believe that we should attempt to steer away from statistical information which could make persons somewhat uneasy on the private confidential side. However, statistics are important and now that we are getting the statistics we can see and forecast with some certainty that the country is heading in the right direction in these areas.

Under the matters relating to the Public Accounts Committee, the Treasury and Revenue, I would like to draw this Houses' attention to one aspect in these accounts (which I hope has been cleared up), and in due course we will get the Auditor's report and the Public Accounts Committee Report. I will only refer to the Public Accounts Committee Report, which was chaired by the present Member for Development. At paragraph 3, "Paragraphs 11-12 - Valuation of Assets", in the last report from the Public Accounts Committee in which the Committee stated on the valuation of assets:

"The Committee notes that the advance accounts of \$6m approximately appearing as assets in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at the 31st December, 1987 includes amounts totalling approximately \$3.2m which cannot be realised. It understands that the accounts concerned will be charged to the budgetary accounts in 1988. It recommends that every effort be made in subsequent Accounts to limit advances to items which can be readily recovered."

Also in that, I notice that the security backing the Tower Building loan has gone full circle from the way it was originally dealt with (of being put into the General Reserves) to coming out of the General Reserves, and, subsequently, being put back the way it was prior to 1984. I have no qualms on that. At least now there is some accepted accounting format there.

Mr. President, I would like to deal with a fairly heavy area now, the area relating to the Reserves Surplus and Public Debt and the accounts generally.

The proposal in 1989 is to transfer \$6 million to the General Reserve, increasing it to \$17.2 million. Let me say that is a good general reserve, but accounting tells us we have to look at the other side of every balance sheet. I want to state here that I fully approve the moving of as much into General Reserve as the country can afford to put in there. In fact, General Reserve, as I understand it, is a profit and loss reserve. I would personally like to see, and I will develop this at a later stage, more of a Capital Reserve established in this country, where money cannot just be freely used to pay for recurrent expenditure. I think that is a good move. It is equivalent to the capitalising of a company, and while it can be resorted to, I appreciate you do not have the rigidity of the rules relating to Capital by Law which governed companies. I believe that the time is coming when we should block a part of the General Reserve moving it away from profit and loss reserve, as it now is, into a Capital Reserve. The movement here results from a position, as shown in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, and it will leave the Revenue Surplus as estimated at the end of 1989 at approximately a quarter of a million dollars. The year that was begun with a surplus balance of a little bit over \$7 million, would end with an estimated quarter million dollars of surplus, and it is good to see that we are getting surplus budgeting. I believe all Governments have endeavoured to do so.

Against this we have to weigh on the other side of the balance sheet - in the other basket, so to speak - the question of the Government's Public Debt. While it is good to block money in reserve, if, on the other hand, the debt is becoming substantial and the gap between the surplus or the reserve is getting larger and larger, I believe we have to look very carefully at where we are going with a public debt. As a matter of history, because I think this is important, the position as of 31st October 1984, showed that at that time, through a question that the now Member for Development to the Honorable First Official Member...

MR. PRESIDENT: I think you must mean the Member for Communications and Works, the Member for Development is the Financial Secretary.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: I am sorry. The Member for Communications and Works. The answer to the Member for Communications and Works (as he now is) showed that there was reserve and surplus of \$10.8 million and a public debt of approximately \$12 million; or approximately \$1.5 million more loans than cash. Since that time, the reserves and surplus have moved to \$17.2 million, but the Public Debt has also surged to where

it is now, or will be at the end of this year, in the estimates of approximately \$32 million. The difference being \$15 million between the Reserve and Surplus and the Public Debt.

There has been caution throughout the time when I was in Government, and over the last four years by the First Official Member, the Honourable Financial Secretary, as to how far and to what extent we should endeavour to increase that debt. When we appreciate, from what appears to me to be the position as set out in the estimates... which only deals with the Public Debt to the end of 1987, but at that time, we were paying only on a part of the Public Debt repaying the principal - and here I must draw a distinction between the principal repayment and the interest. Interest is being repaid now on some of the newer debts created within the past four years. However, it appears to me that somewhere in the vicinity of approximately \$11 or \$12 million, we were actually repaying principal and interest on some very substantial sums that were listed in this, such as the U.S. \$6 million for water and sewage and also the water supply of \$1.6 million. Repayment would not come up for the first one until 30th June 1991; and the second, the 31st March 1992. Along with this (because I do not have the 1988 Public Debt printout) would go a substantial part, if not all, of the borrowing for 1988. So that repayment on a further amount of borrowing last year, which the revised position for 1988 showed \$6.837 million is probably (and I say that that probability is good) not being repaid and, so far, the servicing of the debt naturally on what is proposed to be drawn down of \$4.5 million this year, has not yet been touched.

The point I am coming to is that we look at the proposed debt of \$32 million and we see that the amount of 7.3 per cent, as given in the Budget Address, of ordinary revenue is what is required to service what is being repaid. As to principal and interest at this present time, and with a very large part of the debt still to come on line for repayment of principal, I believe that if we calculate (and I have no way of doing this because I do not have the necessary information) the coming on line of the 1988 loans, the financing of the loans in themselves is 24.8 and 3.1, a preliminary figure of approximately \$28 million; then I believe that the cost of servicing those loans when they come on line would, based upon the ordinary revenue as set out in the Budget Address, be at least double what it is now. If we are getting beyond the 10 per cent, if we are getting into 12, 13, 14, 15 per cent of projected cost of revenue, I believe the time has come to limit borrowings to the bare minimal amount. If one looks at a debt of \$32 million, as projected at the end of this year, and one takes approximately 6,000 working Caymanians, we are looking at \$5,300, or thereabouts, per person in debt. This is now getting to a stage where I believe the caution which has been given by this Honourable Financial Secretary, and past ones from the time that I was in Government, has to be taken seriously.

The movement in debt will be by the end of this year an increase of approximately \$20 million, with an increase of only approximately \$7 million in surplus in Reserves. We have added a further \$20 million debt at the end of this year to the country. I am saying this to draw the attention of Members of this House, not just the Government, to the fact that if large projects are coming on stream, then we had better assure ourselves that the revenue is going to be there and raised other than from borrowing by the Government. As the debt increases so does the cost of servicing and repaying it, which leaves less and less to deal with. Another worrying problem that I have is the rapid increase in the Civil Service which is causing a rapid increase in the amount of money to pay the salaries and the allowances in pensions of the Government.

I believe that the 10 per cent rule, which I know has been more or less accepted in this country as the maximum amount of General Revenue to service debt, is one which once we project the movement over it, caution has to be exercised. We cannot wait until another three or five years' time, when we have to start repaying some of these loans and say; 'Oh Boy, we should have tightened the ropes at an earlier stage.'

In summary, on the question of the General Reserve - it is good. I think it is good to see Government moving money into it, and that it is a good amount. My caution is that the debt is increasing much more rapidly in proportion to the reserve, and I think we have come to a stage where we have fairly well borrowed up to our ears. There must be a break put on large borrowing. I have said before, and while dealing with that area - the area of drugs - that I guess there are some things that mild increases, if it has to be done in borrowing, should come about. One of these, I think, should be in relation to the eradication of drugs in this country, because if that is not checked a lot of this revenue that we are talking about is probably going to disappear anyhow.

In relation to the Capital Reserve when I deal with the Civil Service salaries, I would like to see a specific Reserve in a capital form blocked to cover the pensions of civil servants, because while this may be regarded as contingent, it is money which those civil servants have, in fact, earned and are entitled to get. I do not think that area of the reserve should ever be touched once it is created to deal with recurrent expenditure. So, I would say that when large projects come to this House and they do require large borrowings, I believe that the priority has to be looked at extremely carefully. We have to exercise a prudent approach to this matter. Coupled in with that is the fact that the increase in the estimated revenue this year is a substantial amount. While we can be optimistic on the amount that will be increased in the areas of revenue, we have to be realistic as well. I believe if we are seeing now a slight dip in tourism it is something which should put a further red flag as to how much we expect in the future in relation to increase in revenue.

The percentage of increase over the revised figure for last year is probably 16 or 17 per cent. This is quite a high amount to aim for. I know that it has been done in the past, but it also goes with the fact that I say if for any reason we are finding that this cannot be received as projected then, perhaps mid-year further caution should be placed on the spending. Coming off that aspect, I would like to go on Sir, and deal with your Speech and the Budget Address relating to Legal and Judicial.

We have seen a rapid increase in the number of judges and magistrates in the Islands. This has been necessary with the increase in work in the courts. I believe that we have, in general, a good standard within the respective Courts, as we also have in General Court, which can effectively deal with the rapid increase that we have seen in crime. As you have mentioned, Sir, crime increased last year,

1988. However, I believe that the Magistrate Courts are badly overworked, or heavily overworked. While we have had an increase in the Judicial side, the High Court Judicial side, the Grand Court, we now have the Chief Justice and two Grand Court Judges. I believe that perhaps the time has come to add a further Magistrate.

There have been (in the press and otherwise) certain reports, and I think that some of this has to be arising from overwork within that area. Justice is something where we cannot afford to take short cuts. If another judge is needed, and if the Honourable Chief Justice and the Honourable Attorney General feel so, then I am very happy and I would believe this House would be happy to support a further magistrate or whatever may be necessary.

I think added to this (and I would like to throw this out as my view personally), now that we have increased the judges in the system perhaps we should look at getting back more to the traditional stage where the Magistrates Court's jurisdiction is more limited. They have here, in drug cases mainly, an extremely wide jurisdiction. Sentences of 15 or 20 years can be imposed. In many countries, including the United Kingdom, this is kept more within the area of a few years at the most. What I am saying here is in relation to this: If some of the cases, which by necessity had to be moved to the Magistrate in the earlier days (because I remember back in the real early days, the late 1960s early 1970s, we actually had a stipendiary Magistrate who was Judge of the Grand Court, as well) basically, one person sat. Perhaps instead of the heavy offences - of which we will now see another one with 14 years on the misuse of drugs - maybe instead of having to increase the number of magistrates we could look at beefing up further, if necessary, the Grand Court side and having a judge sitting alone. It does not necessarily have to altar the mode of trial to a jury. Perhaps the more serious offences could be shifted to High Court, the Grand Court.

I naturally do not have the statistics, or I do not have the feel for what specifically should be done there, but I think it would be good, Sir, if we could move back towards the traditional limited jurisdiction in the Magistrates Courts. This would ease them of the much longer trials which many times arise on the more serious cases, perhaps vesting some of that jurisdiction back to the Grand Court. I know there are the A, B and C offences in the code and, perhaps, this could be looked at in the future.

I also believe, despite the answer I got to my supplementary question from the Second Official Member, that he has a good staff, a competent staff, and I never, in my wildest dreams would have meant the supplementary to mean otherwise from that. I am just clearing that point. I know, because I have been in Government during the period that some of those Crown Councils have been there, and he does have a good staff, and this is important.

One of the things that I had thrown out a bit earlier, Sir, is that if it is necessary to add another senior staff (I know some staff have been lost from his department over the past few months and that certain cases require different seniority to deal with them) I would be very happy to support this, seeing the ever growing amount of work which he has, not just in criminal, but also in civil and in the drafting and advising.

Let me make it abundantly clear (as it was insinuated by some of the Elected Members), I am not in the market for employment. I have been an attorney for 20 years and, believe me, Sir, I am very happy in my position with my law firm. I can assure them that neither any position as Crown Council or within the Attorney General's Department, or his position, or whatever, has ever passed through my head. It never will, because I am very happy as I now am. On that subject also, one of the things that I did not mention yesterday, and one of my colleagues reminded me, was that lawyers do a lot of Legal Aid for a very nominal payment. This is our duty to society, but it is another way in which contribution is made by lawyers.

We have at present 60-plus attorneys in practice. I would like to request that when Government does have Legislation which affects them, the banks, the Chamber of Commerce or whatever, that a sufficiently long time could be given to them to look at that Legislation. I have always believed that second opinions are necessary in every walk of life, not just in the professions, and I believe that by listening to what the Chamber of Commerce or other lawyers or accountants have to say a lot can be ironed out. There is a West Indian song that says, "Ten thousand French men can't be wrong." Here, with some 60 lawyers, I believe that the input of the legal profession can be important. I know that the Honourable Attorney General in his capacity as Attorney General has endeavoured to do this. I do appreciate that sometimes there are time limitations, but I believe if a bill is to come up, and it is very important, then it may be worthwhile leaving it to a further Session so that it can be properly looked at.

I would just like to mention here that it takes a bit of time - whether it is in the banking, accounting, insurance, or lawyers side - to circulate amendments to Members and to get their feed-back; and then to finally get that put in one concise document which comes back to whichever Member of Government may be dealing with it. I would also mention, Sir, that this can ease the burden of whichever Member is taking it through. At least one knows the views of the people affected by it, and one is in a much better position to access that.

I also believe, as has been mentioned in the speeches, that accommodation for the Courts must be addressed. It must be addressed early, because the whole foundation of democracy is partly based on reasonably speedy and reliable justice. If you have judges, magistrates, attorneys and defendants having to rush from one place to another, it must do something to either slow down or affect performance.

In relation to the Law Reports, this is one real asset that has been given to the legal profession and the Judicial side in this country, and I do support the continuing of that. It also records a lot of history in it, not just precedence for the future. It is good also to see that we will have stenotype system coming in at the courts. This will ease the load on the Courts considerably. I believe it will speed up and assist especially with long cases, but, in any event, I think for the jury cases it is so crucial even though I know the recording system has been used in the past.

On the question of the Library, I believe, as the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, that a good Library in each district is crucial. One of the first things I did - and I believe every lawyers does - instead of taking money out of the firm is build up a law library. It is our tools of the trade. It is also very important to people generally, and while I support and will continue to support whatever is necessary in the law libraries, both in the Honourable Attorney General's Department and the Courts Office, I think that for the small cost involved in getting more developed libraries in the districts and also in George Town, that money spent here will be well spent.

The Broadcasting Department is one which has been very efficient through the years. With only one comment, which I dealt with somewhat earlier, I believe that if we do get instances in which there are going to be debates, or speeches, made of a political flavour, that we do get the balancing of the other side of it. In fact, that is good generally, I do not even think that it should even relate just to political matters it is always good in debates to have both sides put. In fact, it is one of the bases of democracy.

While on the question of politics and speeches (I have been endeavouring in this to keep away from - and with the exception of once or twice, I have had no interruptions), there has been a saying that when one has nothing constructive to talk about, one talks about people. I know that occasionally on the Open Line which airs on Monday nights (which I think is very good) sometimes we do get people being brought into that to an extent more than is desirable, at least more than what I think is desirable. While on this, the other thing that I would remind Members of is something that a very elderly ex-judge told me. He said; "The press is a very good servant, but a bad master." There is something to be learned from that because while taking in one's stride the flowers that they can shower on you at times, one has to be prepared to take with it the bangs when they do arise. Believe me, they do arise when you are in politics. I would hope that good sportsmanship would be exercised and we would, hopefully, not get people too seriously upset about what the press says from time to time. I do not mean that one must not defend oneself, but I mean keep clear of anything that talks about, in any way, going beyond one's democratic role of criticising.

Now, in relation to the District Administration mentioned in your speech and the First Official Member's speech, I believe we must have the necessary infrastructure in those other two Islands if we are going to see them progress. There is no good for us to sit here saying that progress and development is going to come. Money has to be spent in those Islands to put in the necessary infrastructure.

In years gone by we saw the progress of where some of that has been put in place (things like the airport, the port, and roads) but a lot more has to be done. We have to remember that while they are a part of the Cayman Islands itself, they are separated by a large amount of water. They are somewhat isolated and insular from Grand Cayman itself. I would hope that the Government... and I know that the Third Official Member with his heavy load in that area - I must say he is somewhat brave and wish him all the best with dealing with the District Administration, because people from the Brac and Little Cayman can be fairly demanding and fairly meticulous at times. I wish him all the best as he shoulders that area of his Portfolio over the next four years.

I would like to see a lot more done there to upgrade the necessary services and, also, to provide an infrastructure which ultimately can be used to build upon and to increase the development and the revenue which that country takes in. Perhaps one of the most important is that dealing with Cayman Airways or, at least, good communications there. I understand that the Member Responsible for Tourism is looking at that aspect. In fact, I have dealt with communications generally throughout - whether it is communication between Members of Government and the Civil Service, or Members of the Legislative Assembly on the Backbench and their constituents, this is most important.

To inject a bit of humour, Sir, I see that in the Estimates, there is provision for a new camera for the Government Information Services, and I just wonder what happened to the old one.

Moving on to the question of Immigration. I dealt with this in some depth when dealing with the Motion on it. I would like to reiterate that in this area communication is crucial. There must be some way within the parameters of the respective Laws, that the Protection Board, the Planning Board, the Central Planning Authority, the Public Service Commission and the Labour Office can somehow come together, or get some communication between them, to have a more harmonious situation between them where the right hand and the left hand know what is going on. I think if that comes about, then the effort of Government to deal with controlled progress, as I think they have mentioned, will be greatly enhanced.

Further, I believe that while we can do a lot with the Law, the Regulations, if they are ultimately made by the House at a later stage, or Executive Council, whatever, it does come down to people when we are dealing with the operation of the respective boards. Therefore, if the boards can deal with matters expeditiously and try to get these out of the way, in fact I believe in the Trade and Business Licences Law there is actually legislated a period of time that trade and Business Licences must go to the board, if we can clear up the delays, then I believe we will clear up a lot of the hardship because, as the saying goes, justice delayed is justice denied, or can be justice denied. If one has to employ a person and that person has to wait for many months, many times you either lose the person, or you suffer in between trying to make due without having somebody in the post. It is also difficult to keep the employment of people abroad tied up for long periods. I believe that the Chairman and Members of the Board will consider this. I believe that we will have decisions much quicker.

The duty also rests on the Executive Council on hearing appeals to see that these too are dealt with expeditiously. The problem, as I mentioned briefly, of having a six month (or before that it was a twelve month) break before a person can get a further work permit when they have to return, I think, should be abolished. I think we have to decide how long we want to have people here and not cause the expense and the delay and the effort to fill that person's post when he is away for six months.

From the point of view for getting status, I do not think it has any effect, as such, on it, because the Board has a discretion - if they do not want to grant status, they do not have to grant it. I am not going to go any further into the Immigration system, no more than to acknowledge that it is one of the most crucial things to this country, I think the future of this country rests very heavily on it, and a very heavy burden rests on the shoulders of Government and of this House to see that we get something that is workable and is acceptable to the people of the Cayman Islands, that is not, in any way, harsh and unconscionable on foreigners and which meets the acceptance of the public, generally. Unless we can get an acceptance by the public, I believe that operating the Immigration system is only going to be more and more difficult. I support the Third Official Member in his move to get the Immigration properly housed, I think that is very important.

Going on to deal with Personnel: One of the things that one learns as a lawyer, and more and more as one gets older and older, is that documents do not necessarily make for a smooth operation in a matter, or a transaction. No matter what is written into a Contract of Employment, if you do not have a sufficiently good relationship with your staff, then the document means very little. Similarly, I would apply that to the Constitution when I deal with it. It is the people who work it, it is not necessarily the document. The document has to be good, but a good document which is not properly operated and dealt with, or where you have serious conflicts in views between the people who are dealing with one aspect and the people who are dealing with another aspect of it, you cannot get it to work.

I would like to see a slowing down and I think that this is very, very important, we must slow down the extent to which we have increased the Civil Service over the past few years. I am not too certain of what that is, but I would dare to say that in the last three or four years probably 50 or 60 per cent more people, or perhaps 40 per cent, have been added to the service. This is now, with some 1700 civil servants, as you mentioned, a very large amount of staff. However, I believe that we would be better off (and I am a capitalist) having the private sector do as much as possible rather than adding more and more departments to the Government. It is a known fact of life that, for example, if Government has to collect revenue from a person in the public, and the private sector has to [also], the person is more reluctant to pay Government. What the reason behind it is I am not certain, but this is a hard fact of life.

Also, we would see the 60 percent, or thereabouts, of revenue that is used to pay the service reduced. What I would like to see done with that reduction is that the savings realised there should be taken and put into salaries to pay civil servants so that we can get a better paid and more efficient and reliable Civil Service.

In other words, I believe that in Cayman with the over employment situation that prevails now, and which has prevailed in the past, we must pay civil servants, taking into account the benefits, at least the equivalent to their counterparts in the private sector, or we are going to lose them. We have seen a brain drain in the past - an exodus of people from the service.

In fact, in 1980, when the revision was made I believe that up to 60-plus per cent had to be added to the salaries of some civil servants to try to bring them up near the amount that the private sector was getting at that stage. I believe that is a good indicator. Unless we have a Civil Service well paid and, with that once again as I said, goes the duty of being competent, being available to the public when that is required and basically putting in one's full dollar of work, then I believe it is only fair that they must be paid for it. We are only going to get in a capitalist society, in returns of labour, what we pay for.

I believe that without actually having to have the rapid increase in the numbers of civil servants, if the Government would be prepared to let the private sector take on as much of a load as it can in areas such as the insurance, pension aid, medical or whatever, as much as can be put out to the private sector should be done. I know some things cannot, but there are many areas where it can be dealt with in the private sector where they also have the inbuilt expertise, whereas we may have to create a department in Government to do certain things that may already exist within the private community. I endorse fully the approach of the Chamber of Commerce when the private sector can do something and there is no good cause why it should not be done there, then it should be done by the private sector.

I am worried, at times, when it appears that the salaries are getting out of line with those equivalent salaries in the private sector. Also, I know you, Sir, and the Third Official Member, have had, over the last few years, the problems of recruiting when you have currencies such as the United Kingdom Pound becoming strong against the Cayman Dollar.

I believe that if we can bring about a reduction in the increase, and I am not necessarily saying a reduction in the present Civil Service, because I do not know if there are areas that can be reduced, a savings and a reduction in every area possible, the money that would have gone to paying additional salaries could be plowed back - we could have the civil servants' salaries increased with it.

I, too, appreciate that there is, traditionally, some slight lagging behind the private sector and the Government, but I do not think that should be in any way very much. I think that should be very minimal. I think it is because Government implements, normally, on an annual basis whereas firms are left to deal with this more on a month to month basis.

The Police...

MR. PRESIDENT: I am sorry, I missed that. Would you care to take a break here?

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: Yes, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: I missed the opportunity. I think it is about the right time. Proceeding are suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 11:23 A.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:45 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The Third Elected Member for George Town continuing.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: Thank you, Sir.
Indirectly related, or near to this same area that I dealt with somewhat earlier, at page 56 of the Budget, there is this year a substantial amount of Capital Development, some \$19.2 million. I would just mention that in 1984 the Capital was \$18.8 million. If one takes the increase over the last four or five years, that is still the record for Capital Expenditure in any one year. That was the...

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS: On a Point of Order Mr. President. The Member is destroying his own argument.

MR. PRESIDENT: I am not sure that is a Point of Order. I think that is a matter for him.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: You know...

MR. PRESIDENT: You have been interrupted on a spurious Point of Order. You are entitled to deal with it.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: I have been very careful up to this point to not do anything that would cause interruptions, and it is really unfortunate, it is a pity that the Member there in his hope for leadership could not be somewhat nearer to the other two Members from George Town who seem to be showing some good leadership qualities, Sir. Having said that, Sir, I will move on.

MR. PRESIDENT: Do you mean George Town or West Bay? I am sorry.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: George Town, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: I was referring to my other two colleagues from George Town - the Member for Tourism and the Member for Communication and Works.

The salary of the Members of the Legislative Assembly is a matter which I campaigned against, and this was set out in my Manifesto. I am still opposed. I still hold the view that this should have gone to the Salaries Commissioner, who would have been able to make a recommendation, an objective assessment, of what value should be placed on it. I think what is good for the goose should be good for the gander. The civil service has methods of moving this to a Salaries Commissioner to look at and to make recommendations.

I will be in the Finance Committee in due course, moving in accordance with my views here. I mentioned that the savings there could have been put back into paying for scholarships or to the more needy, by Government. I also note that the Members, at least it is proposed, that there be a further incremental increase of some \$41,460 in total to the present salaries for MLAs and Members of Executive Council.

Turning now to Education. This has always been dear to me as have the other parts of the Portfolio that I had for 8 years, Health and Social Services. I believe that the best confirmation of the working of the system of education can be found in the 1986 to 1990 Development Plan. The Economic Development Plan, where it says on page 158:

"Prevocational Training is well covered in the Middle and High Schools where there are good facilities for, and professional teaching in, woodwork and wood machining, metal work, machining and foundry work, auto mechanics, technical drafting, dress making and embroidery, cookery, food and nutrition and computer programmeing studies. To some extent, this is followed up in the Community College, which includes one-year full-time programmes in Woodwork/ Carpentry, Marine Engineering and Electricity, in its Trade School and Professional Cookery and Hotel Operations in its Hotel School."

Also, what has been made clear by the Governments Economic Plan is that out of Page 128, where it is said that:

"It is earlier noted and also clear from table 2, that the Cayman Islands Middle School is already overcrowded and the Cayman Islands High School has reached its capacity. Both schools have reached the limit for achieving optimum results on their present sites and it is considered that any further expansion would be

counter-productive.

Accordingly, it has been decided to build a new Middle and High School. The new school will be built on one site, so that certain facilities can be shared, but the two components will be run as separate entities. It is planned to build the schools in the Frank Sound area to accommodate approximately 800 pupils."

That confirms very clearly that the system of the Middle school and the High School has been working well. That has been confirmed by this Government and I am happy that the Member for Education has confirmed his faith in that part of the system.

I would just like to read one other area from this. It relates to the calculated life capacity of the schools. "The life of present capacity is based on a population growth of 3.6 per cent. Over the past 15 years, the actual school population has grown at the rate of 3.2 per cent per annum, but some annual increases have been over 6 per cent." What I would say here, is that if there has been a drop as the Member for Education has mentioned, in the number of children in the Middle and the High Schools, I think the reason for it has to be looked into and found out. At least from this report, and from what I know during my time, there has been a steady increase in students.

The GCSE system is now in effect. As you mentioned, Sir, in your Speech, the passes there were nearing the 100 per cent mark. These have, as I understand it, broadened the band so that they have combined to a large extent what was "O" Levels and the CSE. What would be good, and might help with future employment, is that when reference is made to the GCSE's that we could have the gradings with it. This has now become very important. While one to three in "O's" and one in GSE's was accepted as an "O" Level equivalent, now the band has been broadened considerably to five or six beyond that band, so that a pass in it is now relative to the type of pass one has.

I noticed that in 1988, there was the sum of \$250,000 appropriated for a Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in the school system. That was never pursued. I notice now that only \$50,000 has been put back in 1989 for a Multi-purpose Remedial Center. I think that if the Rehabilitation Center is necessary, it should be pursued. On this, I think that a lot of effort must be put in by the Government to deal with Special Education. It is an important area that needs to be developed as time goes on.

I noticed a vote for \$10 for Special Education rooms and I naturally would support the increase of this, if necessary. What is discouraging is the fact that the Member having mentioned that the George Town Primary School now has approximately 500 students and has the capacity of only 450. That all that is in the estimate this time for the George Town Primary is the sum of \$75,000 for the survey and design of the infant school. I think we have to move on with this. I do not think that we have time that we can leave schools overcrowded. Whatever is necessary to increase the school supplies and the school buildings, or whatever is necessary, then I will support it.

Special Education has been put in with the Overseas vote for the Deaf and the Blind. This is only some \$41,000 and I think that is sadly lacking. I think that area should be increased and I would support it.

One of the things that I found, and I throw this out to the Member for Education, is that the teachers, especially those in the Primary schools, have the necessary consumable supplies - crayons, books, that sort of thing, in the infant's area to deal with the children. Many of them do buy their own supplies, and I think that this should not be necessary. There are little areas like this which I think can ease the problems that exist in the school staffing. Most important is that the Member does get out to the respective schools and has a first hand look at them, and that he sits down with the respective staff from time to time, to discuss matters of policy, be they in the Primary, Middle or High Schools.

I noticed that there is a vote in the area of \$1.3 million, to deal with the Community College. This is good and I commend the Member for putting that in there. I would just say that we need to move on with it as quickly as possible. Along with that I would like to see an expansion of the programme in the Community College to further add the vocational and technical areas that are not now in it.

Private schools do provide a very important part of the education system and a very important part of life in the Cayman Islands. In the five year Economic Development Plan, at page 125, this was written and accepted by the Government:

"It may be established from this Table that while Government Schools account for only 56 per cent of pupils at the equivalent of Primary Levels, a much higher proportion of children at the higher levels are educated at Government Schools. That is 83 per cent at the equivalent at Middle School and 90 per cent at the equivalent of High School level."

So the number of students in those private schools is quite large. I believe that the private schools are important to the education system because it adds a competitive edge to the Government Schools, something that they can measure against, in their progress. It also gives a further choice. It allows people with religious views to go to a school operated by whichever church they favour. Along with this, it also takes a very heavy financial burden off of Government. If we had about half of the students come out of private schools and come to Government, that the amount that we are now paying, the increase would be phenomenal.

My case, therefore, is that it is not sufficient to put in the vote \$100,000 for private schools. This Government, in my view, is probably saving in the millions of dollars per annum,

plus it is not having to deal with a very large system that could arise if these schools, for any reason, should close down. That vote, I think, should be substantially increased. In fact, I would like, if possible if Government would undertake to do annual increases of a sufficiently high amount. I think this year that could have gone up, perhaps doubled to \$200,000 because if those schools, for any reason, are not able to continue because of financial problems, then Government is going to have to pick up a very heavy financial burden from them. I think it makes good sense that this House should support them in every way possible and I know that they do give support. They do give loans at times. They do give grants. I still think that a \$100,000 is really small for what the Government saves as a result of those schools.

A lot was said on the topic of Schools and Education when dealing with the Motion that related to them. I do not intend to repeat here, areas of concern that I raised at that time, only to say that I intend to monitor very closely the system of education in this country and that whenever I have cause to either criticise or to give support to it, I will not hesitate to do so, but it is important that the education system progresses. If for any reason it stands still, or retards in any way, then future generations of this country are being directly affected.

Going on to the Police. I think that the Police have done a good job through the years. The life of a policeman is a very difficult one. They must make split second decisions on matters that lawyers and judges may spend days, sometimes weeks, and even then, different judges or different attorneys may come up with different opinions. Also, the hours that are put in there are very long. I believe that they need the support of the community to ensure that they can develop and deal with crime and the keeping of peace in this country. The small size of the community creates certain problems. I believe that while in the past there has been reluctance to give information from time to time, the duty of the public to give information is tied very closely in, and should be regarded as sufficiently confidential; the police do not in any way affect that confidentiality. I know they try towards this but I believe that, if as the Force matures, educating of the public could be increased; then their dealing with crime through information from private citizens could be greatly improved.

Now the crime clear-up rate in this country must be the highest in the world. That is a commendable thing for the Police here. The clear-up rate for some crimes, is naturally more difficult than in others. We do see that fluctuation when looking at the Police Report, but, by and large, we have a good clear-up rate of the crimes.

In this area, I would like to also pay tribute to the 25 years of service that Deputy Commissioner Evans gave to the Police Force. I would ask that further members of the Force who are Caymanians do everything possible to qualify and take seriously their positions there and carry on the work within it.

The crime position has been mentioned by you, Sir, in your Address, in which you said that crime continues to rise: this, I think, concerns everyone in this country. I believe that Members of the Legislative Assembly and every Politician who ran in the last election were fairly united in their fight against crime. We have seen, this year, that crime has increased upwards from 1987, from reported of 2,594 to reported 3,061 in 1988 at page 36 of the Police Annual Report. The clear-up in 1987 was 2,001 and in 1988 2,258. So crime continues to increase.

Perhaps, the one bit of hope in this is that the overall misuse of drugs has decreased from the reported of 835 and the cleared-up of 810 in 1987, to 707 reported in 1988 and 707 cleared-up. The worrying thing about those figures, however, is that the offences involving cocaine, hard drugs, have only decreased by four from 230 offences to 226, while we have seen very good decreases in the use of ganja or cannabis. Also worrying, but once again showing the effectiveness of, the police is that with cocaine and possession with intent to supply, it has moved from reported and cleared-up cases of 28 in 1987 to 43 in 1988.

I believe that we are beginning to hit the areas that it is beginning to hurt. However, such a high figure of 200 and odd cases in hard drugs, cocaine, compared to only four back in 1984, is still a very large amount for this country. When we are looking at some 800 group total for drugs and we look at the size of the population in his country, we realise that it has reached fairly well mind-boggling proportions.

I ran a campaign that was very much law and order, because I detest drugs, I detest crime. In my Manifesto I pointed out what I regarded as some possible solutions the Government may look at. I said the fight against crime, and especially illegal drugs, will be given top priority. Solutions include the use of tracker dogs, increased specialised policemen, joint effort with and increased Government support and funding to Churches, CASA, NCSS and service organisations; increasing the compulsory school leaving age, public awareness and defence instructions; more information to police, securer Prisons, increased penalties, increased police patrols and street lighting; correcting discipline problems in schools and the establishment of neighbourhood crime watches, a rehabilitative center with emphasis on young persons, a half-way house for juveniles and similar facilities should be established immediately. The Judiciary Police and Prison Department should be granted the necessary funds and facilities. With those brief words I believe that if we can expand Government and the communities fight in some of these areas, the effectiveness has got to increase.

I was very happy that you mentioned in your Speech, Sir, that the United States was considering the Radar Station; that is, one that is not in here. I must say that I know it was pushed fairly heavily by the candidates in West Bay. I am glad to see it. My only word of caution would be [to see] if this can be manned and dealt with locally, even if it means training, or for a short time that we would have foreign Government personnel on this soil. That, in my opinion, would be the best way to go, rather than to have the establishment of a foreign Government agency deal with it. I do not know the extent of the sophistication or the possibilities, but we have to be ever mindful not to appear to be doing something that may anger neighbouring countries for any reason. We do have, and have kept, reasonably good relationships with them and we do fly over countries such as Cuba.

The problem with drugs is that as we deal with the two areas of problems - the prevention and the cure - that more money and more services have to be given to organisations, such as Cayman Against Substance Abuse (CASA), the Lions Club and the many service organisations out there that are assisting, because this Government cannot do what they are doing; I think to adequately reach the private community, it has to come from within. What is needed are facilities in these organisations to deal with the necessary programmes. While I believe that everybody in the community, undoubtedly, gives - and, in fact, I think in Cayman people probably give more to charity and the different service organisations than in any other country - Government does have a duty not to forget that they are doing a job that is something that is not just the community's responsibility, it is Government's responsibility as well. It is Government's duty - its overriding duty - to see that drugs in this country are reduced and dealt with.

Much has been said, as recorded in the minutes of this House, about rehabilitation. I hold strongly to the fact that we are merely postponing the problem when we deal with keeping the rehabilitation centre for drugs and alcohol out. The half-way house is good and I commend the Member for Health on it. He has, undoubtedly, been taking decisions within broad areas relating to his Portfolio, but I believe that a half-way house is only dealing with half the problem.

I believe that this Government should bite the bullet, at this stage, and appropriate the necessary money to establish a rehabilitation centre now. Back when it was considered there were only, at that time, I think or I know, there were only four cases of cocaine which were dealt with by the Police. Even at that stage there was enough foresight to know that we must deal with a system of cure for a problem that exists and which has now gotten into phenomenal proportions.

I agree with many of the efforts that the Member for Health has dealt with. He is new in that post and I believe that it may well be advisable for him, in the future, to look again at the rehabilitation centre. That needs to be sufficiently wide. Not just to cover drugs, but to cover alcohol, and the pressures and problems that arise within society relating to matrimonial problems, employer - employee relations, and everywhere within society that pressure can come to bear on people. People turn to drugs because of a problem, in many instances. If we wipe out as many of the pressures that are out there as possible then, I believe, we are coming much nearer to dealing with the prevention side of it and the cure side of it than we would ever reach.

It was an accepted principle of the last Government, and the previous Governments, that because of the high cost of sending people to medical facilities in the United States, that we must finally provide such facilities here. One of the things that worries me is a person on drugs can go, abroad and spend \$10,000 or \$20,000 at a centre, but they then come back within the same environment that created the problem. This seems to me to be defeating the purpose. They should be rehabilitated within the society. I commend the Member for his increase in rehabilitation services. But I think the time must come when we deal with this in the seriousness and the extent to which it exists. We can no longer shut our eyes to it. I believe that society is ready for the fight. I believe that the new Member is ready for the fight, but we have to go into it with an open mind and we have to look at all the areas that could help.

I said back some time ago, and I support it now, that if building a rehabilitative centre would have cost \$2 million, or whatever, and it could have saved the life of one person on drugs it would have been worth it. We cannot measure lives with money. We must come to a stage where we realise that if the fight against drugs is not won, this country is going to crumble. Unfortunately, it will crumble from within. The Roman empire, which lasted for some 1,000 years finally crumbled from within.

What I am saying to the new Government is that I believe that people in the private sector are prepared to do everything possible to deal with this problem. I believe that you, the Government, are prepared to do everything possible to deal with this problem. I can assure you that, from what I have heard from Members of this House in total, the Member for Health is going to get the support and the financial support he needs but, I believe he has got to move fast because time is against us with this problem. We must implement - I know he is quicker at implementation than perhaps his predecessor - an early implementation of the half-way house. I realise that there is nothing in here for a rehabilitative centre, but I would ask you to think about it. Let us cut \$1 million out of roads, or let us cut \$1 million out of something else and put the money on what is needed for this. The justification is obvious, if we are using rehabilitative centres in the United States or in Jamaica, or wherever, then we need it here.

Continuing on the question of Health, the Member has produced a paper on AIDS, and I must say that there are many aspects to that. I have not studied it in as much detail as I would appreciate, however I am prepared to support it. He is making a move in another area where there are problems. I would just like to mention that there are more deaths, and there are more lives destroyed by drugs, by alcohol, in this country than there are going to be by AIDS for some years to come...

MR. PRESIDENT:
before.

I think you may be verging on repeating what you have said

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

I think that it is important that we look at the size of the problem.

The other area that I would like to deal with is in relation to Sports and Recreation. I believe, as I mentioned on private schools, the grants to these should be increased because this is the way in which the efforts of people who will get hooked on drugs can be diverted and where their energy can be put into wholesome channels.

The organisations do a good job in sports, but they need to be able to depend upon the necessary grants that they need in order to deal with the programmes.

The upgrading of fields and dealing with the Sports Complex, I

think, have to be pursued. I was somewhat unhappy to see that the track at the Sports Complex was not yet surfaced with a better surface than asphalt because after a while, what happens is that, the asphalt surface becomes hard and you can get injuries on it, with children falling. What would be good there is if a surface such as is used at the Stadiums and the Olympic Track Meets, a type of synthetic surface, could be put over that to deal with any possibility of injuries.

The other thing I noticed, and that I would ask the Member responsible to deal with, is that there still continues to be a lot of zinc roofing and debris, perhaps from the Hurricane, in the area of the compound. I know that Public Works Department is probably doing everything possible, but it has been many months and the time has come to have some of that removed.

It has been pointed out to me that my figures given in relation to Ship Registration did not include \$100,000 on the Marine Survey Fees, that was a distance further down. The proper figure should have been \$250,000 instead of \$150,000. I apologise to the First Official Member for not picking that up. The position is that it is now a balanced Budget in relation to the Ship Registry.

Another area that I feel should be increased, is the grant to Scouts, Girls Brigade and the Duke of Edinburgh, which stands at a small \$3,000. Organisations such as this keep children in good areas, keeps them away from the problems of drugs. I think, Sir, the Sports Grant of \$80,000 should have been doubled but this, relating to the Scouts, Girls Brigade and that area, I feel, could now go into the area of \$15,000 to \$20,000 These are good organisations. Let us stand behind them. I believe that the results that we will reap from that will be far more than the small amount that we put in them.

On Social Services, I look forward to the introduction of the Juvenile Law by the Member for Health and Social Services. This, I think, is an area that has to be kept up-to-date. We cannot let it lag behind, constant reviews are necessary.

I believe, however, that we should be looking at dealing with the question of low cost housing, where people are not in a sufficiently high income bracket to get the loans from the Corporation. I know the Member for Communications and Works put a Motion some years back on this, so I know there is some support there for a programme which had been started prior to 1984 but was, unfortunately, not proceeded with.

There are some people out there that are not going to qualify for loans from the Banks or from the Housing Development Corporation. This is an important area that should be dealt with. You made it abundantly clear, Sir, and it is something that I have echoed throughout my time in this House, that the best and most stable citizens are people who are homeowners. The more homeowners we can get, then the better off and more stable, I believe, the country will be.

The Lands and Survey Department is very important. It is a good revenue collector. I would like to see the necessary assessment and necessary staff, equipment or whatever is necessary, to see that they deal with decisions expeditiously. I believe the delays are coming from a lack of staff. It is important to the community as a whole that surveys, as well as the registration of documents, move through fairly expeditiously because sometimes you can have contracts with time limits dependent upon surveys. If the department needs staff, then I am prepared to support the Member for Communications and Works to get that dealt with.

The work of the Natural Resources Laboratory and the efforts to deal with the conservation of the Islands are commendable. While I do not necessarily agree with all of the results that I see published from time to time, I do believe that in general we have to look at Conservation seriously, while bearing in mind that there has to be progress if the Islands are to continue.

I continue to spend as much time as I can in a boat. I fish or I sail and I keep my ear to the ground in relation to what is happening to stocks of fish or to areas of coral or mangrove. I believe that when we ultimately get the permanent Cruise Ship moorings there it will undoubtedly help. I believe that the Member has that now in hand.

Planning Board: The Planning Department functions well. It is important that the Member ensures that matters are dealt with expeditiously. I think that the continuation of the Chairman, Mr. David Arch, will give continuity and continued stability to that Board in the light of having new members on it. Their decisions in the past have been, I must say, within reasonable periods. I know it is getting more and more.

The one thing I would like, when statistics are given saying what has been approved in Planning, is that the statistics are given of what the start-up rate. This is a real factual side. If there are big developments the question of what has started, I think, is important.

On the question of roads, especially in George Town, we have a problem with repairs. I would ask the Member for Communications and Works, the Member responsible for the roads, if everything possible could be done to try to deal with the upgrading of the repairs. I know that he does have a Master Ground Transportation Plan to deal with a lot of new roads, but I think it is important, before we embark on very large new roads, that we at least get our present roads in good shape. Whatever can be done, especially in areas where the pipelines have been put in, could the Member please move on and deal with it as early as possible? I believe that one would feel somewhat better when one gets to work in the mornings if one had a smooth ride getting there.

I note that in the Transportation Plan, there was an area at paragraph 26 in which there would be established a Standard Maintenance Management System and that they recommended exercise of authority, granted under the Development and Planning Law, to control activities of utility companies which affect the roads. Also in Public Works, to be an analysis of accidents to determine the remedial measures. I believe that this is something the Member is going to look at. I would just ask him to look at it at a very early stage.

I was happy to see that many of the things that I mentioned in my Manifesto, my aims are similar to those of this Government. Among them (and I would just mention a few here) were things such as continuing the sidewalks, the repairs to the roads, I also mentioned increasing of street lights - even though I dealt with this under misuse of drugs - and lighted pedestrian crossings are now a reality. I also feel that we need more launching ramps in the George Town area, preferably one in the North Sound area, which is adjacent to the George Town community. There is money in there, I know, to deal with the Whitehall ramp, which needs to be dredged out somewhat. I should not say dredged, it needs to be dug out somewhat. I do not want to get into that word, but it is fairly shallow now, since the Hurricane, and it needs to be cleared out.

I would also like to see the Member undertake a programme to clean buildings, such as the Post Office, because they do get to be somewhat unsightly once they get a lot of dust on them.

One of the important areas relating to the Medical Services that I would like to see considered by government, is the encouragement of the establishment of a Private Hospital. I believe that this can do several things: It can give the same competition as we find between public and private schools, and it can, therefore, increase the quality of services both in Government and the Private Sector. Secondly, it would relieve Government of the considerable burden which it carries in relation to the Medical Services, the large amounts of money that supplement the cost of operating the Hospital and the services, generally. I think that if there is sufficient encouragement, hopefully in the near future there could be some movement in that area. Tied in with this is the importance of the updating of the Disaster and Hurricane Plan of Government and of the Hospital.

The other area that I would like to turn to is that of Cayman Airways Limited. I am happy to see that, at least on this occasion of the elections, there has not been the amount of politicking around Cayman Airways that there has been at times in the past. I believe that the continuity of the airline is important to the Cayman Islands. We should never be put in the position where communications to the Islands could be cut at any stage because these Islands would perish economically and physically, because we do get our imports, many times, through the airline. However, I believe that we must finally look at Cayman Airways as an entity that this Government is going to have to continue to put larger sums into as a subsidy.

In the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Auditor General's Report (paragraph 14) for December 1987, that Committee said:

"The Committee is aware of an apparent deterioration in the airlines financial position, as shown in the audited accounts for the year ended the 30th of June, 1987. Despite a Government subvention of U.S. \$1.25 million in the year, the airline's working capital decreased by U.S. \$1.1 million at the date of the account. It is unable to determine whether the deterioration is due to an inadequate subvention or to managerial problems in the airline. It recommends that Government clarify the considerations which are adopted when the level of subsidy for a particular year is set."

That [Committee] was Chaired by the Member for Communications and Works and I would hope that when clarification is made that we then look at whatever is realistic to deal with Cayman Airways subsidy.

MR. PRESIDENT: Is that a convenient break in your speech, to take Lunch.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: Yes, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are suspended until a quarter past two.

AT 12:48 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:24 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The Third Elected Member for George Town continuing.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I would like now to move on to the area of your speech that deals with the Museum. I am very happy to see that this is now coming to fruition. We can expect to have the Archives and the different exhibits displayed. Also, in this area of your speech, Sir, you dealt with the National Trust. This, once again, deems the public and the Government's support. Hopefully, many of their projects, such as the Fort George project and the new projects that they are looking at - Botanical Gardens, historical buildings survey - which you mentioned, will come to fruition. It is important that we do preserve parts of our past. No better way can this really be done other than by dealing with it through the Museum or the Trust.

In this area, you also referred to the cultural aspect of life in these Islands. This, too, is important. I know the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, as well as the Third Elected Member from West Bay, dealt with different areas of this.

I think that we have been very lucky to have had the F.J. Harquail Theatre. I would hope that we will see an end to the, what I would call, friction which arose between the organisations that take place in there. It was especially unfortunate that more appreciation could not have been given to Mrs. Harquail who must, undoubtedly, be one of the most generous benefactors that this country has ever seen, and probably will ever see. I would ask the Member responsible, while I know the different organisations are

not directly under him, to do whatever is possible to restore that area of culture to a more happy and progressive stage.

The Fire Department, which you referred to, Sir, is one that is very efficient. This is a very good example of a Caymanian, Mr. Kirkland Nixon, who has taken that from scratch to the top. It has filled a very important gap, especially now as the country gets more and more (as well as taller and taller) buildings in it.

Similarly, with the Civil Aviation Department we have seen Mr. Sheldon Hislop move that forward with the times and with the trying areas that do arise from time to time with air traffic.

I would like to go on now to an area where I, apparently, differ somewhat considerably from other Members and other candidates. That is to touch just briefly on my views at least as to the Constitution.

On this, very briefly, Sir, I would say that when something works well I do not believe we should touch it. As I mentioned about documents and the workings of contracts in life generally, in relation to a relationship (looking back to the personnel in the Civil Service section between the elected and the Civil Service), I believe that if sufficient effort is put out between the personnel in the Civil Service of Government and the Members who deal with policy, then I do not think that we would have any problems in the area of the Constitution. It all comes back to working together. Regardless of what may be written now, or in the future, it depends upon the attitude and the approach of the Members of Government and the Civil Service. Together they can move forward as a team. If friction arises then problems arise. I say this, basically, from experience. If one expects respect, one has to give it. If one gives it first, then I believe that one normally will find that respect will be given in return. It is a two way street and it is not one in which you can take one way, regardless of who is boss and who is employee, or whatever.

Looking now, Sir, to one last area before I summarise in winding up. I endorse the view of the Third Elected Member from West Bay - now that the economy is good, we should be looking at assisting people, especially the people who have small incomes, with reductions of import duty. It may not come this time, but I think it should be looked at in the next Budget. On the necessities of life, as was very clearly set out in my Social Service policies and also in my Manifesto, I believe that people are entitled to these and if we can ease the cost of the basic necessities to the people who have a lower income, then we must be assisting the development of the Island.

One other point that I would just like to throw in, as I have noticed it here in my Manifesto and it relates back to a question of the building of reserves and the spending, I believe that Government's duty is to build its reserves, as has been done during the time of a boon, so that if and when an economic recession does arise it can then spend to expand the economy to avoid unemployment. It will cut out the sharp increase and decrease in unemployment and in spending, generally. Really, now is the time to build the reserves and to keep debt down so that at a later stage we will have the necessary spending power if and when the economy slides downwards.

In summary, I am very happy to see that many areas in my Manifesto have now been either dealt with or undertaken to be dealt with in the Budget or in the promises made in your Throne Speech, Sir - the areas such as the repair of the roads, building of proper drains, additional sidewalks, street lights, pedestrian crossings, even though more could have been put in some areas which deal with these, as well as things like launching ramps, which mean a fair amount to people, especially in times when weather is bad.

I believe that we cannot do too much on the fight against drugs. To that extent I feel that we should have an increase, or have money voted, for the areas such as CASA, the service clubs, the bodies that deal with this and we should have more money voted in the areas of rehabilitation, with a hard look at a rehabilitation centre.

I also feel that the votes relating to private schools, sporting organisations and organisations such as the Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, could have been doubled, perhaps more than doubled, because these are areas that will enhance our society.

My views, in summary, on the state of the Country's finance are that I welcome seeing the Reserves and the Surplus, but I am somewhat worried as to where we are going with the possibility of some \$32 million of debt by the end of this year. I have endeavoured to keep what I have had to say away from anything inflammatory and, as with the previous debates of the First Elected Member for Bodden Town and the Third Elected Member for West Bay, I have steered clear of any areas that may have created any friction within the personnel side while in here.

As I mentioned a bit earlier, I would just like to leave with Members that when someone has nothing to say then they begin to attack people and characters, and I am talking generally, Sir. I would hope that when we go into the Finance Committee that there will be a good hard look at the areas that I, and other Members, have raised here. While I appreciate that one cannot, as such, increase the spending, money can be taken from some areas that are less important and put into areas which are more important. It is a matter of priorities.

I have tried, and I always have tried throughout my time, to be constructive. I would hope that Members in the House have taken areas which I have dealt with, criticised, as being a constructive approach to it, while appreciating that in a democracy there will always be different sides because people are, by nature, different.

As included in my Manifesto, I am prepared to work with Members of this House, including Members of Government, towards advancing this country towards making it better, and dealing with the difficult problems which face us. I would hope that in the future this will be taken as a serious approach and we will find that in a united way it is far simpler to do a far larger amount of work in a far

shorter time with a lot less headaches.

Once again, Sir, I congratulate you on your Throne Speech and I congratulate the Honourable First Official Member on the Budget Address.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Does any other Member wish to speak? Or are you going to put the Chair through the same performance as yesterday? [pause] Three Members have acquitted themselves. Is any other Member prepared to stand? [pause]

In that case there is no other alternative. Would the Mover...

I am glad to see you on your feet. I have to tell the House - the next time I am not going to catch the eye of a Member rising late.

The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both yourself, and the Honourable First Official Member in the very competent and able way in which your respective speeches were presented. The Throne Speech is what I would call short, the kind of speech which, I believe, the listening public and the Honourable Members of this House like to listen to. The Budget Address, Sir, because of its nature, had to be long and detailed. Apart from a few comments that I have on it, I must compliment the Honourable First Official Member on the way in which he organised the contents.

Having said those kind words, I now go on to Banking. I am happy to know that Banking has continued to grow and that it is still one of our revenue earners. It has continued to play a vital part in our economy, with our local employees.

Insurance: I wish to extend my congratulations to the first Caymanian appointed as Superintendent of Insurance. I believe that he will discharge his duties to the best of his ability, and satisfactorily to the insurance industry and to the general public. I made a suggestion that the farmers of this country needed some help from Government, or the Superintendent of Insurance, to find a reputable Insurance Company where the farmers could get crop coverage, so that if we should ever experience a disaster like we saw on September the 12th and 13th 1988, again - which I hope we never do - we will have something to fall back on.

Customs: At this time I would like to offer my congratulations to the Collector of Customs, Mr. J. Carlon Powery, and to his staff. He is one in whom I believe we can put our trust to perform his duties. I am also happy to know that the Customs Department has collected a record total of revenue amounting to CI\$34 million. I am also happy to learn that the Customs Department received from the U.S Customs Department a fine pursuit boat, together with training in boat handling for the staff which will help them in their search or control of drugs. I would like to sound a warning to those young men who would operate the fast boat: Be very careful, as I do not believe that they are safe with just having a fast boat when they go after those drug people because, as I have read in books, those killers have no thought or heart for anyone. They are heavily armed and will take any steps necessary to protect their deadly cargo of drugs. I believe that the Government should be prepared to invest in a helicopter capable of intercepting and assisting these Officers with the drug boats or planes. I believe that we must do all we can to wipe out this deadly monster that has crept into our society.

Mr. President, in your Throne Speech you said that the review of the Customs Law and Tariffs is near completion. I do hope that the Honourable First Official Member responsible for Customs will give me a chance to air what I believe needs to be changed in those Laws from an agricultural point of view. I hope that it is not too late. For myself, as a farmer (and, if I may say, one of the largest farm developers in the Cayman Islands) I have found it very difficult at times when trying to import some pieces of equipment to be used in the farming industry, namely, tomato ripening machines, a special banana chemical gun, cattle crossing gap and a trailer to carry cattle. Mr. President, with your permission Sir, I would like to read a part of the Customs Law which affects the farmers of this country: "Chapter 20, subsection (20)(1): 'Agriculture tractors and accessories thereto - free.'"

I believe that I own one of the largest tractors with attachments for farming in this country. If something goes wrong with a part on that machine I can order it, whether by air or by sea, go with my forms and have it cleared without having to go to the Portfolio. That is good, because it is here and it is Law, but it is one of the hard parts. I believe this part needs to be amended while the Customs Law and Tariffs are up for review. and I expect that for a machine that is put out for ripening tomatoes, bananas, avocados, mangoes, any fruit, that would come in under 20.02 Agriculture Equipment:

"Agriculture equipment of all kinds including permanent plant building units and appliances for local agricultural productive purposes other than transport...".

I am not blaming this Government in particular, this has been on the books for a long time.

In this country it is not as easy today as it was 15 or 20 years ago to run cattle on the road. A good example of that was about three weeks ago on a Sunday morning - cattle were being run on the road and two were killed. The farmers of this country have tried every way possible to bring agriculture up. I must say that Government over the years has been able to make reports of increases in agriculture. It would be fair to say that if it was not for the private sector (the most help that Government has ever offered in agriculture, I believe, is in the last three or four years), there would not be any agriculture in this country. I do believe that to help the farmers of this country, this Law could be Amended.

I see 16 Amendments and 17 Revised Copies of this Law before

me, and this section has never been touched. I must say that when this was put into effect there were not many people with any idea of what farming or agriculture was all about. I do not see why a trailer, to be towed behind your vehicle to transport your cattle, could not be let in duty free without having to go through the hassle of going to the Portfolio or the Governor in Council for permission.

You know also, as the Law stands now, as a plant nursery owner I order fruit trees and flowering plants, anything, including pottings from Miami, but if I wanted to import 100 plastic pots to start my own propagation in this country, I would have to pay duty on them. As the Law now stands, it is telling me that I can import, but do not try to do anything here. A simple little piece of equipment like the Banana Chemical Gun, which was put out by Dupont Chemical to help the farmers combat nematode disease, is just a simple little piece of instrument. But you have to waste a day going to the airport or seaport, to customs, back to the Portfolio, back to the Customs, back to the dock or the airport.

Cattle crossings gap: It is a prefabricated piece of cement that is put in the earth and your gateway to stop animals - cows, horses, donkeys - from crossing out from your pasture onto the road, or from the road into your garden or pasture. I cannot see why things like these cannot be put on as Duty Free, so that when you order something like that you go to the Department and it will be listed there. I had one incident of an agriculture tractor, which is listed here (with its accessories thereto) as free. When I went to the airport to pick the part up, the young Officer told me I had to pay duty. He was very polite and I appreciated that. I pointed out this Law to him, and he said he was sorry. I accepted that. That is the kind of thing that we need. This Law goes on to say: "...or the processing of non-agricultural by-products but including animal husbandry, hydroponics, fish farming, plant and crop cultivation and the preservation, preparation, packing and marketing of foodstuffs and other produce of the soil, certified as such by the Governor in Council - Free...". I am not saying that these items cannot be brought in duty free, but it is the hassle you have to go through for them. In particular, the cattle trailer - I had to pay duty on it; the cattle crossing gap - I paid duty on it.

You know, in my company, New Hut Farms, I was shown a better way of bookkeeping. My checks were carbonised so that when I got back home at night, I did not have to stop and write in the journal what business had been done that day. I ordered my cheque book leaves from the States. It arrived at the Post Office, and I had to pay duty on it there. Then I had to turn around and pay 10 cents duty on every cheque leaf too. I found a loop-hole to get out of that. That is to back-pack them in and not pay any duty, except the 10 cents for the cheque leaves.

I hope that the Honourable Member will take note of these items, and I believe that there are many more before the full revision of the Customs Law is completed. I believe that if the Government is really going to do something for agriculture, they should make it as easy as possible for the farmers. We have to compete with the import market and when we have to pay extra money, we have to pass it back on.

Legal Department: I am also glad to know that another Caymanian Crown Council has joined the Attorney General's Chambers, along with the rest of the qualified Barristers in that Department. I do wish them all the best in the future and may they continue to climb the ladder to the top. I also wish every success to the 21 students at present studying the Attorney Law course.

I would like to see the Government take a role in setting up an office for an Ombudsman in this country for the people who are less fortunate.

The Royal Cayman Islands Police: I wish to say welcome to the new Commissioner, Mr. Alan Ratcliffe, at this time, and I feel that he will continue to upgrade the professionalism of the Force. I will add that one day I hope to see a true born Caymanian in that position. While I hold the greatest respect for the Officers, I believe that some investigation within the force needs to take place. The crime rate has increased and I believe that it will continue to increase if we do not have some investigation into the alleged allegations that keep popping up from time to time.

The Prison Department: Sir, in your Throne Speech you said that the growing prison population and greater criminal sophistication presents the Prison Department with increased challenges and that the building programme which is to continue, will eventually provide up to 150 new places. I knew years ago that that would continue to grow as long as drugs had hit this country. It is sad to say, but I believe that is one of the big problems with the crime rate today.

You also said, Sir, that the Department anticipates some expansion and increase in return from the farm and the horticulture enterprise in 1989. As Chairman of the Cayman Islands Farmers Cooperative Limited, I would like to say that the Farmers Market has been receiving some produce from the prison for sale at the Market and I am thankful for that. I do hope that the Honourable Member in charge of the Prison Department would take note of what I am about to say. I have always heard the saying, hands come, hand go. By saying that, I would like to make it known that since the Farmers Market takes some or all of the produce that the Prison can supply, I would hope that the Honourable Member would suggest that the Purchasing Department of the Prison consider buying their beef and pork from the Market. I was told by the Management of the Market that they have tried, on different occasions, to sell beef and pork to the prison but were never successful. They were told that the Prison Department can import their meats cheaper from abroad. Sir, while I will not disagree that this may be so, we have to look after the fact that we keep our dollars working when we buy Caymanian produce. I hope the Member will help the Market Management to find some answer as to why they cannot buy our meat, which is produced locally.

Immigration: I believe that the Immigration Department has performed well and I congratulate them for the job well done. The Caymanian Protection Law is up for revision. I do not wish to say too much on the subject except that I would like to see Government go through the same process of work permit applications as the private sector when hiring employees from outside of the Island. I will go to my district to hold meetings and get the input from the public for their views of the Protection Law.

Broadcasting: Once again this Department's revenue covered its expenditure and I am happy for that. I believe that its revenue could be increased if it was to make up programmes to get the business public to sponsor them. I would also like to see some changes in the programme of music. I have heard on many occasions, from many young men that I have talked to who either are on drugs or were on drugs, and nine out of 10 said to me that most of the time the music that Radio Cayman has on, gives them the urge to use drugs.

I would like to touch on the subject of Civil Service. I would like to wish the Civil Service of this country every continued success in the years ahead and will take this opportunity to encourage every Caymanian in the Civil Service to take advantage of every available course that comes to them, both overseas and in Cayman, and through the rotation of jobs in the various departments of Government. I believe that this would give them a better chance to decide if it is really the job they want to do in the first instance. I would also like to remind them that just because they are Caymanians they will not automatically be placed in the position to fill a post that is vacant in their department. I would like to remind them also that I know how their feelings are hurt when they feel they are capable of filling the post but were overlooked mainly because they have very few people to turn to with their problems.

I do hope that the Government employees from overseas will in the future have to go through the same process of filling out a work permit application form, and of sending it to the Protection Board so that the workers will have a chance to write a letter stating their qualifications, the time they have been in the job, and whether they are suitable for the position that those people are applying for.

District Administration: I would like to say to the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman not to feel left out because they do not have an Executive Council Member. I believe that this is the first time that the district of North Side has had an Executive Council Member, since the Constitution came in. I wish the Honourable Member for Health and Social Services every success in his new job. I believe he will do the people of North Side good. I am happy to know that the International Terminal, Airport Terminal, in Cayman Brac will soon be opened and I am sure that they will see an upswing in tourist arrivals once the jet service can be brought back to them.

I would also like to say to the Honourable Member for Communications, Works and Natural Resources, that on my visit to Cayman Brac, I saw that there is a possibility for agriculture to take place on the Bluff. I would encourage him to have a survey done, in the future, for the best areas suitable for agriculture and to help the farmers to get roads leading in to the best areas.

Tourism: Sir, in your Address to this House, in the 1989 forecast, you said the tourist industry could turn out to have a difficult year. With what I have seen in the newspapers and what caused the down-swing, I would say, it is still early. I have watched over the years what happens when there is an election in the United States. Tourism generally takes a down-swing until the people of that country are satisfied with the way the economy of the United States is going.

I believe that the cruise ship industry is booming. I would like to see Government take a look at alternative docking for bringing the cruise ship passengers to shore. I think that there are a lot of visitors on those ships that never come off because they have to take the launch. We have, as a competitor, to look at every possible avenue that we can to be able to accommodate them.

Fire Service: I believe that this is one department of Government that can truly say that they are 100 per cent staffed by Caymanians. It is under the leadership of a top and well qualified gentleman. I congratulate Mr. Kirkland Nixon, and his staff. I wish them every success in the future. I believe that it has helped, and will continue to be of great help to, this country.

Cayman Airways: I believe that the service of Cayman Airways has proven very valuable to our Island. I believe that we need to take a serious look at different aircraft. In your Throne Speech, Sir, with the long term objective of replacing the 727's that we now have with more cost efficient aircraft. I also felt, at one time, that we could have acquired the service from other airlines. Now, today, I take that back because when we have to become dependent on other airlines, they can pull out at any time and we are left in the hole. If it means the Government's continued subsidising of the airlines, we will have to do it.

MR. PRESIDENT: Would it be convenient for you, to take the tea break now?

MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH: Thank you, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Meeting suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 3:22 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:44 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town continuing.

MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President.
Before we took the break, I was talking about Cayman Airways. I would like to move on to Education, Recreation and culture.

I believe that we will see better education in the near future in this country for our children. In this House, where policies can be made, we have more competent people. My colleague from Bodden Town is very well educated and a former teacher and the Second Elected Member from

Cayman Brac is also a past teacher. I hold every respect for the Honourable Member in charge of Education, Recreation and Culture. I believe that he will do all he can to promote education for our country. Along with the Community College, where different courses are taught to help the less fortunate who might not have been so bright in one particular area, I believe that emphasis should be put on subjects that particular students might show interest in. If we do that then, when the day is over, we will be better off.

I believe that the development of the sporting and recreational facilities at the Sports Complex will be greatly appreciated by all the youth in this country. I still believe that the districts could be helped with smaller projects. I look forward to seeing that done.

The Museum: I am glad to learn that the National Museum is about to become a reality. The old Court House will be kept and that, in itself, should be a show piece.

The Turtle Farm: I believe that the Turtle farm will continue to attract tourists and natives, alike. Every effort should be made to keep it that way.

I would just like to say that I have a little difficulty understanding why the wild agouti, our local rabbit, has been destroyed there on many occasions. These animals are a local attraction to the tourists. The reason why I say this is because it is a long process to tame those rabbits so that visitors may get to see them as they really are. Those rabbits, in days gone by, were a favourite dish in this country. Besides, it costs the farm extra money to replace them every time they are killed. I believe that the necessary steps should be taken to make sure that they are secure enough from the dogs, in the future. I say this because I care to know that the visitors to the Turtle Farm get to see other worthwhile things.

I have also donated two iguanas to the farm, which were caught on my farm in East End, because I care about the Farm and its attractiveness. I wish them every success in the future.

The National Trust: I believe that it is a step in the right direction, and it will help preserve things that are of historic value to this country. These, as always, are slowly disappearing. I believe that the National Trust should be given every chance, and all the help that we can give, to develop as a tourist attraction the 685 acres of land that Government has donated off the Queen's Highway, known as the Salinas. I support the acquiring of land to begin development of a Botanical Garden for Cayman. I also wish to offer support to the Trust after learning that it was working with the Museum on the Memory Bank Project in recording the memories of old Caymanians. I believe that these are fast disappearing every day.

Health and Social Services: I believe that the time has come for a new and modern hospital. Whether it is by private sector or Government or a joint project. I also believe the time has come for a national medical health insurance policy for this country that will serve and help the people. I also believe that the time has come to look at the possibility of a large plant to dispose of solid wastes.

Drugs: I am happy to know that a drug advisory council has been set up and had its first meeting in January. I have every trust in those who have been selected for that Drug Council. I believe that they will do all they can and help in every way possible to stop this evil deadly creature that has entered our society. I am happy to know that the Drugs and Alcohol Programmes are going to be expanded in this country. I believe that the Member responsible has taken steps in the right direction.

Pension Plan: I am happy to learn that a revised scheme has been done and that public consultation will begin this month. It is planned to bring legislation during this year, to establish the plan by 1990. It is badly needed.

Housing Development Corporation: I am also happy to know that a new Board has been appointed to the Housing Development Corporation. A full review of housing needs will be undertaken. I do hope the Board Members will consider that there are all different kinds of people out there, and they all have different needs. There are those who can afford to pay a \$35,000 mortgage or a \$45,000 mortgage, but again there are those who may only be able to afford to pay a \$10,000 mortgage. We still have to help those less fortunate people. If we do not, they are the ones that will bring future trouble. Whatever it takes to give them a decent little home to live in, we should do our best to help them; even if it is only a one bedroom, one bath, kitchen, dining room. We also have to let people know that they have to learn not to hang their hats higher than they can reach to take it back down. By that, I mean, that if the repayment on a big home is too high, they will not be able to bring those payments down and then they might wind up worse off than had they started on a small home which they could have added to in the future. I believe that the Corporation will have success with its new 7.5 per cent debenture issue. It will have support from the financial institutions and the general public alike.

Development: I believe that a committee to be formed to advise the Member on the physical development of George Town is a good move. I hope, as you said in your speech, Sir, that the building code, if brought with the guidelines prepared by the Chief Building Officer for single family dwelling homes, will be included. I believe that it will work.

Agriculture Department: Mr. President, in your Throne Speech, you said that for various reasons agriculture development has not developed to the extent of other sectors of the economy. I take note of the CI \$41.4 million which was spent in 1988 for the provision of marketing and related facilities, and look forward to improvement in 1989.

Let me put in a nutshell the reasons why we have had little or no development in agriculture in this country. That reason is because this country has never had an agriculture development policy or plan in place. It has had no one interested in developing agriculture to the point where it should have been, in this country today. Until we get the Government to look at agriculture in the same way that the Government of the day did with the Mosquito Research Control Unit, we will not have agriculture in this country. Let me say that I have nothing against our Mosquito Research Control Unit; I believe that they have done a tremendous job in this country and will continue to do so, sir, I have to use them as an example. When they decided to fund the Mosquito Research Control Unit, they did not do it knowing that they would not get cash return

from it. But the benefits of not having to beat mosquitoes all day long would be good enough as a repayment. I believe that they have realised that repayment today.

Years ago when the Government brought in the Banking and Trust Law, it proved to be so good. Years later the Government decided to close their Government Savings Bank as it was not needed anymore because the private sector had taken care of all the banking needs without Government having to build or support one bank. The same goes for the introduction of the Tourism Aid Law. When that was brought into effect, it proved so good that the Government never had to help to build one hotel or condo on this Island.

The Government has budgeted this year, to be spent on Tourism, in the region of \$7.7 million, \$1.6 million to be spent on Mosquito Research Control Unit, \$9.2 million to be spent on education and \$2.3 million to be spent on the Prison Service, \$8 million on Health care, and \$1 million, plus, on their own Agriculture Department. I have no grievances with the above except for the \$1 million, plus, that will be spent on Government's own Agriculture Department. That is one amount that, I believe and consider, will be a waste of the public funds of this country and will continue to be, as long as they continue to use it for an experimental farm.

It is time for Government to stop experimenting in this country and get down to the cold hard facts of farming. I suggest we let the Department assist other farmers in the districts, instead of producing and competing with them. It is time for the Department to go out to different districts and do their experiments with the private sector. If one takes a look at the experimental farm on Smith Road, I may be wrong, but if that Department is going to experiment with tomatoes, as I see they have done, one would not plant 200 to 300 tomato plants of the same variety to experiment with. I would think that 12 plants of one variety and 12 of another, would be sufficient to experiment with. At the end of the day they could give the information to the private farmers, as to which type of tomatoes are most suited to this country. Which one was being fed and what percentage of fertiliser and what percentage of water was used. What was the yield of the two types and which one would be more suitable for Cayman soil and climate. At present, I am reaping the same variety of tomatoes that they have from 5,000 plants and it, obviously, clashes with mine on the market because their 200 to 300 plants are in production the same way.

From the Budget and Financial Statement, page 93, number 32, 06-007 Water: \$50,000 provided for an irrigation system at Smith Road and Lower Valley Farms; 07-012 Farm Development: \$100,000, general upkeep of farm. That money would be better spent if the Government was to lend that money to the Agriculture Society to start work on the relocation of the new pavilion, that is so badly needed. If it is loaned over a long period to the society they will get it back. If it is going to be spent by the department it is going down the drain with no return. I call that a waste of public funds.

They could either put that \$150,000 up for loan, at a percentage of what they could get at a commercial bank on a term, and lend it to the farmers of this country, the private farmers who are producing and showing what they are doing. I do not believe that any farmer in this country is asking Government to give them any money. All they are asking of Government is to make some money available to be loaned to them at a cheaper interest rate and a longer term of repayment.

The farmers in this country have to pay high interest rates, high wages, compared to some of those countries where some of our imports come from. If we could get long term loans of 20 years and lower interest rates, then we could pass the savings on to the consumer. What the farmers have to pay for workers in this country, people in Central and South America and Mexico barely make in one month's wages. That is why we cannot compete with the goods that enter this country from those countries.

Our land in this country is very expensive. I know for sure that in Belize, in Honduras, and other countries, that Government will let one use the land on long term (unfortunately our Government has no land in this country for us to use). That is why those people can produce and sell cheaply. Not because the farmers of this country, cannot compete with the imported goods, that we should not be given a chance, because nine out of 10 times it is not the price that the people are worried about. It is the quality of product that they are getting for that price.

I have had problems, yes, with some of the supermarkets. I have also found out that with the local markets, it is not altogether, that they do not want to support the local produce but mainly because our supply cannot be maintained. I will give you an idea of how that works. At present, I have 5,000 bell pepper plants in production. For me to keep a supply of peppers to the market, I would need to start another 5,000 plants. Then, three months later, yet another 5,000 plants. The money is just not available to do this. I have to wait until I have reaped the first crop and use that money to replant. By that time, the local supermarket needs to have it on its shelf, so, when my second crop of peppers comes in, they do not want to take them because they could not get enough in the first crop to keep the market going. As I said, money is just not available for this and, it is no good for us to go seeking finance from an institution like the Agriculture and Industry Development Bank (AIDB) for this kind of project. I believe that the only thing that the farmers of Cayman have received from the AIDB Law since it came into effect in 1978, is that we have a few more people in this country that are now eligible for Caymanian Status.

You may rule me as out of order, and I may have to withdraw what I am about to say as I refer to the AIDB. The Agriculture Industrial Development Board. From now on I refer to it as an All Interest Discouragement Board.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I do not think it is offensive or insulting.

MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:

It was never truly designed to encourage agriculture in this country from the beginning. I look at this Law as make believe, or make it seem as if it is good, because the

judicial system, as I have always heard it being referred to, that justice must not only be done, it must also appear as if it is being done, or seem like it is being done. That is what this Agricultural and Industrial Aids Law (AIAL) of 1978 was designed to do for the farmers in this country. Make the farmers believe that something was being done towards agriculture.

As I referred to the AIAL, Agriculture and Industrial Aid Law, 1978, on page 12 of the Budget Address, mention was made that: "Twenty-eight farmers and small businesses were assisted with financing of \$730,000 at interest well below current bank rates.". Mr. President, I was interested in finding out how many of the 28 loans were actually made to farmers. I did not ask for any names, or amounts of money from the Honourable First Official Member, or what it was loaned for, or who borrowed it. I did not get it either. He supplied me with what I asked him for. Out of those 28 loans, seven were for agriculture. The one thing I forgot to ask him was whether the seven was over the 10 year period or if it was the year 1988. I believe that the seven loans for agriculture were, perhaps, over a 10 year period. Interestingly, three loans were at 10 per cent, but they were already paid off. One was at 11 per cent, three were at 11.5 per cent, two were paid off and two were outstanding.

I cannot really say how those farmers paid off their loans, but I say congratulations to those who were successful in paying them off. I do hope that they are listening and I am humbly asking them to please give all the rest of their fellow farmers in this country, including myself, their method, or, if I could call it, their recipe, of how the rest can pay their loans back.

Mr. President, I would like to read, with your permission, Sir, from the Agriculture and Industrial Aid Law, Sections and subsections, of 1978 Law, and the By-Laws of 1979, so that it may give the general public and farmers, whom I hope will hear this broadcast, an opportunity to see how this Law was not designed to help farmers in this country. They will plainly see that one of the first things that the farmers needed was land. The Law says you cannot get money to buy that, so where do we stand. "Membership and the Constitution", section 4, subsection (2):

"The members shall be appointed by the Governor from amongst persons appearing to be qualified by reason of having experience of matters relating to industry, trade, finance, science, administration or agriculture and a majority of the members shall be Caymanians."

Mr. President, I humbly suggest that in 1989 the Government take steps to separate agriculture from industry in this Law, because everything I see in this Law is for industry. When you go to the Board and you have made your application, you have people sitting, members sitting on a Board, that have no experience in agriculture, how can one expect to be successful in getting that loan?

Quite a few things have happened in the past and I know of one member in the agriculture sector that asked, made a request to, the manager for them to sit in a meeting and he was told that the Board did not permit that. Mr. President, section 4, subsection (6) states:

"The Board may in its discretion invite any person or persons to attend any meeting of the Board and such person or persons may take part in the proceedings of that meeting but shall not be entitled to vote."

"5. (1) Functions of the Board: The functions of the Board are to promote agricultural and industrial development in the Islands and in the performance thereof it may acquire and dispose of property and business and interests therein."

"8. (3) With the approval of the Financial Secretary the Board may extend the time for the repayment of any loan and interest due thereon or may compound, release or vary the terms of repayment or the interest due or payable thereon subject to the loan remaining satisfactorily secured and the observation of such conditions as it may impose."

It goes on to say, Sir,

"13.(1) The funds and resources of the Board shall consist of -

- (a) amounts provided for the purpose in the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the Islands;

Where required by the Bank, the Board shall not make any loans financed from a loan from the Bank- for the purchase of land or existing buildings;

In the By-laws Bank means the Caribbean Development Bank. A long term loan means a loan repayable within ten years from the date the loan is made. Interest may be charged on loans made by the Board at such rates as may be determined by the Board having regard to its obligations under any loan agreement with the Bank with respect to the rate of interest to be charged on loans to borrowers."

Now, Mr. President, I believe that the farmers of this country need help. Now, I acknowledge that Government has helped the farmers by building the little market, and I must say that I am very thankful for that. I offer my sincere thanks to the Government on behalf of the Farmers' Cooperative. But, I must say that, I was shocked when I learned that the cost of that little building was somewhere in the region of \$220,000. I do not know who designed it but I surely know that whoever did, did not have any idea what a market was all about. And today we have not reached the production stage to even a quarter of what we were producing before Hurricane Gilbert hit and we are in one mess, with having no storage space.

MR. PRESIDENT: Could I ask, do you think you will be a few minutes, or would you like to adjourn and go on tomorrow?

MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH: In the morning, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Fine. In that case, would the Honourable First Official Member move?

ADJOURNMENT

HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON: Mr. President, before I move the adjournment, Perhaps I should say that I had a visit from the Clerk today who is looking well and is in good spirits. She will be on sick leave for yet another possible two weeks.

I move the adjournment of this Honourable House until 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

THE PRESIDENT: The question is that this Honourable House do now adjourn until 10.00 tomorrow morning.
I shall put the question. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

AYES.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Ayes have it. The House is accordingly adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10.00.

AT 4:34 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY, 3RD OF MARCH, 1989.

**FRIDAY
3RD MARCH, 1989.
10:03 A.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT: Prayers by the Honourable First Official Member.

PRAYERS

HON. THOMAS C JEFFERSON: Let us pray.
Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived:
We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.
Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed.

APOLOGIES

MR. PRESIDENT: We have apologies for absence from the Honourable Member for Education, the Third Elected Member for George Town and the Elected Member for East End. Government Business. Continuation of the debate on the Throne Speech and the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1989. The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, continuing.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH
AND THE SECOND READING ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989**

MR. FRANKLIN SMITH: Thank you, Sir. When we adjourned yesterday evening, I was dealing with the subject of Agriculture. I would like at this time to say that what I have dealt with so far and what I will be dealing with today is in no way meant to be opposition to the Honourable Member for Communication, Works and Natural Resources. He has just recently taken over that Portfolio, and I must say that I have a good relationship with him; we have sat down and agreed to work together for the best of this country in agriculture.

I would like to acknowledge, and offer my sincere thanks to the past Government and the Member that was in charge of Agriculture for the initial start up fund of \$70,000 to the Farmers Cooperative for the Farmers Market. I touched on the market and the conditions that I find it in. I said that I fail to see how such a small building could cost so much money. As I said, the Market is having a problem right now with space. The Public Health Department is down our back to provide shelving for the freezers and chillers which I feel should have been provided for in the contract. When the \$70,000 was advanced for the equipment and wages for the start-up fund, no shelving costs were included in that. Now today, partly due to the hurricane damage, the estimates have not been realised because we have not had the produce to sell, except for the beef and pork produced locally which have been doing exceptionally well and we hope it will continue that way.

I must say I am thankful that I have seen in the Budget where money has been allocated to build a cattle dip in the Lower Valley area; one, I believe that should have been built long ago. Had it been built last year or the year before, when it was asked for, maybe if I am not wrong, it has been on the books for the last 8 years and nothing was done about it. As I mentioned yesterday, two cows were killed in an accident. Those cows were brought from this exact area where the dip should have been. They were brought across the road and taken to the other dip. The Lower Valley area is where most of the cattle are grazed. I believe that it is a good policy for Government to help with agriculture in this country, especially for private farmers.

The abattoir which was to be built has been put aside until next year. I have no grievance with that Sir, but with the understanding that it will not be shelved forever, because if we

are going to build up the beef industry in this country a modern facility will be needed to help make use of all parts of the cow.

As I said before, I will, and I must say now I have had, so far, a good relationship with the Honourable Member for Communications, Works and Natural Resources and I do hope that he will accept my comments, and the comments and suggestions of the Agricultural Committee and will see fit to continue with what the past Member has started. I hope he will take the advice a little different from the way the past Member did. While I cannot let him look like a rose, I will do my best when he reaches the end of the tunnel, he will be smelling like one.

When the Member from East End asked the past Member for Agriculture a question regarding a cattle dip to be built in the East End, I was shocked to learn of the answer he gave to the Member. He said the rock in the area was too hard. His Agricultural Development Committee (of which I was a member) tried to advise him on the best possible way to go. That was one of the reasons I accepted the nomination to be a Member of that Committee. He explained that he was setting it up so the farmers could advise him on agriculture in this country. I do not believe there is any place you can go on the Island where you can find rock so hard that dynamite could not move it. Instead, he chose to buy a portable spraying machine so it could be transported from district to district to help the farmers with their cattle. I do not believe that one Member of his Committee knew one thing about it before it was purchased, until it had arrived in Cayman. Today it is resting and I believe it will continue to rest because it has not filled the purpose it was intended to.

I must say that the cattle in this country we farmers try to raise are not as docile as cattle in other countries. I believe very few of the farmers that try to get their cattle through the dip, which is a permanent stationary thing, have no trouble with it, much less a piece of machinery or equipment that is making a noise. That is why it will always be sitting idle at one place with some \$25,000 down the drain.

I would like to make a suggestion to the Honourable Member for Communications, Works and Natural Resources, to continue to assist the farmers in land-clearing with the heavy equipment that belongs to Government. This way, the farmers would get a head start and, perhaps, if it is a big job and the farmer could not afford to pay cash direct, through recommendations they could give it as a loan to be paid over a period of time. If a farmer has 20 acres of land, in this instance, he would like to turn it into a grazing pasture for his cattle. Perhaps the costs from the private sector would be \$10,000 to \$15,000 to have the parcel of land cleared. I would venture to say that if Government equipment does it, the cost could be half or a quarter of that amount. When he plans to put grass on that pasture it will take him 12 to 18 months before he could graze his cattle on it, to be really successful in the continuation of the grass. During that time he would have to have money to pay the loan back. That is why, with Government's assistance in this area, we could have a better agricultural sector in this country.

I am not complaining on my behalf. I had that service rendered to me shortly after Hurricane Gilbert struck last year. From the private sector the costs to clear five acres was approximately \$15,000. The Government's piece of equipment bulldozed a second five acres for me and the cost was a little over \$5,000. That money has not been paid yet, Sir, and there was no agreement with the Government to treat it as a loan except that after the storm the Government Agricultural Department did a survey and, as a result of the damage, money was allocated by Government to the farmers towards a rehabilitation programme. I have not, until now, signed for this loan of \$15,000. I have a problem with accepting this \$15,000 loan because I believe it was recommended for the Agriculture and Industry Development Bank (AIDB) to handle the loan system on Government's behalf. I believe it was originally without interest with up to 15 year terms with approximately a two year moratorium, that is good; I have no disagreement with that. My disagreement is with these documents.

I should say that the only time I have seen more documents having to be signed for \$15,000, was back in 1977, when I approached Government for permission to put up a seven-watt light bulb on a 40 foot high windmill. I asked for permission because, at the time, there was no electricity in the area except by the Government's school. The piece of land was where I was going to build my home. But I found out shortly after the Government was interested in it for the school. So I relinquished my rights to it for the purpose of education. The documents I was asked to sign, to be given permission to have current to a seven-watt light bulb said it would cost \$700 to get the plug installed because Public Works would have to certify it. The monthly bill would be \$60 for a dusk to dawn seven-watt light bulb. I am happy to say I could not sign it but, shortly after, I donated the windmill to the Government for their experimental farm. Now, almost 10 years it has been there. They have never put one light bulb on it, as the Law requires.

The paragraphs in this agreement that I have queries on I shall read, with your permission:

"No moneys shall be borrowed from any other source during the currency of this agreement for the purpose of the loan as set out herein, without the express consent, in writing, of the Board."

That is one that I believe that I mentioned this one in the Finance Committee and it states:

"The charger shall, as long as any money remains owing on the charge, keep the charge property insured."

This agreement, after expressing that feeling, words to this effect have been inserted:

"All permanent buildings, and erection on the charge property," and again in this document, "The charger shall not apply for or accept any loans which by virtue of

any Law or regulation, will rank parapsing or in priority to this security in respect to the charge property without first obtaining the prior written consent of the chargees. The Charger shall not, without the prior consent, make or permit or suffer to be made or any material changes or additions, whatsoever in or to the charge property or to the use thereof."

Now, I have borrowed money before from commercial banks and I was going to say that this clause was not in there (it might have been in the fine writing and I never saw it), but the particular piece of property that I am offering Government for \$15,000 is now worth over CI\$1.5 million. I feel that if I borrowed this money from Government I should have the opportunity to go to another bank (if at some stage I felt I wanted to pay Government off) and borrow that money from them and pay Government off without having to ask their approval. I have just paid off a commercial loan and I never had to ask that bank if I could borrow from another bank to pay them off. It is 'either or either'. The Government is going to lend the farmers the money. I do not think that any farmer...I am not sure, but there may be one or two small farmers that have accepted this under the agreement, some are still experiencing a problem with getting it, but as I said before it is 'either or either' - either Government is going to lend the money or they are not going to lend the money. I believe that I would rather stay the commercial way and pay interest to the commercial bank than sign an agreement like this.

You know, also, if I went over to the commercial bank and borrowed \$15,000, they would put it in my company checking account, or in my personal checking account. But I am told from the Board, the AIDB, that I will have to come and get it in bits and pieces. This I cannot agree with, either. That is a waste of my time, to go in and ask them every time I want a few dollars. I do hope that the powers that be would look into the situation.

I would like to say to the Honourable Member for Development and Natural Resources to try to understand the problems that the farmers of this country face. I would also like to ask him to have a different attitude than the past Member towards the farmers and not take the approach the past Member took when the Member from East End asked if there were any plans in putting in a road to the farmlands in East End. The Member replied that it was the duty of the farmers to come to him and tell him where they needed roads. I hope the Honourable Member would take the attitude of going out and visiting the farms in other districts and asking them if there is anything he can help or assist them with. I believe the Government needs, and as it falls under his Portfolio, the Member for Communication, Works and Natural Resources, I would like to say that more roads are needed in the interior of East End and North Side, where the better farmlands are located.

Even though I know that the Honourable Member from North Side did his best with opening up roads in his district for the farmers, very few thanked him for it. I believe he has no regrets of doing it. I would ask the Honourable Member to make note that if there is ever a chance for him to open up more roads, to do so. They do not have to be paved roads, just enough for you to drive your vehicle to your farm, plant your crops and reap them in a much easier way. I believe Government should look into it and not from the point of view of the dollar and cents return to them, but for the benefit that it could bring to this country. It would help us to keep our dollars in Grand Cayman. Having said that, I believe I have exhausted my time on Agriculture.

I did mention yesterday the Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU). As an example of what Government could do by creating a budget every year for agriculture, I would like to say that I have to extend my sincere thanks to the past Executive Council Members and the Director of MRCU and his pilot for the way they allowed the mosquito spray plane to spray my banana plantation. I am very thankful for that. Just yesterday evening when I arrived to my farm I was told the plane had done its second spray and I am very thankful. That is the way Government can contribute to agriculture in this Country.

I would be right in saying that on my farm in East End I have some of the best spraying equipment that one would find on this Island for ground spray. For me to have done that with my equipment, it would have cost in the region of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Government was good enough to charge \$50 for fuel and I am very thankful. I wish Dr. Davis and his staff all the continued success through the years because MRCU has been very good and it has served its purpose in the Cayman Islands.

In your Throne Speech, Sir, you mentioned that a survey of the Conch population was completed. From what I have been told, by various fishermen and divers, the Marine Parks and Replenishment Zones have proven to be successful. I always did agree that it was going to prove good and that we needed it five to 10 years earlier.

Lands and Survey: This Department has proven to be a valuable area for Government by having collected over CI\$11,000,000 Stamp Duty in 1988. A record year for that Department. I say congratulations to all the staff members.

Planning: This Department, I believe deserves much praise for a job well done. It is no easy task, but without proper planning these Islands would not be where they are today.

Postal Department: This Department also deserves to be congratulated on the hard work that they perform with the dispatching of mail and stamps.

Public Works Department: I offer my congratulations to the Chief Engineer, Mr. Donovan Ebanks, and his staff for the good job they do. But I believe the Department may have more in their mouth than they can chew and swallow at the same time. I believe that it is time for Government to consider giving contracts out to private sector because jobs that should have been done last year have not been touched. Every year costs keep going up. So I would urge Government, in the future, to consider giving contracts out to private companies that are capable of doing these jobs and getting them done.

Water Authority: I am also happy to know that the sewer project is now fully operational and generally working well. I believe this was needed 10 years ago. The George Town

Water Authority, as you said in your Speech, the George Town water supply project will be completed in April and it has been greatly modified and expanded from the original scheme. I am happy to learn that the demand has increased beyond expectations. I believe that the Water Authority should remain a regulatory body and not a producer. I believe the West Bay sector should be given out to Cayman Water Company and let them service that area. With the Water Authority helping only to regulate it.

I would encourage Government to look into the possibility of installing Desalination Units in the Bodden Town/Savannah area; namely Pedro Bluff and the East End area of High Rock. A De-sal Plant on Pedro Bluff could service part of George Town, the whole of Savannah, the Newlands area and Bodden Town. Perhaps the plant in the High Rock area of East End could service the eastern districts and the northern districts with water. I would also encourage Government to look into the possibility of installing or helping the private sector to install them, including one in the Cayman Brac area.

The manpower to operate these units with experience and expertise is now in the Cayman Islands. We have engineers who sailed some of the largest ships in the world. They have the experience and knowledge of all the de-sal equipment because that is what they were taught on. We would not have to go abroad to bring anyone in to run the water de-sal plants. It would help provide more jobs for those engineers who, today, find it tough because they worked for 15 or 20 years on the ship and they are used to engineering and find it very hard now to put themselves to do other jobs that they have no experience with.

You mentioned in your Speech the Radar Station. I believe if this is what it takes for us to help stop the deadly cargo of drugs, not only entering the United States, but our shores as well, then I would humbly ask all Members of this House that if legislation has to be passed, to support it.

I say, once again, to this Honourable House, congratulations on the \$103 million Budget for 1989. Thank you, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I am grateful for the opportunity, the honour and privilege to stand and debate the Throne and Budget Speeches as presented for the year 1989, immediately following a General Election which has brought about the composition of this House. I am particularly thankful and grateful to the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman for the honour given me to be a legislator here today. Particularly, I am glad for all of the people who voted for me in the General Election.

As a new Legislator, and having my first experience inside these halls, I would like to express my thanks to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, the Acting Clerk, and all of the staff of the Legislative Assembly, including the staff who take care of the housekeeping and the comfort and refreshment of the House. Indeed, the refreshment part has proven most refreshing as I experience the stress which occurs in this arena of words. I am very grateful for the assistance, the advice, recommendations and documentation that has been given to me in preparation for this sitting of the Legislature.

I would also like to express my personal sympathy to the family of the late Mr. Alfred Scott, whose friendship (and that of his wife) I have valued for a number of years. I am saddened by his passing and I am grateful for the good political council and support he gave me in the recent elections.

I have the opportunity to debate conjointly the Throne and Budget Speech and I would propose to do that referring to subjects which appeared in both of these speeches and to confine remarks to the subject areas. Commenting on what has been proposed, or stated therein, and interjecting as it seems appropriate.

The Cayman Islands, at this time, are brand new out of a general election. An election which has brought to view a number of things, constitutionally, and also in attitudes and, indeed, in methodology and practices in electioneering. It was fiercely fought and I am very grateful that, although it was heated and there was mud slinging, there were lots of things that could have been avoided, we certainly did avoid violence and once again we have representatives and have kept our good sense of not resorting to physical violence or becoming impassioned to the point that we should even consider that.

I think, however, that some of the things which have been unearthed in the recent elections should be attended to through wise council of ourselves and through Legislation or through the beefing-up of police force or the office of the Supervisor of Elections, or whatever it takes, which could hinder some of the uglier parts of the recent election. I think there was much unfairness said and done and imputed to people during it and I feel that we have four years in which we can look carefully at the situation and try to avoid similar occurrences in the next election.

Certain needs have been exposed which point I think to inadequacies in the Elections Law and these can be corrected, I am sure, by the Legislative Assembly; all Members, sitting down and reviewing this Law. Later in this session I will be presenting a Private Member's Motion which is simply suggesting to Members that we sit down, as a House, and review the Elections Law with the idea of updating it, amending it, or whatever it takes to make it more workable and useful. There are parts which can be inserted I believe, that can assist in the process of continued stability and law and order.

We continue with an economy that is buoyant and, in my opinion, extremely overheated and stretching far beyond what is necessary for the Country. We do not have the problems that most of the countries of the world have: under-employment or unemployment. We have, according to figures which have been presented since this House has opened, about 60 per cent over-employment. It may sound questionable, but I believe we have a serious problem with this situation of over-employment. It is not a question of additional bodies in the community, it is a situation that puts stress on the infrastructure of this country, in every way. It calls upon every public service. It calls for extended management. Our situation of

over-employment, to the best that I can understand, is causing resentments among ourselves which is extending to members of the community that have heretofore been very much welcome.

The physical development in Grand Cayman has far outstripped the manpower development. I believe that the problems which we are facing and which have arisen are a result, particularly, of this. We are simply not producing people, our own people, to the extent that we need to man and manage the physical facilities that we have constructed. Yet, unfortunate as it might be, I have not heard any cause from the political directorate of the immediate past or present Government that a definite step should be taken to curtail the situation so that we can take a breather, examine the present situation statistically to prove exactly where we are at, and to identify the problems precisely to take corrective action. I believe there is an immense need at this point in time. It intensifies by the day because, indeed, we are now talking of further development; of Government undertaking further development of the Ground Transportation Plan. There are developments in the hospitality industry; another large hotel that is continuing this situation of pressure. Significant to it all, is the upswing in inflation which has been noted in both Speeches presented to this House, and with figures that have been recently released.

This has necessitated an increase of salary to the Civil Service, which automatically results when inflation has reached a certain level and the consumer price index has risen. While I am not for one moment saying that this should not be, the end result is the fact that this year we have a larger budget than we might have had, had this not occurred.

Tourism is showing signs that the competition in the market place is catching up with these Islands and all of the other varying factors which affect the very fragile and sensitive business of tourism. The numbers are down and there have been assurances made that this follows, more or less, a natural trend or tendency in these months. I believe, however, that the situation could be deeper than we are seeing at the present time. I believe that there is a great need to examine the situation, very closely and very carefully, so that we can precisely find the cause of the downturn. I, personally, feel that one of the situations is that we are pricing ourselves into the hands of our competition. I continue to wonder how prices can drop to the levels that they do during the summer, the slow months of the year in these Islands, then inflame to the level that they go in the winter.

The world economy, particularly in the United States, and in Europe, their Governments tend to be more conservative, putting a bigger squeeze of holding on to money, thus people have less money to spend and when they spend it, they look for the very best bargains. I think it is folly for us to believe these Islands are so very special, so unique, we offer friendliness to such a degree and such a level, that people will come here irrespective of the prices which they have to pay. That is not so.

In the Throne Speech it was noted that it was sound business sense to look at the long term rather than the short term when it came to pricing, and I totally subscribe to that opinion and that view. What is the sense of making a killing today, if tomorrow you die? I believe that it is incumbent on the Government to meet with the people involved. All persons involved in the tourism sector should sit down and have some long conversations that are full of facts and figures to determine what is a desirable stance for all concerned. With the figures being down in tourism, the numbers being down, Government can hardly cut back on advertising. If anything it has to be increased.

In general remarks, I must also comment on the matter of drug abuse, or substance abuse, and increasing crime amid the great economic and financial well-being of these Islands. I do not accept the argument that I have heard put forward by many persons in officialdom - that we have to expect because we have such buoyancy in our economy, such development, such financial well-being that we have to have crime and drugs proportionate to that. Mr. President I feel (and these are not necessarily my opinions, they are things that I have read and at least I have heard one counsellor who is in the employ of this country state) that substance abuse is a symptom, it is not the problem as such. It is a symptom of changing times, breakdown in the family structure and other such conditions. In developing, we must wisely try to keep intact our values, the family structure that we have had for so many generations in this Country and to offer as much education, practical education, as possible to our young people and to the public at large because the problem is not just confined to the young. There are adults who are resorting to substance abuse as a means of relieving their stresses too.

Generally speaking, I believe there is an eagerness in Caymanians at this time to get back to finding themselves as they recover from the shock of heavy development that has come upon us, which has brought about the various changes. In that process, Caymanians are grasping and struggling to get hold of their own identity; to get back to indigenous attitudes and outlooks which have been immensely altered by the process of our development over the recent years. Time and events have moved us in this country, and certainly have placed on the shoulders of us as legislators the need to make some very serious decisions.

I would like specifically, now, on the subject of...

MR. PRESIDENT:

Would it be convenient to break here?

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:

Yes, Mr. President. That is fine.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 11:22 A.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:49 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Lesser Islands continuing.

The meeting is resumed. The Second Elected Member for the

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Before the break was called, I was speaking on the Judicial and Legal Departments, as commented on in both the Budget and Throne Speeches. In the Judicial Department, in very recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in work and this is as a result of so many cases coming before the Judiciary. They are drug related, as I have noted earlier, and also quite an increase in commercial crime.

This has necessitated the increase of staff, and rightly so. I, for one, am very glad to know that we have been able to find suitably qualified judges to fill the vacancies that have been taken up in recent months. I believe that at this stage some inroads should have been made into the backlog of work, and I presume there will be sufficient work on an ongoing basis to keep all of the courts involved.

There are now three judges in the Higher Courts and two in the Magistrate Courts. With the increase in crime and prosecutions, there has also been an increase in the Legal Department which must prosecute the various cases. I am particularly happy to know that among the attorneys who now work from the Legal Department and the Attorney General's Chambers, are some Caymanians who are recent graduates of the Cayman Law School.

I believe that if we can take some overall corrective action in this country, and come to grips with certain conditions, which lead people to run afoul of the law, we will see a reduction in cases before the courts. I certainly hope for this situation.

We have been told that there is growing complexity in the cases going before the courts. It is causing Government to spend large sums of money which, before this time, was not the case. Indeed, on record is a case where it cost the Government over \$250,000,000 to prosecute the case for witnesses and for the other processes that had to be met. This appears to point to the fact that Government has to begin, at least, some recruitment of persons with certain legal specialisations. I certainly advocate this. Initially, I would imagine they would have to be recruited from overseas and, quite possibly, from the United Kingdom.

I would say, however, that we should take note of the fact that within the Caribbean Region there are a number of able Attorneys or Lawyers. We should also look within this area to see if there are those that are available and who can be attracted by the wages we are able to pay, or we offer. In this connection, I feel it is well for the young attorneys who are qualifying to be earmarked to do attachments or specialised courses, if such be the case, to bring them into knowledge that is necessary for the various specialised areas of law.

In the Legal Department I noticed that Mr. Brian Wilkinson would be leaving and I understand there are others that may be ending their service with the Government, but particularly Mr. Wilkinson. I would like to say that he has given long and good years of service. I would personally like to express my thanks to him for on many occasions he found time for me, on matters which required a quick legal opinion, so that I could complete work I was doing when I was a civil servant, when others in the department were busy. I appreciate the times he offered his assistance to me. I wish him all the best, in whatever he may undertake in the future.

I was particularly happy to note, that there is the intention to involve a young Caymanian attorney into the business of the drafting of Legislation. I think the Country can be justly proud that we have found someone who has reached that level and in whom there is confidence that they should be given an opportunity to enter into this particular phase of work.

There are 21 students in the Law School which is something very, very good to know. Unfortunately, it seems that there are problems with finding places for some Article Clerks. In this matter, I think that the various firms in this country have an obligation to, as far as is possible, extend an opportunity for students to serve as Article Clerks. I believe that students need to know that they might have to work at reduced pay, to be able to achieve the success that they need by being Article Clerks. I do not say that to suggest to anyone they should not offer reasonable wages to Article Clerks, but if my understanding of this particular part of the training is correct, they are for, practical purposes, students.

Government, I feel should make every endeavour to offer positions within its legal departments, be it the courts or wherever it can be done, to provide positions for article clerks or to provide on-the-job practical work or training in this process of young Caymanians qualifying for attorneys.

There appears to be a particularly unique situation, where a number of Caymanians are being drawn towards the legal profession. Fortunately, there is almost a 100 per cent success, in this undertaking. I would recommend to Government to encourage this; not to fear, as I have heard expressed, the thought that we will soon have so many lawyers that we will not know what to do with them. I believe that would take quite a few years to come. Ultimately, we should look forward to the day when all of the local firms will be able to replace their overseas contracted lawyers with local lawyers; Caymanian lawyers.

I do not believe that we should simply look at this profession as creating a qualified person who, of necessity, must practice in the courts. There are other departments in Government where, surely, legal expertise can be used. I believe that it could be used in areas such as Planning, Lands and Survey, the Labour office. It is quite possible to use legally qualified persons in those departments and, in addition to the legal training, they would be able to study whatever specialised management might be necessary there. Surely, the legal background could hold them in good stead.

I wrote for a brochure, some months back, from a highly recognised and reputable institution in the United Kingdom inquiring about lessons or courses that they offered leading toward the L.L.B. In the brochure, it was pointed out that many, many areas of management require legal

expertise and that by acquiring a law degree it often opens doors in other fields as well. So I would offer that opinion as something that Government could think about.

The ultimate exercise, I feel, should be that we will one day, and hopefully not too far in the years ahead, be in a situation where we can take care of our own situation in the legal field without having to depend upon outside expertise. There is one thing I would like to say in this respect; I feel that young attorneys should be given every opportunity of gaining the experience necessary. The experienced lawyers have that experience because they were given the opportunity to try.

I am very happy to know that Government is undertaking this year to provide a system to record the proceedings in the Court, verbatim. I have, over the years, stopped by the courts and observed that as people speak the judges are writing. I understand that is what now constitutes the record. I do not question in any way the ability of the judges to record the things said, but, certainly, it has to take, and it does take, more time than if it was being taken down by a stenographer or court reporter, whatever might be the name. I believe this also should assist the attorneys who could immediately have a record, after a break, of what they have said. I feel it gives a judge more time thinking while listening to a case, than it now takes away by him having to stop and record, writing. I have enquired about this from different attorneys, and it is my understanding that a court reporter is accepted by most of them as a very, very vital part of what happens inside a court room. I hope that we would not hesitate to put forward whatever amount of money necessary, to hire however many persons necessary, to do this job. I understand a Caymanian is being trained and should soon be in place, but if it needs two, or three, or four, I think that anything to assist the process in the Courts and to ensure that every means is taken, whereby, justice can be easily, quickly, dispensed, we should do that.

Speaking of the Courts, as I have said I have been an observer there many times, and I have wondered about the conditions which obtain inside there. I have wondered if it is 100 per cent proper to have an undue presence of Police officers there. My understanding of it is that, basically, they would be present as complainants, or to be witnesses. There should probably be what is called, Court Ushers, under British system and in the U.S. they are called Court Marshals. I suggest that is something that needs to be corrected or would make the court fall more properly in line with what is required, we should undertake the hiring of such persons to ensure that it is there. I believe the Courts are too important a situation not to do so.

The other thing that I have wondered about, is what I term mockery. This sometimes occurs when someone is appearing before the Court. I wonder if that is part of the Justice process. I personally believe that an accused person, going before the courts, is facing enough embarrassment and possible societal rejection and all the rest of it that some of the sarcastic remarks, or what I might term, bamboozling, that I have seen happen there, I wonder if it is all quite proper.

In representation before the Courts, I believe that we now undertake legal aid for persons that need it and I think that has been noted in the presentation of the two Speeches. I am told, and I am sure that the Honourable Member responsible would correct me when he replies, that we now provide legal aid to persons in criminal cases. But I am told that legal aid is not provided for persons who can not afford it in other areas. I believe that we should look at this; that legally qualified persons should be made available to represent someone who cannot afford to do so. We might tend to just brush them aside and say they are troublemakers, and it often happens that way. They are persons who repeatedly break the law. If I understand what is required under the law and the concept of justice, an accused person should have the right to representation.

The Cayman Islands and the opportunity of earning money has made a lot of attorneys rich. This is the environment in which they function and find business, and do business, and charge for that business, and I believe they owe to the society a certain obligation when it comes to the matters of legal aid. Irrespective of whether those attorneys see themselves as thousand-dollar-a-day lawyers, as I understand some do, or whatever amount, however high a fee that they may charge per hour, or otherwise, they should avail themselves to practice law under the legal aid system, where they take some time out to give back, in a way, to the society that gives them what they have.

Over the years I have observed that there has been various controversial legislation that has come before this Legislature. Indeed, it is outstanding how the Law Society is greatest heard by having little or nothing to say, whatsoever, on the matter. This may not gel well with that Society and I am by no means purporting to be a lawyer, but I believe that it is the unwritten duty and responsibility - and no one better than attorneys should understand that where some Legislation, be it whatever, comes before the Legislature, they and the Cayman Bar Association should be the focal body that should comment on the pros and the cons of it. I feel that both of those bodies need to get more involved in seeing that the full expression of legal opinion is made available to this community. I do not feel that they fulfill that role wide enough, or detailed enough, in this society.

I have inquired about it from some attorneys, some members of firms, and I have gotten answers like, "Well, we cannot be too critical, you know, because we have lawyers on work permits". I am not saying that is the cause of it, but if, indeed, it is, I think that any opinions whatsoever should be set aside. That any Government should in any way intimidate them in regards to any consideration of work permits, I think it is unfounded. Even if it is founded, I believe that the obligation still lies for the legal profession and these two organisations to be focally present to speak on matters relating to law and legality. It is not proper, or acceptable that we should even concede that attorneys who, for the sake of being quiet, if that is the case, should even think of it where their role is concerned. Certainly, as a legislator, I would be one of the first to speak out against any suggestion of intimidation which might be directly, or indirectly, levied against any lawyer or law firm that speaks out on a matter or an issue.

The public Service: The greatest surprise that I have had in the presentation of the Budget Address and the Throne Speech is that 70 per cent of the Cayman Islands Civil Service

is non-Caymanian. I find that to be staggering...

HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON: On a point of Information, could the Member check his notes on that particular point again, Sir, because I believe he may have gotten the percentage turned around. It is 70 per cent Caymanian.

MR. PRESIDENT: It may have been a slip of the lip. You said 70 per cent non-Caymanian.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you. The situation of the number of non-Caymanians in the service is one which I believe has to have immediate and direct action, to bring about a change in this situation. We cannot continue in the vein that we are going if we are to achieve the Caymanianisation we like to speak about. I believe that certain things need to be done.

There first needs to be a written and deliberate plan of Government. I am not saying that it does not exist. I am not aware of it, and what are the proposals for achieving it. I believe there must be, within such a plan, the deliberate move to train persons for a specific job rather than hoping that persons come up through the ranks to fill a certain job. Particularly in technical and professional areas where a trained person can come in as an understudy, to gain the experience, and to take over.

The demand for professional and technical people has grown to the extent now, that unless we deliberately train persons for a specific job, unless a person can have specific insurance, that they are going to get that job, which can be a motivating factor, I think we are going to continue suffering the situation as we now do.

I believe more can be done in publicising jobs. I do know that Government advertises in the newspaper, I have heard advertisements on the radio. I do believe that more can be done such as, if not the Personnel Department of the Government, the Government Information Service having detailed information, inviting persons to come into these offices to gain this information, getting this information around even to other institutions that have personnel there interested in doing so. I can see nothing wrong with circulars to the various commercial businesses, in the Island, where persons might be interested in joining the public Service.

I know in the 1970s there were recommendations for a programme of understudy to commence; where, if a graduate, for example, came back qualified to the service, they would be attached to a specific job and the contracted person in that job, had full knowledge that when they took it up that their time would be limited to the time necessary for them to be there (while the graduate was away) and for that person to gain the necessary experience. I do not know if such an arrangement is now in place, but I do believe that it is necessary. Particularly in middle and upper management within the Civil Service.

I believe, too, that although it might bring some criticism, that graduates, who have been sent on Government scholarships overseas, should return to Government and be taken into the upper echelon of the Service to take over specific jobs. Understudying a person can give the necessary experience and the trained mind can assist them to the understanding of the job.

If Caymanianisation is being done in the Public Service it is not appearing to be done in a number of instances because, in recent times, there have been various non-Caymanians that have been taking up Headships: the Auditor General's Department, the Head of the Treasury, the Prisons Department, to name but some.

I am not pointing a finger or being critical of anyone, appointed in the Civil Service to see about this. I am raising the matter, that Government needs to put in place a programme that the country knows about, that they know about, that has the approval of the political directorate, to bring about a process of finding and training sufficient Caymanian persons to fill the jobs.

There are 86 posts, new posts, in the Estimates for 1989. That is a large number of posts to be filled and it is swelling the number of an already large Civil Service. I feel that before any hasty moves are made to appoint persons, that a sufficient amount of time, as needed, should be given to ensure that the information reaches persons that could fill those posts, particularly Caymanian persons, be they in other jobs or not, (people do move from one job to another) and if there is someone in the private sector who might not be quite happy with that job, simply for some reason that they would prefer to change, they should have the opportunity to do so.

One of the main things that has to be done in Caymanianising the Service is to train. Overseas courses and local courses, inservice training, ongoing throughout the year. I think there is still in place a training unit. Perhaps, it should be beefed-up so that there are training officers.

I remember, way back in the early 80s, that Government accepted a recommendation, as I recall, it could have been the Hall Report, that the training unit was going to be expanded and training officers were going to be recruited. It is going to cost some money. It will have some budgetary implications, but the end result, I believe, is the thing to look at.

Management training is needed. I am very happy, very pleased to know that such a programme is in place where top management is being utilised to develop a management programme and to offer ideas which can effect the proper management in the Service.

I have noted that an O and M Study is to be undertaken, and that is extremely good. I have been a civil servant for 17-odd years, and my heart is always very close to the Civil Service. The idea of an O and M Study, I have long advocated at the time that I spent as President of the Civil Service Association, it has been something that has been talked about, to quite an extent. There was an occasion

when an O and M study was conducted. It was short and it was conducted in a more general way.

I believe if it is to be successful, someone or perhaps two, or three, it might be the ideal to have a team, who would go into every aspect of the situation, department by department. They could do a job description of every person there. Do evaluations, job descriptions, job evaluations and classify the various jobs so that a structure of the Service is exact and proper and falls in line with proper management. I personally believe, that if such an exercise is undertaken, in the depth and detail that I believe it should, it will be found, through work distribution, that an appreciable percentage of posts can actually be eliminated in the service, thereby reducing the overall cost. Jobs, once clearly described and evaluated, can be paid what they are worth, for the additional work or the reassigned duties. The individuals in those jobs, can earn a larger salary with which they can be happier, and the overall cost to government for civil servants' salaries can be reduced.

It seems clear that it is necessary for Government to seek and attract persons who have training and knowledge in Computer Services. This is a specialised field and as the computer service is being expanded in the Service, the increase for persons to operate that is imminent.

When we look at the overall picture and realise the significance of having to contract labour for the Civil Service, it is indeed something to think out. In this year's Budget, housing is \$2.2 million, and gratuities, this year, is estimated at \$700,000. If those amounts were taken out it would make for a Budget of a \$100,000 instead of a \$103,000. The significance to us can be measured in monetary terms, the cost of not producing and not being able to employ locally.

Finance and Development. It is good to know that, with the appointment of the Auditor General, there should come in line an updating, bringing in to updated form, the various financial records of Government. I think this is very necessary to have ongoing records up to date and having persons qualified that can examine them and find where there may be short falls or where improvements can be made. I welcome this idea because, while we have no control over the amount of revenue which Government can earn, we do have control over what can be spent or, for that matter, lost through lack of proper financial management.

It is very pleasing to see that the Registry of Companies has grown and my compliments to the Registrar General, Mr. Woodrow Terry, a man, I believe that the country can be justly proud of and, certainly, I have the highest regard for him as a person and for his ability in the management of this Department.

It has been said that the increase in the companies are as a result of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty being signed, and this may be so. If it is so, I am indeed very happy to know that this was a step taken which was in the right direction. I note, however, with some query, that the United States has not ratified this particular Treaty and, while I have heard reason and explanations given as to why, I wonder when, and I wonder to what extent, they can now use it themselves, not having ratified it. It goes to show that money can be made by this Department as it has been recorded \$7 million have been collected for revenue in this area.

The Shipping Registry: The Shipping Registry is something that has been around for some time now. My understanding is that, at this time, it has been upgraded and has been brought in line with Legislation in the United Kingdom, which I highly recommend. There will be an additional person added to this section which, if that is required, again, I totally support the idea. I believe, however, that it is necessary, very necessary, for Government to monitor the progress of this Department, and if it is to continue, it has to be able to pay its way. I quite realise that it might not happen immediately, but there have to be clear indications that it does. Should it not occur then, as it is not a necessity to ourselves, thought then should be given to its discontinuance.

Banking: One of the Islands' main assets in this economy is Banking. We provide the right environment for banks to operate. We have provided the right Legislation under which they are protected. They have the opportunity of functioning under great confidentiality. Government has been, over the years, understanding to their needs and to their requests. So, banking is one of the main-stays of this Island, doing a thriving business.

They are in the business of receiving and lending money. It is in the business of lending that I believe the banks can do more. For the money, which is handled in this country by the various banks, I believe that much more can be done in extending loans to the populace of this country, not just to buy motor cars, but particularly for home mortgages, for that matter, in financing other commercial ventures. Generally speaking, the banks require an optimum of security. Requests for collateral is extensive and, even then, these requirements tend to be so high that the public continually complain about the difficulty of getting loans. This is something which is a fact, and more and more people experience it. I believe that it is time the government should sit down with the banks and discuss the matter to arrive at a situation that can be more reasonable in making loans to members of the public. Interest rates are high, and time periods tend to be short where loans can be procured, which makes it more difficult for people to qualify to meet the mortgages.

Insurance: I am glad to see that Cayman is holding its own against the competition in captive insurance and I offer my congratulations to Mr. Gilbert Connelly, who has been appointed recently to head that department. I wish him success and there are indications which were presented in the Budget Address that there will be fairer competition since the U.S. Tax Treaty may not be extended after the year 1990. We will all be competing on the same footing.

Customs: This has always been one of the largest revenue-earning departments in Government. It is good to see that it continues to be, and that it has collected an all time high for the year past. Further, that the cost of this collection has been less than 3.9 cents per dollar. That is indeed, something very encouraging.

I offer my congratulations to Mr. Carlon Powery, who succeeded Mrs. Marcia Bodden in the post of Collector of Customs, and also wish to thank Mrs. Marcia Bodden for the time she served in this capacity doing the business of Customs Collecting for her country.

One thing that I would like to mention at this point is that when that change over was coming about, the speculation as to who would be assuming those duties was really something to hear out on the streets. All sorts of absurd things were being suggested. I would like to suggest that it would be right and reasonable, and something that Government could do when officers within the Civil Service who are in line by grade, years of service, competence, whatever, take over as heads of any department, that a list of such officers could be made and it could be well known in the Service that there would be 10 people who would be in line for that, and they are so-and-so. The public would know and it would be no great secret. I believe that would be a helpful step and it could help with squelching some of the speculation, that I am sure was going on in the service and, lots of it on the road.

MR. PRESIDENT: If you are about to change subjects, it may be time to take lunch.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: That is fine with me, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are suspended until a quarter past two.

AT 12:48 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:21 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: The House has resumed. The debate continues.
The Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands continuing.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President.
When we broke for lunch, I was speaking on Customs and I will continue on the matter of interception of drugs, by the Customs Department.

I am glad to see that Customs has recently acquired a boat which will assist them in intercepting boats bringing drugs to this Island. I believe that being able to share experiences between themselves and their counterparts in the United States is a very useful exercise.

It is necessary to train Customs Officers, as much as is possible, in this specialised area, both in the U.K. and here, to know how to make searches, what to be aware of, and what things should alert them when drugs are present. I think their record, to date, is good and it is my belief that it will continue to get better as, I believe, Customs Officers, like most people in the community, are highly aware of what drugs are doing to our Island.

I think it is good that there is cooperation between Customs, Immigration and Police in this particular affair and that with good cooperation between these three departments, there should be improvements. It was very heartening to see, as well, that the Department is improving its communications by circulars, which circulate in the Department, giving instructions and information. Much can be achieved by having information and lots of things may not happen, for lack of it.

The Agriculture and Industry Development Bank (AIDB). I have always thought the Agriculture and Industry Development Board was a step in the right direction for this country because the Government made a move to make finances available in particular areas which could assist the people of these Islands. If anything, I would like to see it expanded, in terms of more money being made available, and, perhaps, expanding its management to provide persons who can work more closely with people who may be possible borrowers.

There have been loans made by the AIDB, both in agriculture and commercial ventures and, as far as I am aware, there has been success in most instances. As the second Elected Member from Bodden Town noted, I believe that more could be done in the field of agriculture. I would like to say that the very same Member, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, has proven beyond the shadow of reasonable doubt, that agriculture can work in the Cayman Islands. I believe that he has proven crops can be produced and to an extent that it can, at least, meet a part of the market demand in the Cayman Islands.

As most things are changing and people are moving away from agriculture as the general rule, it is good, and very heartening, to know that there are still some, in this society, who are prepared to work the soil, to plant crops, reap them, and take their chances of selling them. It has been pointed out that there is an ever present need for finances when expanding in agriculture, and that monies seem to be, somewhat, limited.

I would like to ask the Member responsible if he would look into this, in detail, and see if there are ways that terms can be made easier. Whether it be through lower interest rates or longer term, whatever ways it would be possible to assist; particularly in the area of agriculture, now that we have seen that agriculture can and does work in the Cayman Islands. There are markets for it. There are people who have shown a preference for purchasing local produce over the imported and, of course, quite importantly, monies earned remain within these Islands.

I would ask the Member, also, in view of a matter which has been discussed, when a farming loan was made that has not proven as satisfactory as was desirable, that he examine ways and means of monitoring, more closely, developments of projects which have been financed from

monies from the AIDB, and if this could better be served by involving people from the Agricultural Department, from Finance or wherever, that he look into this matter to see if there are any ways of improvement.

Mention was also made of insurance to cover crops and I think that this is very essential in the event that there is a hurricane and a loss of crops. From what has been said in the House, premiums seem to be extremely high. Perhaps Government's intervention here, in some way, perhaps through Government's Insurance Department, ways and means might be found whereby such loans and crops can be covered. I personally encourage anyone with a leaning towards agriculture to give some time to it and encourage them to go and seek assistance from the AIDB.

Statistics: I think that few people would try to argue that statistical information is not one of the most vital tools of management. I am very happy to see that the personnel are being increased in the Statistics unit. Statistical information gathering and supply of statistics is progressing as it is. At this time this country's Government needs to be in a position where it can decide on matters with precision and exactness. The only way that I am aware that this can be done in government or in any business, is having the required statistical information.

The use of computers as is now in Government should help this progress and I feel that much can be achieved in this area. I would like to see statistics produced in all areas of Government business. Personnel, averages in various areas within education, housing growth, imports, buildings, and I suppose that there are areas there that I have named on which statistics are already produced, but I should hope that statistical information would become all encompassing so that, in the long run, any manager in Government dealing with his particular Department or Portfolio could be aided and assisted by the necessary statistical information pertinent to the subject he is dealing with. We can get a better overall picture of the conditions in the Cayman Islands as a whole if we have this in the form of statistics.

Police: The police are one of the largest groups of Government employees. The latest figures are that there are 193 officers altogether. This is a growing department and how much further it will grow, I do not know. A question that come to my mind is: how large is it expected to grow? What is the acceptable ratio; citizen to police officer? Is the structure presently as those in charge would really have it? Should there be restructuring? Is there a problem with monies to do so? Is there a problem with inadequacies in staff? All of these I feel are pertinent questions. Recently, I was reading a manual and it was interesting to note that the ratio of Police Officers in New York was one to twenty thousand. I am not quite sure what the ratio here in Cayman.

In this session of the House, questions have been asked concerning the ranks, the numbers in the ranks, and the nationality differences. I believe that this has extremely pertinent significance to this country.

The Police Force is the group, organisation, body of people, whatever one might call it, to whom coercive power is given. They are the ones that arrest, charge, who lock up a person arrested, as the case may be, and, therefore, their function touches the lives of everyone in the society. How good an image they present, will either draw criticism or praise. Unfortunately, I have heard much criticism, some unfounded no doubt, as criticisms are always with us. Other criticisms from the information available to me, on different occasions, seems to really give cause for a peeve.

Much has been said about examining what is happening in the police force. If I remember correctly, last year, two Members of this present House brought a Bill asking for that, which proved unsuccessful. One of the arguments advanced at the time was that to do such a thing would be demoralising to the force on a whole. I do not subscribe to that point of view, because an examination of the force, its functions, its behaviour, its actions, everything, an overall examination, would only identify problems, where problems were. The only persons who should have had any fear of that, were those, if there were those, who had cause to be afraid.

In Police Forces around the world, it is not unusual to hear of instances, where a policeman has acted improperly, in what ever way. It is a fact of life. The area where police, as well as ordinary citizens, fall victim, in particular, are areas where there is drug involvement. If not the substance, the monies therefrom.

I would certainly like to make the point that I would support any move in which the Government might bring forward the proper expertise which, I imagine, would be recruited from the U.K., if this was considered necessary. I cannot see any harm in examining the Force overall, looking into the numerous allegations that have been made over months, and years, and all the rest of it. In fact, I think it would bolster its image, for that to be done and certain facts could be put forward publicly.

MR. PRESIDENT: If I may interject for one moment, in this question. This matter has, of course, been decided by the House quite recently, but not in the present Session. I feel bound to point out that in commenting on this the Member in charge of this subject will, no doubt, ask you to state whatever allegations you are referring to.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: I would imagine that I could make those to him, as I have not stated any allegations. But if I should do so here, now, or I could do so in his capacity at his office, or whatever.

MR. PRESIDENT: Fine. My point, really, is that we are getting into an area where the rules of debate do not enable you to make specific allegations. My point was that if you have allegations, you should put them in the way you have just described.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: Thank you, Sir.

On the matter of nationalities in the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force, more and more it seems that the public question the persons in the Force who are Caymanian from those who are not. This is rightly so. For if there are unusual numbers of non-Caymanians, there tends to be an appearance of a more mercenary picture.

Because of the closeness of the police to the community, I feel that it is essential that every effort should be made to recruit Caymanian persons to be in the coercive forces of the Islands. Here, I refer to a distinction that is drawn, and I shall speak further on about persons who hold Caymanian Status and persons considered in these Islands Caymanians.

I have received the latest Police Report, and I think it is the first time that I have seen an organisational structure of the Police Force. It also gives some indication of its areas of specialisation. Its function, of course, is to protect and defend. Again, there are many charges of instances of Police brutality, founded or not, and complaints have also been made to me that people go to the Police Station to make complaints, but they do not get results. I have seen recorded in this report as well, by number, the amount of such complaints. In these areas, I feel, there are certain public concerns, certain public queries.

I certainly do know that in years gone by, a citizen did not feel intimidated to go to the Station to lodge a complaint, even if that complaint was against a police officer. I feel that, generally, when someone goes to the police station to make a complaint, if they can muster the courage and so on to go there, they should be dealt with in a manner as quickly as is possible and the matter resolved, so that all parties involved can feel that they have had a fair hearing.

In the recruitment of Police, I have seen advertisements in the newspapers, inviting persons to apply and these persons seem to be always within the lower levels of the constabulary. I am aware that one of the means adopted is that if a number of different people, which includes foreign nationals, apply, a list is made of their names, with pictures, which is circulated where other officers are asked if they know anything pertinent to the character of those persons.

The point I would like to make on that is, that if there is a foreign national in the Cayman Islands, they may have been 100 per cent while they were here, no wrongdoing, nothing at all wrong with them. We could only speak, or any police officer could only say what they know of those persons here. What they may have been in the country from which they came, is a completely different situation.

Police are recruited at a very early age, some of them still in their teens and I have wondered if there is any cause, or need, for seeking persons at a more mature age. At one time, 21 was the age required and, while I am not advocating it, it is certainly logical that someone at 21 years of age would have assumed more adult responsibilities than someone younger. Also bearing in mind, that a majority of the offenders tend to be young people, who could have been schoolmates of some of the young officers, who have to deal with the situation. I suggest nothing other than such a situation is not the easiest to deal with.

I believe the time has come that rather than the Commissioner of Police acting solely on his own or, for that matter, with the assistance of whomever might be administratively responsible, or persons, the time has come when a Police Commission would be a more appropriate way of dealing with matters of recruitment, promotion, and discipline. It is something that is done in other parts of the world, and it has proven acceptable in other societies, and I can see no reason why we can not advance to it here. It should give a better cross-sectional view on matters from persons within the Caymanian society and it would relieve onus on one or two persons. I am speaking on something similar to the Public Service Commission which operates in the Islands.

I have noted that in the Police Report there has been training for recruits, and that there have been refresher courses, and other short courses of a few days or weeks, as the case may be. I think that is extremely good. I would, however, like to suggest that police training is police training, and police sciences are police sciences, and there are available correspondence courses in police sciences which could certainly not harm any police officer from taking it up, whether or not he or the Department paid for it. It could only help to improve the Officers' scope of knowledge in Police Sciences. I understand, of course, that matters pertaining to law would have to be those as they are instructed in on the courses which are held within the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force.

I believe that it is wise for Caymanians to be recruited who have qualifications of a level which they can enter into specialised police training overseas. I do know that certain levels of education and entry requirements, not least of which is so many years experience in the Police Force, are required in certain courses. Many such courses were offered in the compendium of courses produced by the Department of Overseas Administration some years ago. I imagine that it still is that way. I feel that some programmes should be set up and some officers identified who would take such courses on a regular basis. Or persons should be recruited to the higher echelons in the Police Force with the idea of sending them on specialised courses; such as those dealing with commercial crime. It has been noted that commercial crime is one of the areas where crime is increasing. The more it does, the more police involvement it will require and the more it will require officers who can efficiently deal with it. The Narcotics Agreement, in my opinion, also requires specialisations within the force. Of course, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty will further make requirements for specialised training necessary. I believe that the police force is vital to these Islands, it deserves a lot of praise for the way it performs, but it cannot be free from scrutiny where it is felt it can be proven that it is necessary.

Prisons: There has been much said about the Prison Service. The most recent matter has been the changing of two Caymanian officers, and their being replaced with non-Caymanian officers. The Prison Service is a necessary one. Every society must have one, but it is not the happiest of affairs, for it is there that citizens must incarcerate other citizens and keep them incarcerated. There the inmates lose their freedoms and all the rest that goes with it. I have often wondered just how prison officers manage the kinds of stresses that they must go through and what sort of family life must they have, and all the rest

of it. I am not envious of their job; in fact, I am rather sympathetic towards it. One question that has risen time and again, however, is that there are a number of non-Caymanian people [employed there] when claims are made that there are those Caymanians able to do so.

I have faith in the selection process and that the opportunity is given to persons to apply locally and I have faith that this is done in a proper manner, as is prescribed under Government regulations. However, I feel that as it appears to be an ongoing criticism, that it is well for the Government administration to monitor, very carefully, any instances of intakes or promotions within this service. As I said, I believe that this is done now, but perhaps more can be done. One of the ways of removing the various doubts and expressions of suspicion, may be to make the findings publicly known. Later on in my speech I will refer to the promulgation of more information from the Government machine. I do not really know the answer, however I am putting forward concerns that have been expressed to me and, I believe, that by so doing, they will be looked into.

The discipline, promotion, and training are all parts of this department, as they are of others. I believe that these matters should be handled very carefully as well. I do not believe it could hurt, if there was also a commission which had overview of matters pertaining to the Prison Services. Ignoring the complaints, rumours, or suspicions might be fine, but I feel that, at least until it can be totally shown and argued that there is a wide-open situation, the public is aware of what happens there and, to be satisfied that this will continue, I am simply suggesting that there may be ways of improving on the communication between he public and what happens in this particular Department.

Immigration: Herein lies one of the most crucial and critical matters facing this country. It has been proven by studies done on the Cayman Islands very recently, that population growth in this country is at a rate that should cause concern; both at the slowness of the increase of the Caymanian population and at the speed of the increase of the non-Caymanian population. I would like to read from the Development Plan which notes,

"Since the 1979 census, annual estimates have been calculated for Caymanian and non-Caymanian population growth. Caymanian population growth is calculated each year by taking the previous end of the year total and adding births and persons granted status and then subtracting deaths. The average annual increase of Caymanian population between 1979 and 1986 was 1.6 per cent. If persons granted Status were excluded this figure is reduced to 1.2 per cent, which is comparable to other countries with a high standard of living. The non-Caymanian population each year is calculated by adding work permit holders and their dependants, expatriate civil servants and their dependents and expatriate permanent residents. The average annual increase of the non-Caymanian population between 1979 and 1986 was 11.2 per cent which is over 9 times greater than the actual indigenous average birth rate of 1.2 per cent."

Mr. President, that is a matter that is changing the face of Caymanian society. This report also notes, and it is clear from its analysis, that current population growth is largely attributable to continuing immigration, as opposed to natural growth. On that projection, and that has since increased by statistics released since this time, I think it was last year or the latter part of 1987, that the growth has increased beyond that ratio. The projection in the table shown here says,

"which extrapolates existing growth rates into the future, Caymanians will lose majority status by the year 1996."

As I noted this morning, it cannot be well for any country to have up to 60 per cent over-employment. It is like someone who eats to satisfy hunger and continues eating until the food then becomes more of a poison and makes one sick. Whether or not that is absolutely the case, the remarks that I hear constantly from the people of this Island here and even in Cayman Brac (where it is not as pronounced), is concern expressed about the growing number of non-Caymanians in this society.

There is much debate about being a Caymanian and having Caymanian Status. I am a Caymanian, I am a born Caymanian; I know who I am. It is not as has been, as was suggested on Wednesday, or to my mind, a query was raised by the First Elected Member for Bodden Town as to really who is a Caymanian. I believe that all Caymanians know who they are. We cannot project the Caymanian concept back into times of original inhabitants of these Islands, because there is no record that Amerindians were in these Islands but, surely, the first Caymanians, as the first people from anywhere, must be the first who set down their roots and grew from there into what we are now. This is a situation that has taken on some large proportions.

Caymanians passed a Law somewhere in 1972 where they chose to grant certain privileges to certain peoples who met certain conditions, and they called that "Caymanian Status". I see that as being similar to myself, or someone else, going to the United States and they really cannot make me an American, but they can naturalise me and give me what they call "American Citizenship". So I do not see why it is so difficult for advocates who say there is no difference not to see a difference. The concern I hear expressed almost daily, is that the number of people being granted this status, or citizenship, are reaching proportions that are scaring the people who do not need it. Many of the persons are using it purely as a means of convenience. Some of those persons have better economic means and are competing with the local element. We have many factors involved in this. To say that it does not matter is, indeed, for the Government to take a view that is highly ill-advised; not to be conscious of it. I must compliment the Third Official Member who as early as the first session of this House brought a Motion which allows this House to examine the matter of Immigration and the

matter of Caymanian Status.

My own feeling is that it should be limited. I do not outright disagree with the concept put forward by some Members here, that it should be removed, I would have to be convinced about that, however because I feel that we do need some means of granting or bestowing, or whatever one might term it, on certain categories of persons, similar privileges as we enjoy as being born here. I do not think that it would be right for a spouse, man or woman, to be denied the closeness with his/her Caymanian spouse that they should have Status or by having some belonging here.

Again, I feel that the ties by blood should certainly be recognised and also that there is cause for consideration for persons who have been here for long periods of time and have proven oneness with this society.

At this time, I do not wish to make any truly formed recommendations, but I wish to raise the question, with the seriousness it deserves, and say to all of the other Members of this House, that we should seriously examine the situation and take a firm, clear, precise stance on it so that there are no false expectations raised. So that no one comes here to work with the idea that in 7 years, we are going to get that thing bestowed called "Caymanian Status". That it be clearly defined. It will not necessarily be wavered by directives, or whatever, that there are hard and fast rules on it.

It is my opinion, that in arriving at this situation, we have to take into account the rising numbers in the population that are not Caymanians who, in many instances, are above the educational level, they hold professions, they hold technical qualifications, they are in jobs that give them more supervisory influence; all of those things have to be taken into account. We, the Elected Members of this country, have to be the seismographs to determine what the people are saying to us. They are speaking loudly. Policy that attempts to brush aside or treat it lightly, is a very unwise one.

I pledge my support and play my part in making any recommendations, or offer my opinions, in the matter which lies ahead.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are suspended for fifteen minutes.

AT 3:19 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:45 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Lesser Islands continuing.

The House is resumed. The Second Elected Member for the

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:

Thank you Mr. President.

When we stopped, I was speaking on the matter of the Protection Law. This leads me to speak briefly on the idea of the Protection Board. I believe that when the Legislators of the day first devised the idea of a Caymanian Protection Law, and the creation of a Caymanian Protection Board, it was timely. Overall, I believe, it is absolutely true to say that the persons that have been appointed to this Board over the years have given their best ability and the Government has expected much from these persons. They have had to look into areas affecting the country that, in fairness to themselves perhaps, was much more than should have been expected. Even now that Board, to the best of my knowledge, also serves as a Trades and Business Licensing Board.

As the Caymanian Protection Board, they grant work permits, or Gainful Occupation Licenses, to persons, based on what information is available to them in the application from the Immigration, and from other sources within Government.

It is my feeling that justice, or should I say, good management, could be better served if the function of the Caymanian Protection Board was assigned to Government Departments and the matters, which the Caymanian Protection Board decides upon, became matters for a civil servant working full time to deal with.

I believe that the award of Caymanian Status falls very closely in line with a naturalisation process. As we know, that is the responsibility assigned to the Third Official Member. In matters where someone has a decision made on their application for naturalisation, or Caymanian Status, I believe that it could easily and properly be dealt with within a Department of Naturalisation, where, when an application came there, it would be clearly specified what should be submitted, what requirements had to be met, similar to the application for U.S. Citizenship. Then a civil servant, who can be held accountable, who is under the Official Secrets Act, would deal with that in a more dispassionate manner because it would have no bearing on himself, as such, within the society because he is a civil servant. His role is different. He is accepted differently. Within the Government there is always the opportunity of saying, "Oh, you are just another one of those civil servants, lots of red tape and lots of bureaucracy", rather than what happens now, where citizens make these decisions and find themselves criticized or hated or lobbied in a way that must put undue pressure on them.

I made the point of being answerable and accountable. I do not know if, at this point in time, it would be in the best interest, that within the group or body of people they would have access to information which they are under no obligation, as a civil servant is under the Official Secrets Act, to keep to themselves. These are thoughts which have come to mind in considering the matter of the function of the Board, and not at all, in any way, casting any aspersions regarding the integrity of the Board. I believe it could be dealt with more efficiently. I feel, also, that the function of Trades and Business Licensing could also be confined within a Government Department and that, too, could be administered as it should be.

I cannot place enough emphasis on the matter of accountability.

One thing that strikes me as being very peculiar, is that a decision made by the Board, clearly states that it is administrative and therefore no reasons have to be given for that decision. I have been told that a similar power lies with the Secretary of State in the United Kingdom in matters affecting national security and the like. I have some difficulty in arriving at a feeling of true justice where a person can have an application decided against, be it for whatever, that some reason should not be given. Whether that reason is to say, "I do not like you", which would hardly be the case in this instance, but I do have difficulty in perceiving that particular part of the law to be fair to persons concerned.

Again, the Caymanian Protection Board acts as a Appellate Board. If there is a problem with immigration, you can appeal to the Cayman Protection Board if you disagree with the decision of an Immigration Officer. I feel that should properly lie within Government, because matters of immigration are pertinent to Government and Immigration is something very serious and extremely critical to Cayman at this time, I dare say in the future as well.

To pay tribute to the Caymanian Protection Board. From the amount of applications, which I hear that go to the Caymanian Protection Board all the time, I think, the highest praise is due to the people who sit on it on their own time, or taking time out of their day, to arrive at decisions and certainly within the cramped area that the Immigration department sits in, I think they do extremely well.

Immigration, on a whole, is housed inside of what was a dwelling house, with many rooms and cubicles put into it. I understand there are plans to increase the area that is allowed for them, and I certainly do support that idea. I think it would be a relief because if sometimes that pungent atmosphere could be spread over a little wider square footage.

The number of people who go into the Immigration Department, on a daily basis, I would imagine, is more than, perhaps, any other Department in Government. The stress and the pressure that must be on the people involved, deserves the sympathy of this country. I sincerely believe that something should be done, at least, to create some room for them in which they could function.

Any specific recommendations which I may have on the matter of the Protection Law; what it should be and what it should not be, of course, I shall have the opportunity of offering those views when we sit, as a whole House, to decide on it.

Internal and External Affairs: Broadcasting. I think one of the best things that has ever happened to Cayman, is Radio Cayman. It provides the best means of communication in these Islands. One does not have to take the time or the effort to read, simply listen and one can be informed. I think that the people who have worked there, many of them since its inception, are very dedicated. From what I understand of T.V. stations and radio stations, they have to count seconds to be on time. To play the commercial at the right time, to give the news within a certain time-frame, to see that certain advertisements get on so many times in the hour, or whatever the case may be. I think we can be very proud of what Radio Cayman is. Certainly, not least of all, is the fact is that it is a Department which is paying for itself and showing profits. That is commendable.

I also see Radio Cayman as an educator of the populace. When it comes to the programs which are aired, I feel that there could be changes made in those that could be much more helpful in terms of the education of the people and taking information to them other than just at news time. I am thinking of programmes which I mentioned two departments earlier; the police and the prisons, for example, where there can be forums, or discussions, of programmes designed similar to certain programmes we hear on the BBC that go into details of the functions of these departments. What is the recruitment process? What happens if someone has to be disciplined? I believe that one of the things that this society lacks and is starving from, is a lack of information as to what is happening in the Country, what Government policies are being carried out and what is the latest blow-by-blow action on it and, I feel, that much can be done if programs such as those are designed and aired over Radio Cayman.

I think it is one of the ways that we can teach our people about our culture. I feel that there are, at least, two people who have the ability, or expertise, within this area that Government could look to engage. I can think of Dr. Frank McField, who is the only playwright that I know of locally, and I can also think of Ms. Anita Ebanks who, at one time, wrote short programmes on our history for the Radio, but I no longer hear aired. I feel that a knowledge of ourselves will make for greater satisfaction about ourselves. We become more aware of where we are coming from, and it helps us in designing the road to where we may be going. Our culture and our history are integral to making us a whole people.

I feel that the Radio Station, the whole concept of broadcasting, could be increased and developed in a good and meaningful way and it could involve more people. People capable in our society and, of course, it would teach skills which are necessary. I believe that this is true in, at least, one other Caribbean Island (Jamaica), where they have programmes such as this and historians and other designed programs. It would require training, but I think we should do this to ensure that it serves in the maximum capacity. I would not recommend any further increase in country music culture because I think there is sufficient there.

Politically, many people are unaware of what we are, of what the Government does, who are the people involved in Government, what their names are and what they do. I never cease to marvel at some of the most basic things that members of the public do not know. The only way that this can be changed is to educate them. As I said, if it is even a lazy person, who does not wish to read, driving along in the car with the radio on, they hear a programme, they have to listen to it, because we cannot listen very well to very many foreign radio stations (I suppose interference from whatever) but the predominant station now, that one can get, is Radio Cayman. They will virtually be forced to it, and I think that it can be made interesting enough so that they become aware of it.

I do not recommend making the Radio Station a political

football, or making it something that half of the air time is spent with someone preaching some political gospel from it. I feel that part of the function could wisely be to allow 10 minutes spots, or half hour spots, whatever, in a planned, controlled and supervised way, so that political persons, or elected persons of the people, could have some air time to discuss some specific topics, subjects, or whatever. I honestly feel that there are ways that can be done where it can serve for a political education of the people. I am not speaking specifically of confining it to official persons who can claim, and rightly so, to be more detached from any political consideration, but I can see no good reason why the peoples' representatives can not have an opportunity to communicate by air to the people who have elected them.

Again, I do not make any direct proposal on this, it is something which I have thought about and I wish to put forward to this House.

Civics is something again. To think back at school, when that was a part of the syllabus, perhaps it still is, I do not know if they are tested on it but we certainly were. Many the strapping we received if we did not know what we were supposed to know on the subject. I believe that is another area where it can be utilised.

Public matters: There are certain matters that deal with it. There have been certain messages of health, that I have heard, over the radio. All of these, I believe, are good.

I am simply thinking, that these programmes could be so designed that over the run of a week they could be slotted in and it could be better utilised by the public, in the form of education. I do believe, however, that if there is any one instance where any group or person is allowed to have the opportunity of air time that it is only fair that it be granted to any other person.

Newspapers and the print media: I think that we are at a great disadvantage in this country, that there is only one newspaper. As recently as 1984, there were 5 newspapers in this country. I do hope that sometime in the near future there is, at least, going to be another one.

News and information is a vital part of any society. Normally, all people know is what they see on the television, or hear on the radio, or they read in the papers. In any community where there is one print media one can only get what is dispensed by that one media. I would hope, in all of this financial well-being in which we live, there are those persons in this society who would share my view and see the need for a second print media.

Government information: Here it ties into the area of the radio and the print media. I think it is possible for the Government Information to produce more news on Government activities than is being produced. Perhaps, it might need more staff to cover it all.

I can say, myself, that often, when I was a civil servant, I was in the Portfolio attending to something, in the pressure of doing that, I never thought, "well this is a news item, I should call the Information Services and say, 'why don't you come and get this story'", It happens. I understand and realise that. I feel, being aware of it, more can be done to generate news out of Government to keep the public better informed, as I have stated. Again, while carrying stories of activities within Government, what Government plans to do, or has done. The Government Information News can develop programmes, or information, in booklet form, or otherwise, on our history, on our culture, and update it as time goes along. I am, however, happy to know that Government does have in place the information Service and the Radio Station and, of course, that we do have a newspaper.

Education, Recreation and Culture: Education has to be the main tool with which we can cut ourselves a meaningful future. We have an education system which, I believe, has been devised with the best interest of the Country at heart. I would not say that it functions to the optimum, although, I believe, that is the wish of all parties concerned.

Like a Motion which was brought to this House only a few days ago by the First Elected Member from Bodden Town, which increased school age with the view of improving educational opportunities, Education needs to be enhanced and assisted and amendments made in the process as time goes on.

There are a considerable number of teachers employed by the Education Department, many of which are non-Caymanian; another area in which the country needs to produce qualified persons. This, of course, can only be done by training.

As I suggested this morning, I feel that the Government must take a view that it goes out with a specific intention, a specific effort, to identify persons, particularly school leavers, who will have qualifications and who have a desire to teach. Those persons have to be found. They have to be given assurances. They have to be given guarantees. They have to find that they meet with a minimum of resistance to their desire to be trained as teachers.

Scholarships are available now and I do believe that they will continue. My only feeling on that is that they should be increased and more readily available. I think that Government should give consideration to education; education of teachers to an extent that this Government would budget monies each year so it would cover any upcoming amounts of monies needed to train Caymanian people as teachers. It should not be that two-fifths or four-fifths arrangement, that I understand is now in place, where so much is borrowed from the bank and Government itself puts forward so much money for it. It is so important that the Government should earmark those monies itself.

I have inquired a bit into how that process works. While it is evident that it works, I think it could work more smoothly if Government simply took the overall lead in this respect. I am aware that degree courses expenses have become more but one does not have to pay all of that money out in any given year and I believe that it is possible within Government to identify those amounts of money and make it a recurrent amount to meet what requests there are. I have had some complaints made to me by young people. I can think of at least two who wanted to pursue courses in teaching. They have since ended up working in the

banks and they alleged to me that it was a situation of not being able to get a firm, straightforward word as to their scholarships. Therefore, I think this is one area where some assistance can be given.

I am very happy to know that the library service has been enhanced to the extent that it has. I have had opportunity to visit the Library. For the space available it is very nicely laid out. The books are all catalogued, and the staff was most pleasant and helpful in informing me of what has been done in recent times. I wish them all the success, and I encourage the public to use the Library. I think it could be increased in size, which means that we may need another site for the Library and this I hope will be taken into account for a future date.

The Community College: I fully support the idea and I applaud the efforts of those persons involved both in the administration, and in the teaching. I think the Country has a great lack of persons, particularly in the skilled areas. I learned, in 1983, that a new school of thought even sees typing as an area of vocational training, or skilled training as they now call it. If we take it outside of typing, we take the concept of the Community College of going into the technical fields of teaching; auto mechanics, electricity, air conditioning, so many areas. It is in these areas that there is such immense need on these Islands, ever growing and with a shortfall of persons trained. As I said, I support this and I believe it is very necessary, and I would like to congratulate those persons concerned who have been able to secure a loan of the magnitude that has been secured at what, I think, is one per cent.

I will be going on for quite a while yet and if you should wish to adjourn, I have no problem.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I think we should go till half past four.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:

Coming back to the idea of culture. There is a lack of a knowledge of this in our country. I think that we have one of which we can be justly proud. We come from a culture of honesty. One where our forefathers were honest and hardworking. We had a way of doing things and our people now need to be reminded of this. This can be achieved in many ways. I think one of the ways of so doing is in the performing arts, and there is the embryonic stages of that here now. It has been, in fact, going on for sometime. Displays and performances by, at least, two main groups of people on this Island. In this respect, I wish to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen Harquail, whose generous donation to this country has produced a theater which, while utilised, is under utilised.

I believe that the Government should take a position where it could become more actively involved with the persons who carry on these plays, with the objective of telling the Cayman story, to some extent, from the theater. As has been mentioned before by myself, and also by another speaker, I feel that, within Government, the utilisation of Miss Anita Ebanks and, again, Dr. Frank McField in this respect can be of assistance. They are working on their own. I believe that Government should become more involved in the picture.

There were plans for a Cayman village in the area of the Harquail Theater. As of now, I do not know what has become of it. I think that this should be revived in every possible way, where we could actually re-create what Cayman was like in the past, so that maximum appreciation could be made by actually seeing the visual thing.

The Museum: I believe that this is something good. I am glad to know that Government is moving along and doing something with that. Here again, I think that there are many things to be preserved and, hopefully, we can find them; whether through loan or otherwise. I think a good example can be taken in Grand Cayman of what has been achieved in Cayman Brac. Surely, it is a very interesting thing, to tour the museum in Cayman Brac and see the collection of relics, and so on, which are there. And see the history that has been recorded by various persons in that district.

Sports: Sports in this Island have been started on a good footing. It is something to be highly recommended, for it is well known that, particularly for the youth, it is a way of constructively expending their energy; in competition in the various sports of which, on this Island, I think, football is one. There is cricket, boxing and various areas that I think are now in the development stage.

We have some very outstanding athletes in this country, who have done us proud on many occasions. Gold medals have been brought back to Cayman from international competitions. I believe that this country has an obligation, and the Government should feel an obligation to ensure that the highest recognition is given to these athletes. I know there are some. I think that more, perhaps, could be done so that sports could become a very integral part of the whole developmental process of the Cayman Islands. Some are in place. All that I would ask, recommend, and suggest would be that this be enhanced, to the point of looking after the welfare, in a personal way, of these athletes.

They are exposed to all the beckonings of youth their age, all of the exposure to drugs, all of that. But they are outstanding because they do not participate in that type of behavior. I think that if their recognition can be enhanced in ways that they are publicly involved, invited as special guests, recognised in churches, parties, and in ways such as those, sports can be enhanced and assisted and developed by these, who have achieved very high marks in their performance within the various sporting areas.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Are you at the end of the section on sports, by any chance?

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:

Yes.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Would you like to finish it?

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: That would be fine with me, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Fine.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: I would...

MR. PRESIDENT: Sorry, I misunderstood you. Do finish the piece you are on.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: Sir, if you are ready to adjourn, that is fine with me.

ADJOURNMENT

HON THOMAS C. JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I move the adjournment of this Honourable House until 10:00 on Monday morning.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that this Honourable House do now adjourn until 10:00 Monday morning. I shall put the question. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

AYES.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Ayes have it. The House is accordingly adjourned until Monday morning at 10:00.

AT 4:32 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M., MONDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1989.

**MONDAY
6TH MARCH, 1989
10:04 A.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT: Prayers by the Third Elected Member for West Bay.

PRAYERS

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON JR: Let us pray.
Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived:
We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.
Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are resumed.
Papers. The First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

PRESENTATIONS OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

THE REPORT OF THE STANDING PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MR. ROY BODDEN: Mr. President, I beg permission to lay on the Table of this Honourable House The Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee.

MR. PRESIDENT: So ordered.
Papers, continued. The Honourable Third Official Member.

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL CAYMAN ISLANDS POLICE FORCE
FOR THE YEAR, 1988**

HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTONE: Mr. President, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House The Annual Report of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force, for the year, 1988.

MR. PRESIDENT: So ordered.
We move to item three on today's Order Paper: Government Business. Continuation of the debate on the Throne Speech and on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Second Elected Member from the Lesser Islands, continuing.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH
AND SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989.**

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President.
When we adjourned on Friday afternoon, I was just concluding my remarks on the subject of Sports. All that I wish to add to that particular subject is, having noted the inroads to international competition, there arises the question of keeping control of what happens there in the name of the Cayman Islands. I would like to refer to the instance which occurred in Vienna, where remarks involving

representatives of the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee in regard to South Africa - that it was, apparently, advocated that all of the various countries sit down to discuss allowing them back in and hearing their position. I believe that such a thing has very serious connotations as it touches on relationships between the Cayman Islands and other countries in the world. It was highly ill-advised of the lawyer, Mr. Douglas Calder, to make any such remark. To attempt to say that they were personal... they could not be personal, in my opinion, because he was there in the capacity of representing the Cayman Islands.

MR. PRESIDENT: If I may correct you on a matter of fact, he represented the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee, in no sense does he represent the Cayman Islands. I want that point to be made very clear. Not a correction to you, but it is a rather important point.

MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I take your point. I would ask that the Government, particularly the Member responsible for Sports, take very serious cognisance of these situations to see that something similar does not occur in the future. There was an instance before this where the Cayman Islands faced embarrassment in the area of sports in international competition overseas.

District Administration: Included in my Manifesto during my campaign, I stated that the most crucial element to the development of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman was air transportation to and from these Islands. Indeed, today that still remains the case. While Grand Cayman is serviced by five airlines, including a flight from Honduras, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman suffer uncertainty of flights and inadequate air service. Successive Administrations have failed to address this problem to the extent that is necessary - despite the fact that the solution is one that has been plain to anyone who wanted to see. The problem lies in the lack of a proper airport in Little Cayman. The existing grass strip is not owned by Government. Landings cannot be officially approved by the Civil Aviation Department. The land that is owned there by Government has not been developed for a runway, thus there is always the question of providing an aircraft that can service Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Even if the conditions are to stay as they are, where a particular aircraft is used in the service between the Islands (the inter-Island route) the aircraft is certainly not the Tri-Islander, and it most certainly cannot be the Shorts. Little Cayman and Cayman Brac are not receiving a fair opportunity to develop their tourism and their infrastructure, as might be effected by proper air service. In my opinion the Shorts is inadequate, unsuitable and unreliable. It should be replaced. It should be sold, and soon is not soon enough. Selling it now would be the best thing, even if it has to be sold at a slight loss. The people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman deserve better than that aircraft is able to give. They are Caymanians too. I believe that Cayman Brac deserves to have nothing less than service on a regular daily basis, by the 727 jets owned by Cayman Airways, the National Flag carrier. I believe the cessation of operation of the Shorts Aircraft would go a long way to offset the cost of operating the jet flight to Cayman Brac.

The decision to provide jet service to Cayman Brac is a political one involving all Members of this House who, I believe, would not want to deny the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman fair opportunity for the constructive development and dependable air service to and from the Island. I welcome the statement from the Honourable Member for Tourism, Aviation and Trade, that improvement will soon be made to the Cayman Brac runway, including landing lights to facilitate night landings. I stand in this House today asking and imploring that this Honourable House support me in putting forward the need for effecting proper air service to Cayman Brac by Cayman Airways as part of its daily routes.

Housing: Since Hurricane Allen, and the major assistance of rehousing and repairs by the Government of the day, little has been done to assist in housing for the more needy in Cayman Brac. I note that under the Housing Development Corporation, Government proposes to raise funds for housing, and I hope that Cayman Brac and Little Cayman will receive monies proportionate to their housing needs. After all, people in Cayman who need special assistance are provided for under the Housing Development Corporation, so there is also the need for the people of Cayman Brac.

Social Services: Recent statistics published by Government show that there is an increasing aging population in Cayman Brac. Among these are people who are in the lower income bracket who are in need of Government assistance. As we know, there is no pension scheme, there is no social security scheme, they are receiving no Civil Service benefits, therefore, they must look to Government for assistance. Government has a moral obligation, if not a duty, to help. These are our older people - our parents, our grandparents - they have given their productive lives to us and to the country in their own individual way. The country should now give something to them in their old age.

Employment in Cayman Brac is what money is to a banker. The banks could not survive without infusion of monies, and Cayman Brackers cannot survive in Cayman Brac without employment. As recent as 1987 Government was obliged to act and intervene into the employment situation in Cayman Brac reducing Customs Duties on building materials imported into the Island as an incentive for people to build and cause employment. Government statistics show that the population of the Brac has dwindled causing depopulation. With adequate jet service, which would increase tourism and clearly define development policies towards Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, such as has been done in Grand Cayman, development would result and employment would increase. Cayman Brackers could stay home and others could return to the Island they love.

I welcome the air terminal that has recently been completed. It was certainly a step in the right direction, in my opinion. All that is necessary, at this time, to complement the air terminal is a regular jet service.

Water in Cayman Brac remains a problem, and until other sources of water supplies are discovered, or developed, I believe that the wells on the Bluff should be properly

utilised. Water could be piped from these wells and made available to farmers and also be made available to others, as is done in Grand Cayman.

Tourism, Aviation and Trade: I am pleased to see that Civil Aviation is progressing and the Airport Authority and the Fire Service are functioning effectively and offering vital services to the communities. Civil Aviation is headed by Mr. Sheldon Hislop, and the Fire Service is headed by Mr. Kirkland Nixon. Both of these gentlemen are Caymanians, and I congratulate them. Their tenure of service at the top, and their staff which is predominately Caymanian, are examples, and a signal to those who disbelieve that Caymanians can perform at the bottom and at the top.

Labour: The Labour Law, in my opinion, was perhaps one of the most necessary pieces of legislation passed in these Islands recently. Its intention is to prescribe fair labour practice between employer and employee. My understanding is that it is working well and, in most instances, disputes are being amicably settled. In Cayman Brac, however, the Tiara Beach Hotel management has been a problem and continues to be a problem. I believe the records will show that successive Labour Officers have not been able to bandage this particular sore. Unfortunately, I think the situation boils down to complaints against one person and his attitude of management, that is, the manager of the Hotel. According to numerous complaints and, indeed, information that I have gathered (and it has been much, and it has been incessant), is that the management repeatedly acts contrary to the provisions of the Labour Law to the detriment of some employees of the Tiara Beach Hotel.

The information available to me suggests that various warnings and advice from the Protection Board and the Labour Office are disregarded. There have been complaints and petitions, too numerous to mention, that have been made to the Labour Office and to the Caymanian Protection Board about the manager's (Mr. Feinburg) behavior and the way he deals with matters related to the hotel. Nothing to date has effectively been done, and I am asking today that something be done about it. One of the main problems that has arisen, time and again, is wages and the prescribed benefits. Notwithstanding the Labour Law prescribes certain benefits, such as leave with pay, working hours, etcetera, there are many instances where these things have repeatedly been denied some workers.

I personally believe that hotel workers in Cayman Brac could easily be the worst paid in the Cayman Islands. The Labour Law provides that a minimum wage can be prescribed by categories - it can be set. My recommendation would be that these minimum wages be set now. Unless things change there, irreparable damage to labour relations will be done; if the management is allowed to continue to disregard the Law, the Labour Office, and whatever instructions are advised, as may have come from the Caymanian Protection Board. Numerous complaints have been made to me by members of my constituency on the matters I have put before this House. I have also placed them before the Officials in Government concerned with it, so I think they are aware. My only request at this time is that something definite and positive be done. I will be obliged to put the complaints more formally before this House if something does not change.

Tourism: Along with banking, tourism has been one of the main sources of economic development. I believe it is true beyond contradicting, that between 1962 and 1988 tourism development in these Islands has been astronomical. It has helped to create full employment of all the Caymanian workforce who are willing and able to work. Although today there seems to be a downturn in tourism, there continues to be a proliferation in building tourism accommodations, and tourism related businesses. Nearly every Caymanian has benefited in some way - bankers, lawyers, real estate people, hoteliers and taxis. Statistics show that at the end of 1987 there were 5,038 rooms available for rent and recently there has been a sampling of 42 restaurants which shows that there are over 3,000 seats, excluding hotel restaurants, available on this Island.

Approximately half of the workers in the hotel industry and tourism related business are non-Caymanian. Present and future development can only be done by a non-Caymanian labour force. Builders are non-Caymanian, in a number of instances, contractors (some of which are), hotel managers, waitresses, waiters other employees are non-Caymanian.

If you are procuring development with a non-Caymanian labour force, and if a non-Caymanian labour force is servicing the developments after their completion, then the question must be asked: For whom are we developing, and how much is enough? This Government, in my opinion, needs to start developing quality, upgrading standards, prescribing standards, insisting upon them instead of increasing the quantity. I believe in planned development, but not development for planning's sake. I do not believe that any country seeks to develop beyond that which creates employment for all of its people. Beyond that is saturation and, in our case, we are becoming an outnumbered people in our own country.

I am no economist, and do not pretend to be one, but the facts and figures of the situation show that non-Caymanians now employed in the tourist related industries must continue to be employed indefinitely if these businesses are to continue to operate. We simply do not have the Caymanian workforce to fill the jobs that are there. If the Caymanian workforce is all utilised, the question is: Why create more jobs? Why import more people and force Caymanians into a minority? It does not seem to be happening by accident. Certainly, it does not make good economic and cultural sense. The constant protest by the Caymanian people against this state of affairs should not go unheeded by the Government and by all Representatives.

Cayman Airways: I support, and have always supported, Cayman Airways. I believe that it guarantees us air service even when foreign carriers may cease to fly because they no longer find it financially attractive. While I support the national airline, I am not in favour of the growing increase in non-Caymanian personnel. Problems over the years in Cayman Airways have been focused on the management. Since 1984 there has not been any substantial change in management that I am aware of.

I note that there has been an exit of Caymanian flight attendants from Cayman Airways, leaving a situation of nationalities there that would make the United Nations proud. Part of the reason given for non-Caymanian flight attendants exiting Cayman Airways was that of the relatively low wages

paid to them. This does not appear to be the case. My understanding is that is not the case, however, in the upper management. Perhaps a greater in-depth look can be taken whereby this may be rectified.

It is my opinion that the time has come when it must be made clear to the Caymanian people that unless the financial performance of Cayman Airways improves, it will continue the need to be subsidised. Cayman Airways is providing a service and I agree with its operation. At this stage the national debt, however, is the largest that it has ever been and it would not seem very good financial wisdom to even think of undertaking an exercise of purchasing new aircraft at this time. Such a move should occur only after every possible bit of information is examined on the why's and the wherefore's, the pro's and the con's.

Health and Social Services: Two of the main criteria for building a strong society, I believe, are the health and social well-being of the people in that society. I welcome the intentions stated to improve the health and social services of the Caymanian society, as put forward by the Honourable Member responsible. I look forward to seeing the details of the proposed hospital for Grand Cayman and the National Health programme. I would also anticipate that Cayman Brac would also be included in overall considerations. While the needs are less in that Island, they certainly are present.

I am disappointed that the Rehabilitation Center is not contemplated, but I do look forward to the institution of half-way houses. The drug problem has grown to frightening proportions. Drug and alcohol addiction is still a major setback to the well-being of the Caymanian society. It was once confined to the criminal culture, but it now seems to have become all pervasive. It touches almost every home; every man and woman, young and old, school boys, school girls and adult are potential victims of this scourge.

First, I believe, it requires prevention through education; and secondly, detection through increased vigilance through specially trained police officers striking at the source of supply. Thirdly, I believe it has to be addressed by punishment and we have to have rehabilitation. It is useless to punish the offender without seeking to rehabilitate them - they will simply repeat the offence which, if anything, compounds the problem.

Communications, Works and Natural Resources, Planning: I look with anticipation as to how the Government intends to take the Ground Transportation Project, as its implementation will forever change the face of this Island. As I have said before, I believe in planned development and not development for planning's sake. It will be encumbered upon the Planning Board to be vigilant, daring and futuristic, making decisions that will be only in the best interest of the community for the Caymanian people. I congratulate the Chairman, Mr. David Arch, on the job he has done in the past and wish him continued fortitude in this very demanding job.

It would be folly, at this time, and at this stage in our development, not to include planning for the population of these Islands. In this respect I believe that the Caymanian Protection Board also has a tremendous task ahead. Although I have stated that I believe that the head of the Caymanian Protection Board and the Board itself could be managed within the Civil Service, I congratulate the Chairman, Mr. David Ritch, and wish him well. I believe that he and the members of the Caymanian Protection Board certainly do all that is necessary to support the principles of the Caymanian Protection Law and its intentions.

Under planning, I would like to mention a recent situation of the re-siting of the Government House. I believe that this is a matter which has to be addressed sooner [rather] than later in this country for various reasons. I believe the Government House stands almost like a national institution. It should bear a certain uniqueness, a certain architectural stateliness, blending in with the Caymanian theme. Security, of course, must be a consideration. Its re-siting, whenever this occurs, should be well considered and involve not less than all the elected Representatives of the people.

The question of the Cayman Islands Constitution has been raised and I would like to comment on it as did other speakers in this House. It seems to have been generally suggested that changes are not necessary at this time. I believe that, surely, a time will come when it is necessary to make changes in the Constitution. I would hope that when this time comes that Members of this House can come here to discuss these matters dispassionately, and practically, and go to their constituents to inform them on the matters honestly and factually.

Scare tactics and misinformation can only serve to mislead the people and prolong the inevitable. The Constitution, as far as I know, embodies the wishes and the aspirations of the people, and if the Caymanian people are factually and truthfully informed, and wish to make changes to the Constitution, their representatives have a duty to do so. If the answer should be no, that should end the matter.

In the Throne Speech there was mention of the possibility of the U.S. Government erecting a radar station in these Islands to assist in the fight against drugs. While I welcome any assistance that the United States Government may be able to give us in the fight against drugs, I would ask that Government approach this intention carefully and with extreme caution. The Cayman Islands enjoys a neutral military position. It might not be seen by some of our neighbours as being installed for the purpose of just detecting drugs. Again, I would ask Members to examine this matter carefully and with caution.

In closing, Mr. President, I would like to say that I do not share the view I have heard voiced in this House - that to the victor goes the spoils. Elections in this country are not as if we are going to war and fighting for territory, thereby taking prisoners and all the other things that go with war. It is the situation whereby the people of the Cayman Islands elect representatives and some persons or group form a majority. In that formation, or in administering that power given by the people, the objects of the Government must be taken into consideration and, indeed, the Government must work towards them; but that also definitely includes the opinion and the views of the other Members who sit on the Backbench or in Opposition, if you will.

I believe that at this point in time, the Cayman Islands have a

very unique status in this region in that we enjoy such a very enviable economic well being. I believe that this can continue if we govern with good sense, if we legislate with wisdom, trying to address as practically as possible the various areas of need. I believe for us to continue with the success, we must share a common vision which includes what is best for these Islands, for the people - not to think, particularly, in a secluded manner which would exclude Cayman Brac and Little Cayman from the process. I believe it is incumbent on us as Legislators, and it is the wish of the people, that we should work together for their good; thereby, the good of the Country.

I give my own undertaking that I am prepared to oppose when I feel that the matter before this Legislature, or any matter occurring in this country, is not in the best interest of this country, and to support whenever I think that it is.

Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The First Elected Member for West Bay.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

Mr. President, it is once again a signal honour for me to rise and make my contribution on the state of affairs in our country, as outlined by His Excellency's Speech, which is the Government's programme for the year, and as put forward by the Draft Estimates for 1989.

As is usual for me, I wish to record my thanks to those departments which have rendered me assistance in the past year, and to publicly voice my appreciation to the staff of this Legislature who have kept this Honourable House going. I think a department with so few staff, which has the great job of keeping the Parliament of the Country going, deserves special mention, and my appreciation of their tedious work is, therefore, extended.

I wish to go on record again as calling for a revamping of our system here. Every year it becomes more evident that there is a need to have more regular meetings of this Legislature. I do not know why we have to wait to meet every three months when business seems to pile up and we are stuck here three weeks at a time. Why is it, that once bills and motions are ready (Government and Private Members') we cannot come and finish our work? Are we that stuck in the bygone era? I proposed a time-frame of meeting once per month before - I am doing so again. I trust that the authorities will heed.

Mention has been made of our present system, Constitutionally. It is a fact, that with the heavy loads that Portfolios carry, there needs to be some kind of revision. There is no doubt in my mind, after being in this House for four years, and after paying careful attention to the work of the country for the past 10 or 15 years, that there is retardation in the business of Government. While we have 12 Elected Members, only four sit on Executive Council with the Official Members. I believe that it is high time that we examine that situation, that we look at all possibilities so that all work can progress, so that Members who sit in this Honourable House will have a chance of knowing what is going on in this country. Some Members seem to think that if we even look at our situation we are going into independence. That is a bunch of rubbish! It is time that educated people in this House, professional people, tell the nation so.

The Third Elected Member for George Town seems to disagree with any change in our present system, but I refer him to the remarks made when they were in Executive Council - that their Portfolios were heavy and that they needed assistance. What kind of assistance they were going to get, I do not know. But it looked to me that under our present Constitutional status (which prevailed then too), he would have had to do some Constitutional revision to make it work. I am not a lawyer or a Constitutional lawyer of any kind, but I cannot see how it was going to work if there was not some Constitutional revision. So I trust that in his tenure in this House for the next four years, the public will be talked to realistically.

I feel also, and I am speaking to the Members that have only four years now, that we need to have some local seminars amongst ourselves on how business is conducted. Last election we had four new Members. This election we had four new Members and one Member who returned after an eight year period but who seems to have lost contact with the realities of the House. I am putting forward the view, I do so as Vice-President and Chairman of the CPA, that it would be good for all of us to meet together and discuss what is Parliamentary language and Parliamentary procedure, and what is not. I put forward the view that at these seminars we could invite someone well versed in Parliamentary procedure to talk to us and examine the different points.

Some Members seem to think, not only Members in this House, but members of the public, that because there is cross talk or there is a reply to what is said that it makes the whole thing unparliamentary. That is not so. This is a debating forum, and there is no convention that says that you cannot reply in kind. If anyone in the public, or any Member of this House, believes that this Member will continue turning his cheek, they have another guess coming. Not me. I am prepared to work with Members under the parameters of the House to do what is necessary for decorum to be upheld, but I have only given my constituents one paramount promise, that is, that I will work honestly for them. I did not come to this House, and I did not promise that I was going to sit here and take licks and not reply in kind. I have done that too often - turned the other cheek to be slapped on it. I will not do it. So one and all should bear this in mind.

One of the problems of this House is that not very many people have visited other Parliaments. It might even be a problem in the country. I would venture to say that our Legislature is the best conducted in the whole world, and the conduct of Members far exceeds that of any Parliament I have seen or read about. It seems that in this country there are people who would like to see our Parliament generated to an insignificant standard, not at all becoming to civilisation. In the Commons in Canada, and in England and other so-called civilised countries, they take off their shoes and pound the table, pelt the desks, pelt them with books, throw things at one another - that has never happened in the Cayman Islands.

Every time someone laughs in this House or there is the cut and thrust of debate, there are these people who complain; but it does not mean that this House has degenerated to

back yard brawls. I would rather see the cut and thrust of debate in this House, with Members still talking to each other on the outside, than when we have the situation where we are so mad at one another that it is taken on the streets and our supporters are pushed into perpetuating something that is unbecoming to us.

Lawyers fight all day long, and sometimes there are petty jives too, but it does not make the headlines. I wonder if the House was populated with a different nationality whether we would reach editorial pages. The cut and thrust of debate is good.

This Parliament is the best in the world. Anytime that it leaves what we now have going for us, I want no part of it, because I did not come here for Church; I go to Church on Sunday. I come here to do the people's work, and if that means that I will laugh at what someone says, or if that means that I have to reply in kind to somebody's jive, I will have to do so. Some people believe that if the Government does a good thing and we pound our chests a little bit, or pound the desk a little bit, that it is a horrible story, that that is never heard of. Newspapers should take a lesson, they should go and visit other countries. I would wish that I could authorise some of them to go on a Parliamentary visit to other countries to see what happens there. This country has the best Parliament in this region, the best Parliament in the civilised countries including the great England and the great Canada.

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Hear, hear!

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

This is my fifth contribution on the Budget and Throne Speeches. I thank Almighty God for all his blessings on these Islands in my years as a Representative of the people.

The people of this country have much to be thankful for. There are problems and, certainly, as a country we need to be cognisant of them. Of course there are problems within each family that each individual must face. The Cayman Islands, as a whole, has fared well. What country our size, which is devoid of any great natural resources, except for our people, can boast of what we have today? Which country, if there is any, of 20,000 people can boast of the kind of infrastructure that is ours today? In spite of the hue and cry about roads today, we are still better off than any other country in this region. In which country in this region do you see the kind of vehicles driven by all age groups and from all stratas of life?

Check the records at the Lands Office, and see the amount of Caymanians purchasing property, their own titles free and clear, investing in the nation and their future. In which other country of the region is this happening? In which country can we find the amount of young people building their own homes, as we do in these Islands? In which country do we find over-employment (not that this is a good thing to brag about) where there is work for everyone - an honest day's pay for an honest day's work for any man or woman? Even the most ardent critics of this Administration must surely see the advances we have made.

Cayman is a growing country and the confidence placed in us by the outside world and the investor speaks well of the management of our affairs. For 1988 there was another increase of 40 banks and trust companies making a total of 527. Even with the stiff competition from [other] countries, and with the loss of [some] banks and trust companies we have continued to grow. Company Registration also shows a handsome increase of 561 new Companies over 1987 - a record year.

It would seem also that the MLAT is having some favourable effects in spite of its criticisms. A good barometer of the buoyancy of the economy and of the sharing of it by Caymanians is the position of our Currency Board - in 1984 it was \$10 million; today it stands with assets of \$25 million, with a total currency circulation of \$18.6 million. We have the strongest dollar in the region today. This must speak well for Caymanians. How can anyone doubt that Cayman is getting something out of that buoyancy?

I will explore for a few minutes where the \$18 million is going. Let us examine a main indicator: Development and construction. From recent statistics dealing with just last year, we see that we had \$131 million, and that is more than double the amount of 1984. Can anyone be so foolhardy as to believe that some of this is not trickling down to our people? The most vital statistics to prove that Caymanians are, indeed, sharing in this prosperity, is that of residential development. There was a total of \$31.9 million invested in residences in this country, more than double that of 1984, I think it was \$15 million. This tells me, and it ought to say to even the most severe critic, that either Caymanians have more money, or they have enough confidence in this Government, in this Administration, and enough confidence in the current state of affairs to go out and borrow. Coupled with that display of confidence is the fact that many lending institutions are virtually begging people to borrow. It means that they have confidence in the management of this country or they would not embark on such long term lending facilities.

There is no doubt about it, in spite of the critics, in spite of the prognostications of those who would like to see us look bad; we are still advancing. Ride around the country and you will see the kind of homes that Caymanians are building. Caymanians are generally venturing out. They are starting their own businesses, they are buying property, they are building apartments, they are adding on to their present homes, or they are building second houses for rental. Caymanians are getting something out of the development. All indicators tell us that is so.

Our duty, as representatives of the people, is to see to it that Caymanians continue to benefit. No Member of this Honourable House should be so mean as to go out and preach doom, and dampen the spirits of his people when he, himself is investing like crazy. I will have to expose that sort of hypocrisy.

We have done well as a Government. There has been success in stimulating the economy, bringing us out of the downturn it took in 1983 and 1984, when people were unemployed, and construction had slowed down. We not only have surplus but we are able to brag of money put away for a rainy day. At the end of this year, we will have a general reserve of \$17.2 million. To get a better picture

of the financial position of the Country we must examine where the money for the Capital Expenditure is coming from. What needs to be made clear to the public and to Members of this House, is that the additional budgeting of \$14.9 million in Capital Expenditure comes from general revenue. Simple arithmetic tells me that if we spend no revenue on capital projects, we would have a capped position of \$32.1 million. This is not a bad position to be in, considering where we came from. So today, in spite of our problems, I am elated some.

We, the Government, present a record budget of a \$103 million - balanced and with surplus. Which other country can brag of this achievement? In respect of loans, from the size of the Budget and of our surplus and reserves would seem that some Honourable friends on the Opposition side are at a loss. In spite of the picture, the rosy picture that it is, they have lamented the size of the Budget.

I wonder where we would have been if they had control of the Government? I refer to their comments. The Third Member from George Town would like to see another Magistrate, he calls for more policemen, he supports the move to get Immigration properly housed. I make reference to the Third Member from West Bay and his suggestions for building a high school in West Bay - a very good thought for a representative. I have had similar ideas, not that it is feasible or a priority at the present time. He made reference to overcrowding of schools and the only remedy is to build. He mentioned the provision in the estimates for a sports complex - more cost again. I know he will be asking for lights. He will be asking for roads. He mentioned the tourist jetty for West Bay. Something the Member for Education and I have been pushing for, which his platform did not support. All the time we were pushing for it and they did not support it. As I said, they must be living in a dream-world, because any good accountant will realise that if we are going to do all of these things, certainly, expenditure is going to rise and the budget will get larger and larger.

There is a price tag on whatever we do. If we put up a new building, if we build a new road, even if we put up one additional street light, we are adding to recurrent expenditure for the next year and, sometimes, even for the current year. My simple arithmetic tells me if you want services, it will cost. If they do not understand that, then I ask them to come over here on this side and we will lead them in the right direction.

Certainly, the recurrent expenditure is quite heavy, but it will increase. It can only increase with all of us seeking services. As all of us should know, every capital project brings with it hidden recurrent expenditure. There is no doubt that the capital Budget is large; some \$19 million, the highest ever for the country. But we should stop for a minute and examine what the expenditure is all about.

If we look at the Estimates, we will see that the Capital Budget is money that cannot be put off for a later date; the terminal building in Cayman Brac; the community college; roads (we could go on); the Master Ground Transportation Plan; and, as I said, the sports complex in West Bay. Which one of these projects will they cut to make the budget smaller? Which one? We can lament, but these are services which we all need.

These two Members criticising the Budget spoke about a reduction in import duty. My stand on that matter is very much publicly known. As long as there is no mechanism to see that when Government removes duty from certain items, and that is passed on to the consumer, I will not support it. The Third Member from George Town did that when he was in Government. They removed duty from chicken and potatoes in 1979. What happened? The cost of those two items went up and the public was worse off for the removal of duty. Government was getting no revenue on the one hand, and the people were losing money that could have gone to badly-needed projects and programmes. So that cannot work until there is some mechanism for controlling prices. I have seen it over and over; duty removed from items and prices escalate. All we need to do, to see how much money the country has lost and the people have not benefited, is to check the customs tariff and see how many items are duty free, and check the prices. I ask those two Members to consider carefully, it might be good election talk, but it makes no sense when our people are losing the benefits.

MR. PRESIDENT: Is it a convenient moment to break?

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: Yes, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Fine. Proceedings are suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 11:18 A.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:43 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The First Elected Member for West Bay, continuing.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: To get back to where I was dealing with the criticism on the recurrent expenditure and the Capital Expenditure, they also mentioned loans. The Member for George Town should realise that we could hardly pay off \$14 million in loans in four years - that was what he left when he was removed from office. The House should take note of that also. The question must be posed to the opposition: Which one of these projects will they cut to make the Budget smaller? These are services that are needed. Services that are pertinent to the continued orderly development of this country; as I said, services that can no longer be held back.

Let us thank Almighty God that because of the good fiscal policy, sound management, and respect of the outside world, this Government has produced this large Budget without any taxation on our people. I would say it was comprehensive knowledge in knowing how to deal

effectively with a positive approach to our two main pillars in our economy - tourism and finance - that has put us in a good shape.

I believe that it is one of our main roles as Representatives is to try and make this little country of ours an object of continued national goodwill. Some of our people, while they hear us criticise, will never understand the mess we had to contend with when taking office. But you travel anywhere in the world today and Cayman is recognised in a favourable manner. Cayman is a name. Cayman is respected.

The feeling in international circles (from what little travelling and reading I have done) is that small countries like Cayman are not supposed to work so well. Because there are breakdowns of essential services and rioting and harassment of tourists in a lot of other small countries, they feel that all small countries are alike. According to the more developed nations small countries, like ours, are not supposed to have balanced budgets and surpluses. According to some of them, those things are unheard of. It is a phenomenon in management. But I can gladly say that as leaders, Members of Government have worked hard to keep the good that we inherited over the years and we threw away some of the bad - they added to investments, they created a favourable atmosphere for foreign investment, they continued good relationships with the banking sector.

I believe that this Administration will continue to offer favourable conditions to outside investment because we realise that without foreign investment, there can be no local investment, or very little of it. There will be no mortgages to build homes and to start businesses without foreign investment and tourism. There will be no mortgages to build apartments and second homes for rental. So we will continue to make favourable conditions for tourists and the foreign investor.

In spite of the misgivings of those who see doom in every move this Government makes, we have much to be thankful for, and much to be proud of. While some Members say, "Look, we are criticising constructively and the Government should not take it to heart". In my opinion, we are trying to kill the Government softly, so some of their outrageous claims must be disputed.

I would pose the question to all those who criticise: "If things are so wrong here, why is everybody trying to get into Cayman?" You do not see them running to Cuba, or Iran, or Nicaragua, or Canada, or the United States, or England. They are running from those places. But Cayman is progressing on an even keel. Everyone has a chance to be what he or she desires, all it takes is hard work and consistency. All it takes for us as Representatives of the people is to be vigilant, to be more wise in our decisions and to continually keep our people informed of the opportunities which exist; always doing what it takes for our people to be able to take advantage of those opportunities.

There is much chatter about slowing down development and about over employment. What if the Government took steps to tighten up controls? What would be the cry? Would you not hear that Government was strangling free enterprise? Would you not hear that Government was socialist? While there is much preaching at Government about the strain on roads and other services caused by development, I believe it is John Public who must question himself and say, "How much do I want?" It is John Public who should be saying, "I am not going to invest this year, I will ride on what I have going for me now." It is John Public who should be saying, "I am not going to expand because if I do, the staff I have to bring in would put more strain on the school. The staff I would have to have to bring in would put more strain on the hospital." It is John Public who should be saying, "I am not going to expand because the staff that I would have to bring in would put more strain on housing." It is John Public who should be saying, "This is enough, I need time to consolidate." The country needs time to breathe. So, even politicians must not cry "over development", and "growing too fast", while they themselves are investing hand over fist. They cannot have their cake and eat it too. I realised that a very long time ago. It is ironic that the same ones who helped to set fire to the building are now the same ones who are on the side standing, questioning, how members of the Fire Service are dealing with putting that fire out?

What needs to be done is for Government to examine the kind and quality of development. I believe that in looking at development, structures must be built with a view of our culture, with an Island flavour. It is time to stop importing those fast food chains which make the West Bay Beach look like downtown Miami. It is time that we look at our policy to curtail some of that kind of development. Yes, we need to ask, "How much do we need?"

It is my observation from going around this country that there are still too many people who wish to pattern our lives on foreign standards, forgetting that the Americans, the British, the Canadians, the Europeans, and others, have in each case evolved their own culture and set their own economic and social goals. To what end, may I ask: will we continue to build large buildings? Do we wish to build five and six storey buildings, and hamburger stands, and car parks, and civic centers, when there are so many who are still unhoused? How, in the name of God, can we cultivate wants and glorify them into their needs when they are based upon the economies of affluent countries and excited and encouraged by deliberate propaganda and salesmanship? We must be honest with the country. We must be realistic and, above all, we must be honest with ourselves. We must look at our condition, take into account our special circumstances and free ourselves from lavish imitation; fashion for ourselves, and society, those goals which reflect the aims of our people and the uniqueness of this, our homeland. We are a developing country, but we must not seek to create a replica of any of the developed countries. There is no perfect country which we can, or should hope to copy. I would hope that each of us, each member of the public who has a hand in shaping development can say, "slow down", or, "steady she goes".

I would now like to deal with training of Caymanians, because this is where I left off in September of 1988 when the House was prorogued. I would remind the House and the powers that be, that a resolution was passed at that time to create a system of training for the educational development and career advancement of Caymanians.

When we look at an apprenticeship system or talk about it, I believe that we should be looking at several different categories of people in these Islands. I believe that such a system is needed and I believe that the people there can be trained. Some already have the necessary academic ability and are being left behind. What is most necessary at this junction of our development, and is now an area where everyone seems to agree on, is for our people to get experience.

In various sectors in these Islands, the solution for trained personnel has been overseas recruitment. This has been so, while a lot of potential and ableness, which our young people possess, falls by the wayside. The result of this is that many capable young people are becoming fed up and discouraged, and a person who should have a flourishing career is forced to move on to something that he was not cut out for; one more soul who should have been making a valid contribution to his nation is lost in the sea of discontent. In our progressive country, as we are trying to build, this is awful.

There are companies who do their part in training Caymanians. There are others who do not intend to do any sort of training. I believe that the apprenticeship system, which I say is most desirable, is intended to be the avenue where those unwilling companies will have to train able Caymanians and promote them as they become capable. Training on the job, courses at the Community College, ICCI, and also overseas courses, if necessary, is what an apprenticeship scheme will have to ensure by putting the onus on the company to fulfil his obligation to this country. These are changing times. My greatest fears for this country lie in the form of change that is going on presently. The establishments in this country have a strangle hold on this country. They do not want labour benefits, they do not want pension benefits. It would seem that some of them become paranoid whenever there is mention made of this type of scheme. Those attitudes are not conducive to stability as we would want it to continue, and will cause repercussions that might not go well for us.

Caymanians are no longer willing to see their children go abroad to get good qualifications, and then on their return home have them placed in second place indefinitely, even though their ability, academically, is good. Government, too, must continue to play its part and I would say, with the fear of angering those responsible, that all is not well there. It is no use for anyone to get up after me to put down what I have said.

I questioned, for my own information, why someone was being brought in to fill Mr. Moncrieffe's position. I understand it carries serious responsibilities, however someone knew that sooner or later he would retire, and I contend that plans should have been made for the proper training for a Caymanian to take over at that point. There are other positions in the Civil Service which are in similar situations. The public is inquiring. The last thing we would want to see is a serious brain drain of good, honest and qualified Caymanians going somewhere else where, as I said before, their contribution would not be as worthwhile as their contribution to the Civil Service. It pains me when we lose someone, and you have to take serious note of the positions as they are existing.

On the other hand, I am happy to take note of the remarks in the Throne Speech about inservice training courses and overseas as well. This is certainly needed and it tells us that those in authority realise that Government must do its part. All of this will be to no avail if, on their return from overseas or upon the completion of inservice training, they find themselves relegated to second place indefinitely. I trust that will not happen.

It is all right to ask people to work for the love of country, to carry the old flag, but that does not fill ambitions all the time; it does not feed the family. More so, how it must hurt when people look down upon them and say, "You have to wait until your time comes." A hard pill to swallow sometimes.

We are happy that we can boast of reserves and surplus. We are happy that prosperity is abounding and that the standard of living is good and we can get whatever our little hearts desire. We recognise that it did not come so - it took blood, sweat and tears; contributions by many, some who are not even Caymanians, to bring us to where we are today. We want to continue to build for the future. The training of Caymanians to fill relevant positions in the job market in this country is one way of building these Islands. Every Caymanian wanting to get ahead in life should have the chance to take part in the building of his native land. To do that, there must be a lot of patience and understanding. The establishments in this country owe that much to the patrimony of these Islands.

On the other hand there are some cautionings for us as well. Here, of late, some people have been very guilty of making some young people believe that becoming a professional, handling large investment portfolios and overseeing multi-million dollar companies, could have been done right after the election with them in the Assembly. It is irresponsible and careless, to put that sort of belief in anyone's mind.

I realise - the country must realise, young people must realise - that to obtain the top takes hard work; it takes study, commitment, training; it means punctuality and dedication; it means having the pride in oneself to be at work when the company needs you, it means most of all, to be honest. This is what it takes to reach the top. There is no such thing as something for nothing. No one should preach that sort of rhetoric.

There is much opportunity in this country and I believe that my proposal for the apprenticeship system will help to protect our future. That system, coupled with the courses offered at the Community College, will make sure that everyone can have a chance to have training. They then should be able to take their rightful place in the job market of this country. The Community College is something that we can feel good about. I believe that it will be a complex that will hold its own with any in the region when the buildings are completed.

We might lament the fact that there are Caymanians not being placed in the right jobs, but the Government can be congratulated for its bold moves in trying to provide

opportunities for better education and training in certain skills.

Today, because we recognise the skills that are needed to compete in the financial, tourist and other sectors, the Government introduced a Certificate in Banking course which is an internationally recognised qualification. The Computer course, the Secretarial course, Accounting course; these are some of the needs in the financial sector. The Hotel Trades are there, which is the certificate of the American Hotel and Motel Association. The College still offers carpentry, electrical, small engine repair and so on. These are services which the country needs.

The opportunity is there for our young people. The more that we can tell them about it, the better off this country will be. The Government is doing its part. It is protecting the interest of Caymanians. The necessary programmes are being put in place. It is our duty to encourage our young people, advise them if necessary. Tell them of the opportunities instead of being negative about our country and the Government.

This is how you lead, this is how we have been leading in the past four years. You see the need, you provide the wherewithal to fill the needs and you help your people to take advantage of the opportunities; you encourage them to apply themselves diligently, and this is how we have been working. We have completed 100 years of publicly funded education, and I understand that greater emphasis will be put on getting more of our young people in the teaching profession. We, however, on this side of the House (the two Members from Bodden Town and I), intend to move a resolution in May for Government to investigate the possibilities of setting up a Teachers' College, just as the Law School was set up. This needs to be done with haste. Teaching is a noble profession, when we consider that our children spend a large proportion of their time, throughout a long period of years, within the school community. We would like to know that we have the best possibly trained teachers, who would leave a good impression on them.

Our children's safety, their health, their meals, cleanliness, general behavioral, emotional problems and play, as well as their many aspects of their instruction have to be supervised by teachers and it is in this - in particular, the transmission of knowledge - that teachers do what most parents cannot possibly do.

Clearly, the highest professional standards are desirable and must be sought after and sustained with all the effort possible. To improve education in this country - and we have only just begun, our system is only 17 or 18 years old - training and career patterns obviously need the commitment of the authorities. Salaries must be upgraded.

Some time ago there was some fuss about the pay structure in Cayman [compared to] other places. I am quite satisfied that the pay scale in these Islands is quite competitive. It may be considerably higher than the United Kingdom's, when we take into consideration the benefits here, such as, housing, housing allowance, and what have you. But until we have more Caymanians trained in teaching we will, for some time, have to import teachers.

If we desire excellence for our children and, yes, for the future of us all, in the formulation of knowledge and its transmission, we, as parents and authorities in this country - I stress this - must uphold and respect the teaching profession. We must encourage rather than put forward purely negative and destructive criticism. So, we have to have a new outlook on education in this country.

I firmly believe that the same benefits we offer outside teachers must be offered to our own local teachers. I have taken this up with the department. I understand from the Member that he is looking at a policy which should be implemented in the not-too-distant future. I stress this because are we telling our young people to go overseas for four or five years, or more, to get a degree and come back here to earn what is being earned by people with no degree and very little experience in other professions. We cannot take them for granted.

All of us expect to see better passes each year, but the teaching profession is taken for granted. If the people who are going to see that our children are better equipped are going to be paid on par with professions of less importance to this country... do we believe that they will have a desire to smile all the time, or have the patience that is needed to instruct so that our children yield the most excellent, desirable results? Teachers are humans too. So, I believe that there must be a re-evaluation of the status of teachers in this country. Better salaries and more respect must be given to them.

We must not forget that today in some cases, as in years gone by in our society, the role of the teacher is being extended - because I know, apart from teaching, many children look toward them for advice on many areas of life that affect them socially. This Resolution will be coming to the House, and I trust it will be looked on favourably.

Government's policy on sports has not been a bad one. While there have been improvements made over the past four years, there is a lot to be done. I feel that Government is going to have to get full time coaches, and that they will have to work at the district as well as the national level. The extent to which skills have improved with the assistance of coach Chung in this country, speaks well for efforts of the Football Association. A good example is the match between Cayman and Brazil - professional football at its best, as far as I am concerned. It is also my observation that there is a higher level of discipline. I believe that we are going places in sports and it must go on record in this House that we recognise the contribution of the Football Association.

We are going to have to give more for the development of sports - more money, more time, more facilities and more recognition. The Third Member from George Town commented on Government's sports grant, saying that it should be doubled. I agree. As I said, everyone could use more money. However, as in the past, if they need it, and it is justified, they will get it. That Member, however, should be the last to complain because his record on sports development, indeed, on social development, is very bleak. If you look at the contribution while he was the Member responsible we will see that between 1978 and 1984

they contributed \$114,000 to sports and community development. Our contribution in cash grants to sports this year is \$80,000. Our contribution in cash grants to youth agencies, in spite of his distortion of the facts, will be to the Scouts and other youth agencies \$33,000, not \$3 as he mentioned.

Another area he conveniently ignored is the amount in the Budget for the Sports Complex - football fields, hard courts, and so on - a total of \$485,000. Can anyone scoff at that? We have come a long way since we took over in 1985 when there was only one field and the whole country was suffering from a lack of commitment and nonperformance by the Member when it came to social development. At a time when the country needed direction, when the very evil he is complaining about - the rise in crime and so on, was taking root - money was plentiful... while Nero fiddled, Rome burned! Yet, listen to them today - they have every solution, even on how to wash the walls of the Government building.

So, today we have some sporting amenities; West Bay has one football field, and will soon get another one; North Side has one; Bodden Town is getting one, gladly, and East End is on the way to getting one. Today we have a young man on scholarship in the United Kingdom training to come back and help the director coordinate sports. So we are moving ahead in this area for our young people.

As far as football, netball, and cycling, which were basically amateur sports in this country, they have, to a great extent, become professional today by taking part in hosting regional events. I do not think that we are far away from world championships with the recent progress in sports. This Government is committed to sports because we realise that sports is a help to our young people. In these times of moral decline, when drugs and other evils are so enticing, this Government sees sports as a necessary deterrent which will help break, or bar, involvement with those things which can only lead our young people into degradation.

I noted in the Throne Speech reference to the work of the National Trust. I think that this was a significant move on the part of Government and those hard-working, founding members. The improvement on Fort George already makes a difference to this part of George Town and there are other areas and buildings, like the old school house in Bosun Bay, that I hope the Trust will soon be looking at.

I believe the country is at one of those great periods that occur in a country's history as the country evolves. There is already a building up of what is Caymanian. I believe, from what I hear, that there is fundamental change taking place, a sort of quiet revolution.

I am happy to note people singing our national song more often. More people know it today than several years back. Of course, we are not using it as often as I would like to see, however there is that building up and that recognition. People are saying, why not teach and show our children in school about things Caymanian? All of this is good for a young nation. As time moves on, moments come in its development when fundamental change and transition become inevitable because of the buildup of knowledge of what is historically ours.

I wish to mention the Resolution piloted through this House in September of 1988. That Resolution asked for several things to be done. It was designed as a move to understanding what is Caymanian. It was my desire to bring that part of our social and cultural development to the fore front. And we must remember it asks that persons awarded the Badge of Honour to properly indicate it, in writing, after their name. Also, that a full and proper documentation of our history be done and that they are being provided a more comprehensive syllabus on that history.

The fourth request was one I thought most essential in the educational progress of this country, that we would create a special scholarship, to be wholly funded by Government, and for the recipients to be known as the Cayman Scholar. When we talk of cultural and social development, unless the people who live in our communities have an awareness of themselves of what they are, of where they came from and what they would like to be at some further point, then we are going nowhere, and our culture will be stagnated and remain hidden. So, that Resolution was designed to further the social, historical, educational, cultural, awareness and advancement in these Islands. I hope I will soon see some results from that Resolution.

I move on to Health and Social Services. I believe that this Portfolio is now in good hands. I believe that the Member is quite able. A new Member and his new Principal Secretary have started off on a good foot. Issues are being dealt with. No one can say that the Member is not trying to deal and let the public understand what he is trying to do. I am glad that I helped put the Member in that Portfolio. We worked well, at times, on this side of the House. He faces me now on the Government Bench. I believe that his constituency should be proud to have a capable, intelligent and hard working Member leading this most vital Department in this country. I wish to welcome the Member's comment on what it seems is a good policy for Government, that is, that they will be spending time building programmes, and seeing that those programmes are instituted and working properly - not building large edifices.

In this regard, the rehabilitation center comes to mind. There is a call from Members of the Opposition to build a centre, even if it costs \$10 million. I am in agreement, so far, with the programme which sends those people who are hooked on drugs overseas to Hazeldon. In view of the fact that all statistics we have to date are saying that rehabilitation centres are not proving to be what everybody is building them up to be, I believe that the Country needs to give the Member time to see how his new programme will work. If after a year or so this seems to be failing, then he would have to make other arrangements. When we look at the cost, the example given from the Third Member from West Bay and George Town, of \$1 million, is not all of it. What about recurrent expenditure on such a large building? Services, and so on? Staff, and what have you? It could very well be another hospital situation, and that is what I am worried about.

I would hope that the Portfolio, the Department of Social Services, working with CASA and other agencies, Churches and so on, would be involved and be seeing to it that the people who should be getting into Hazeldon will be getting there; that all stones will be removed, all hurdles,

jumped. A lot of people out there are unwilling to get any kind of counselling, but I am not ready to write off anyone. I believe that after it is evident that someone is hooked on drugs, and the necessary talks with family, and the usual talks with the counsellor (Mr. Jones), that person should be able to attend the overseas center. If this means a court order, then that should be applied. Some people hold the view that forcing someone will not work. I believe that it must be tried.

Too often the person hooked will not listen to anyone about their plight, and go on their sorrowful way until the police come into play by some crime committed. The halfway houses are a good programme and I welcome the idea, I believe that they can help tremendously once they are properly staffed and there is enough follow-up action. I would hope that more staff can be given to the drug counsellor, Mr. Jones, because I believe his hands are full and I understand from the Member that there are places under new services for two new members of staff. I welcome that.

Drugs: I do not need to give any long dissertation on that sorrowful state of affairs in this country, but as a representative of a large constituency I am faced with the problem every day. It pains my heart when our young people are put before the court and they really have no help at that point because the judges are not that considerate. It would seem that large fines and Northward are the only thing the judge or magistrate can think about. I believe that sentencing a drug user to a rehabilitation centre can only do him good, no matter how much he will curse you (and you will get that). Put him there where he can be treated properly in the right atmosphere.

I move on to Housing: This is an area that needs some attention, in more ways than one. There have been a lot of people who have been helped since we got elected, but we have only scratched the surface.

After the hurricane last year, Government did a tremendous amount of work in fixing and repairing damage done to houses, and a lot of poor people were helped; although the Opposition decried it as getting political mileage. There is still a lot of assistance which Government could give, and the department needs to give priority to this matter.

I believe that there needs to be some revamping with the Housing Corporation. I would like to see the situation where, if a person borrowed some money to buy property and he wishes to build a year or so after, although his loan might not be paid off in full at the commercial bank, I believe that the Housing Corporation could come into play by paying off the balance to the commercial bank while lending enough money to the person to build their home. I would hope the Member is taking note and that this policy can be explored. There are a lot of people who could be helped in this way.

I believe also that it would be a good idea for Government to turn their advance of \$400,000, which was given last year, into the 7.5 per cent Bonds Issue. This would set an example for the private sector to follow. I make this point as a Member of the Corporation and I put the Member on notice that I intend to move a Resolution in Finance Committee to effect what I am suggesting.

While on housing, I would mention the need to update, or bring into force, the laws on rent restriction, or tenancy. I have had many complaints from people who rent about the way they are treated - rent is raised when the landlord sees fit, and the quality of property, some in very poor condition, while certain amenities which they pay for are dilapidated and, in some cases, not working at all. Renting in this country has become an industry of its own, with many Caymanians going into the business of building apartments. Many foreign nationals are also becoming involved. This is not an area which can be ignored any longer. The sooner we look and examine the problems and see whether guidelines are necessary, the better off the industry will be. We need to set a policy on renting, so that both landlord and tenant can know what parameters they have to work in.

I wonder if we could take the break at this point, Mr. President, unless you plan to go on till one o'clock.

MR. PRESIDENT: Could you not find yourself five minutes just to get us to the normal...?

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: Well, I was going on to a new subject. I do not think I could finish it in five minutes, but if the Chair says go on...

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: I was hoping to take up the five minutes talking to you, Sir. (laughter)

Immigration and Customs, Mr. President, are both gateways to our country and I, as a Member of this House, value the work done by those two departments. They are next to the police, in that they offer a form of security to this country. We should never make it hard to offer over time when we can, or to offer other benefits as incentives. Underpaid members of any kind of security force leaves way for dishonesty to creep in. Those people work all hours of the day and they are called out at all hours of the night and have to put up with complaints and disgruntled members of the public.

Speaking purely on the matters of Immigration, I welcome the Government Resolution to revamp the existing Caymanian Protection Law. I feel that there is much cause for that.

As I said before, I would hope that marriages of convenience, and interferences in marriage, will hold some penalty in that Law. Some people laugh at that, but it is a problem in this country and we cannot continue to put our heads in the sand like an ostrich and pay it no attention. There are dozens of cases of marriages of convenience in this country. As a marriage officer I have been confronted with it. I

have suffered the loss of votes in my constituency because of it. I have suffered being called on the phone and threatened because of it, but I stand firm in my belief that this Government must come to grips with the situation of marriages of convenience.

If we cannot put it in our Protection Law, then the Portfolio must bring pressure to bear on marriage officers in this country who are perpetuating that situation. I do not know how many Members of this House have had cause for people to come to them and talk to them about what they are experiencing; mothers in tears, young men on the verge of going out of this world, mentally. I do not know that the Immigration Department can really deal with it presently. We have young women, when it comes to interferences in marriage in this country, who are near insane because of what is going on. The person who is perpetuating it, the woman that is at fault, is on permit and sometimes not even on a work permit. That is a situation that we must come to grips with quickly.

I have stood in this House and talked about it repeatedly, but it continues. I have seen a case where a woman wants to get rid of her husband so badly that she tried to run him over with her car. That situation cannot hang in the balance, cannot just stay there and say, "Who are we to interfere in a love and war position?" It is not love. As a Member just said, not even infatuation. It is convenience that is causing it.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are suspended until 2:15.

AT 12:52 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:15 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings resumed. The debate on the Throne Speech and the Budget. The First Elected Member for West Bay, continuing.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

Mr. President, when we took the luncheon adjournment I was dealing with a sore point in this country, and a matter which is causing problems; that of marriages of convenience. One other point in that respect is: some of these people who get married, get divorced in a short time and stay on in this country doing whatever they do. Some barely make it to the five years, then they go in and apply for a divorce and, of course, we have a few lawyers who will jump at the case. As I said, these are matters that really cause problems and social stress in our community. We need to put a stop to it.

It would seem that we are going to have a good look at the Caymanian Protection Law. We will be able to sit down where the Members can talk, discuss amongst ourselves, and get the root of some of the causes that are provoking us. One Member said that in respect of the grant of status, if the board does not want to do it, they do not have to. That is true, but as long as the provision is there people will expect it (and rightly so) and will apply for it; that is where the disgruntlement comes.

The fact is that we need another form of security tenure in this country. As I have pointed out before, there are people living here for 17 and 18 years; they have built homes, raised their children, and their children live here, grow up amongst us, know what we are all about. These people have to have some security. They cannot be continuously put off about their position in this country.

I would also ask that a serious look be given to those cases now on appeal. I think that this is justice denied. Some people have been in line for a long time, they do not know what their position is; some of them cannot work, they do not know how to go about their business. Their life is in general disorder because of the hold-up, and we need to move expeditiously. Government needs to say what they are going to do if a person has been denied a permit, after living here for eight or 10 years, and owning a home here. A decision must be made about what they are going to do, with that person - it cannot be left hanging in the balance.

We do have an Immigration problem. I would hope that because of this over-employment position of the country, we are importing in large numbers foreign nationals to work here, that we would look keenly at all those Caymanians living abroad. Caymanians with the expertise. We have doctors, skilled people, people in the hotel industries throughout the United States and elsewhere, but especially in the United States. We need to invite them to come back home to make a contribution. If we have to do something special as an incentive, then we should give that consideration.

A good example is our Financial Secretary. He went abroad and got an education and lived there for some while, and came back. Look at his position today. So, that is not a bad idea, but we need to pursue it vigorously. We just cannot pay lip service to it. I think that there are Caymanians living abroad that would be glad to come back once their position would not be any worse in these Islands than where they are presently. I hope the Government will take that suggestion in the light which it is given.

There is no doubt that Customs is a well run Department. I have every confidence in the new Head, he is a competent young man of impeccable character. One thing that I believe about him is that he will take good care of his officers, and I am sure he recognises that the department is as good as the officer serving it. While we are dealing with Customs, I would ask that a look be taken this year at the airport office located by the Customs shed. These offices, and the Member can take note of this, these offices and convenience are in poor condition. I think the staff there deserve better, and I would hope that this year we will see some improvement in conditions, facilities, and amenities for the staff at the airport.

I move on to Police: This is a matter which the Government is responsible for. On the whole, it would seem that efficiency has improved. There has been a general decline in crime. I would be happier, however, if there was some way of improving the manner in which the officers handle the

public; simple things like an officer cautioning someone, to the more extreme - a case of brutality.

We live in a small community and there are certain things that happen in our community, things which in the past we would not have been proud of - the crime, and all the rest of it. But, while we press community and society to be honest and we ask them to live the law, there are situations where some of our police seem to be in positions not becoming to good law enforcement. We cannot let one bad apple spoil the whole group.

I have had complaints, and the complaints have not come from hardened criminals, they have come from young boys who have gotten on the other side of the law but they are not hardened criminals. They know nothing about guns and that sort of thing. We do have police on our Force who have, in fact, told certain boys that they would like for them to start to use guns, so that they can use theirs. I have made my own investigations about some of these trigger-happy fellows, and it is not all good.

We need to pay careful attention to some of the extreme forces existing in our police department. They will destroy it. Time, and time again, we have been warned of certain officers' actions, where they are seen and what they are doing, and still we just cannot seem to put our hands on the wrong thing. So they go about deceiving while they claim to be doing their police work. I ask the right authorities to not take this criticism as destructive, but as constructive.

I have a case in point. I have written a letter that will go to the Member and to the Head of the Police Department, and I would hope that I can get some results. I must say that on a lot of complaints that I have had we were unable to get evidence, so the matter is still there. I am being very careful, Mr. President, lest I am ruled out of order, as you can hear.

I would hope that after an initial training course, continued training and updating will be on how to deal with the public. We have a young Force and, because we are all human, there will be indiscretions. As I said, our society is a complex one with a variety of problems which need serious policing. A Force that is disgruntled about promotions, or about happenings in and among them, will show that disgruntlement in the general public.

It is incumbent upon the governing bodies of the Force then, that when they have to take action, that it is perceived in the right way, by officers. I would like to see the position, when someone is forced to resign, that the action is done in a manner that all who see it will be able to say, "Yes, Mr. Jones, was displaced, he was displaced because his conduct was so questionable that it was nigh impossible for him to remain in his position and carry on the work of policing society". I am not making a case for anybody, but when such action is taken it would be received better if reasons were given.

I rightly remember the big hue and cry in my constituency in the early stages of the campaign, when I was accused of forcing - mind you, now, this Member, no other body - the Deputy Commissioner out of his job. I have to wonder how I was able to do that. How I was able to do it? I have never been responsible for any department of Government. I do what I am doing now - criticise when it is necessary. But, as I said, when something needs to be done, authorities should put their foot down and be man enough to stand up and say, "We have done it and these are the reasons why we have done it". Somebody else cannot, or should not take the heat.

That did not stop me from being elected, and being elected by a large majority. I should say, it might have improved my standing at the polls. Some Members have referred to crime. I am happy to see a decrease, and we are not saying that it has gone down to the extent that we are happy. We are not saying that it has gone down to the extent where it is satisfactory. Neither are we saying that it has gone down to the extent that the Government is complacent. No. It has decreased and I think the whole community is a little bit relieved. It means a more vigilant force.

HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:

Mr. President, on a point of information. I wonder if the Member would care to quote from the statistics to show how crime has decreased as opposed to the general increase; because the statistics show that there has been an overall increase in crime, but a decrease in a particular area dealing with drugs.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

No, Mr. President. I have not really prepared for that. I think the Member could do a better job than me; that is his Portfolio. My voice is giving out on me and I still have some other subjects [to speak on]. I trust that he will make those points to the House.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I think it is permissible. He is the Member in charge of the subject, and he did table the report this morning. He could speak on this point, I think.

HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:

Thank you, Mr. President. The annual Police Report for 1988 which I had the honour of laying on the Table of the House earlier today, Sir, points out in Part Four of the Report dealing with Crime and Criminal Investigations, that there has been an overall increase in the number of crimes - increasing from a total of 2,594 crimes reported in 1987, to a total of 3,061 crimes reported to the police in 1988. An increase of 467 crimes, or 18%.

It goes on, however, to point out that there has been a decrease for the first time in the category of crimes dealing with drugs. It points out that there has been a drop from 835 drugs cases in 1987, to a total of 707 in 1988. A decrease of 128 cases, or 15%.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I think that clears it up; you were referring, in fact, to a particular section of crimes, not the general.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

Certainly. But in any event, Mr. President, I would like to remind the Member complaining about this crime (the Member for George Town) that when you are coming from a high peak in criminal activity you must pass through various heights before you come down to the plain of tranquility. The Member should know quite well that the criminal activity from his time in office left a social downturn which had a spill-over effect into our years. In his time there was much robbing, raping, and killing, some of the results did not even come before the courts. Criminal activities were on the rise, but the police reports did not record it.

If the Member wants to interrupt me, Mr. President, I am prepared to give way... He keeps looking at me, I do not know what he wants. I think he is beckoning me to give way. If that is what he wants, I will.

MR. PRESIDENT:

has to stand up.

I think if he wants to cause you to give way, he must stand. He

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

Mr. President, I note his concern, because it is mine too. The Member, himself, does not have a good record on these things. That administration was the poorest when it came to crime - all kinds of criminal elements came into this country. I would not get into this, but the Member is disagreeing with me and I want to put him straight. As someone said, we do not want to get into things that happened 10 years ago, but we have to look at the history because history repeats itself. Really, certain things that happened years ago are affecting what is going on today. That is the position on crime - it started during their term when the country burst open, and every dog and his cat came with a handbag looking for some goodies.

This Government has been vigilant when it comes to criminal activity. We have prosecuted. When it comes to murders, it is the first time that people have really been before the courts and solved murders that existed during his time. It was only recently that it looked like it was going to be cleared up. I will not get into any more of that, because the records are there. Criminal activity started when they turned a blind eye to social deterioration. The Member was responsible for Social Services.

I appreciate the gift of the new Customs boat and I believe that it will help. I would, however, like to renew my call for the beefing up of radar surveillance. This, I believe, will be helpful as a means of catching those who are importing drugs by night by way of small plane and seagoing craft, who are now escaping the security forces of this country. I believe that we should also try to get some kind of helicopter with flotation equipment, which will enable it to operate from the water to complement the radar equipment. I have done some investigating of my own and there is such a type which is ruggedly built, has a history of successful police use, is capable of carrying power for spotlights, for navigation and communication radar equipment, has the capacity to take three people, and it is fully loaded. I believe this would be very suitable for patrolling around our waters and would enable more apprehension because of detection and identification.

We should still pursue the acquisition of a rugged seagoing craft to deal with boats and which would be more capable of patrolling our coastal waters. This would effect actual apprehension. I believe that this boat should be large enough to carry proper fire power. We cannot expect to combat drug merchants on the open sea, if our forces are less prepared. We have been talking for a long time about such a boat. We need to move quickly to acquire one by whatever means possible.

We need to beef up the Marine Section of the Police Department. I see that Customs is moving in that direction, too. We cannot have duplication of what is now the Police, Marine Department. We are not dealing with babies nor are we dealing with little boys in canoes catching squabs on the open sea. We are trying to stop the inflow of drugs, and the use of our waters as transshipment operation. Our security forces must be equipped to deal accordingly with the drug merchants. I urge the authorities to talk to the Mother Country about our equipment, which we have been talking about for so long.

Every year, Great Britain brags about the amount of aid it gives. As I have said before, it is my opinion that some of that aid should come our way for such programmes. In my opinion we have been left out, while the Mother Country gives to those countries whose politicians drive Mercedes Benzes, drive Government cars, and every trip abroad is attended by a large entourage and expense accounts which affords them to be treated like money was no problem. This is not our style of living. We are a colony and I believe that Great Britain must now take that stand. It is time that money comes our way for social programmes. It is time that Great Britain stopped using our inflated per capita income caused by forces not having anything to do with the general population of this country. They must stop using that inflated per capita income as an excuse to withhold development aid which could lead to real security for our small country.

Police, is a subject in our Constitution, as I have said, which is handled by the Governor, so it is a subject which the Mother Country should use no excuse to not upgrade. It is, in effect, our security force and they have to say when they think it is necessary to remove Chiefs of Police.

Now let us get the necessary equipment to help stop this inflow of cocaine. It makes me wonder how so much cocaine and [so many] other drugs can slip through and land here. Jamaican dories can come in with loads time after time, I have to wonder. We are sitting still and if we are pressuring the force that is responsible for the Police Department, and its equipment, then I do not know about it. We want to see action - whatever is necessary. This is not an elected Portfolio. It is time that those who are responsible take the heat. Time after time...

MR. PRESIDENT:

subject under the Constitution, but it is the responsibility of this House to vote or not to vote provisions for the Police Force.

Perhaps I might intervene. You are quite correct, it is a reserved

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

You would think that if we ask for certain things which the

Foreign Office is responsible for, that we would get them, because they know our position.

MR. PRESIDENT: I do not want to get into a debate with you. That obviously is not the purpose of this House and these proceedings. The point about provision remains that it is this House that votes the provision. If this House does not consider there is sufficient money in the Budget for that purpose, I see no problem in this House so advising me. I would go on further and point out that as far as I know, the argument of the size of the per capita income of this territory has never been taken into account by the United Kingdom Government in regards to matters of aid. Cayman, as I understand it, ceased to be grant aided because of its general Budget position.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: Yes, that was a mistake, Mr. President, when that happened. I was not in office at that time, but somebody that was in office is here complaining about the crime...

MR. PRESIDENT: I am sorry, I must interrupt you again. I said the general Budget Provision. The Budget is approved by this House. This House decides whether or not there will be surplus Budgets. That is what I was talking about.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: Mr. President, as you said, in from my position here I cannot win any war.

MR. PRESIDENT: Sorry, I did not quite catch that.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: I said, in my position I will not win a war with the Chair.

MR. PRESIDENT: No, it is not a question of a war, it is a question of the information being available to the public.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: It is a manner of speech, a way of speaking, when I say war. But, Mr. President, to give the public the information since that has come out about per capita income, that was one of the excuses used to me when I approached someone at a very high level in the United Kingdom about such equipment as I have been talking about.

MR. PRESIDENT: I would be grateful to have that in detail - not now, but privately.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: I will give that to you, Sir, but I must say in defense to the Present Governor that was not during his time, it was during the time of the other Governor. But that was the excuse used, the per capita income. One would have thought that with our small territory that the United Kingdom would still have given us, seeing and knowing what we are going through.

Mr. President, time after time elected Members get blamed for action taken or some other problem over which we have no say. The Constitution gives responsibility to the Governor and the Administrative Secretary, who must see to it that the Police stop this inflow of drugs by whatever means necessary. I would hope that the authority would take note because I believe that I speak for a large majority of our people.

I move on to the subject of Public Works. I wish to record my thanks to the Department for the work they did last year after the hurricane. There was a lot of strain on the Department, and I must say that while I was not satisfied with everything, on the whole the Department came through alright. There is a new Member in charge and I would hope that some changes will be made there. I think he is competent in running Departments, he has had some experience before. I hope that he will use that experience to maneuver around what seems to be quite a bit of red tape.

The Department has a great task ahead of it in the implementation of the Master Ground Transportation Plan, which will be their responsibility. The Plan offers a challenge to the Department, what with the network of roads and the signalisation, which this country needs. The Department is in for a busy 5 years. The long awaited by-pass from West Bay to George Town needs to be built quickly. There is much traffic, sometimes backed up to the Governor's residence, which is in the West Bay district.

West Bay is a fast growing peninsula which can hardly wait for the new road to be built. But, again, the traffic congestion which is now being experienced should tell the public that planning is something that we should all accept. I well remember when the road in question was planned in 1975. A new Government was elected in 1976 and the plans were scrapped. Today we are paying for their folly.

As I said, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done. I would suggest that a lot of this work be contracted out. Public Works is not going to be able to cope with all the necessity for roads and related matters. Buildings and all the other works with which the Department is concerned, and which the public is demanding, needs to be dealt with expeditiously. So I would hope that there would be a meaningful policy of work being contracted out.

Civil Aviation and the Fire Service are two well-run Departments. No one need question whether these two Caymanians know what they are doing. The services they offer are more than worth the money spent. In fact, the Civil Aviation Authority is contributing quite a sum to General Revenue.

I would make the point that it is high time that our airport facility be improved and extended to take large body planes. It would seem that there is traffic from Europe, especially, which we could get and this would open a direct gateway into a possible tourist destination that we need to tap. If

we could get charters, or regular flights, this would open a whole new era for our tourism market. If that is done, I believe, all sectors in this country will benefit; what, with the services we offer from the Finance sector and other areas.

There is a bit of hue and cry about the slackening in tourism. I remember some months back, I believe it was when we had the large increase in tourist arrivals in 1987, there were complaints then too. It was about the heavy increase. Can you really please them, Sir? I am sure that the Honourable Member knows what he is doing. I do not know of anyone in this House who is more capable of dealing with tourism than he is.

Personally, I believe that there are many factors to take into consideration concerning this dip in tourist arrivals. There is the competition. The United States, our biggest contributor has, for the past several years, been on a 'stay-at-home' campaign. This has affected us. I also believe that our own local situation is not the best. It is not what Cayman built its reputation on, as a destination. For instance, the traffic jams I mentioned, the high cost of living. I believe that if we are going to get a slackening off in tourism these factors will contribute.

The cost to eat in this country, alone, will drive people up a wall. But who is perpetuating this? Is it the Government? Or is it the business establishments themselves? Someone recently opened a fish shop, they import fish from Florida and they sell tuna fish, for instance, at \$5 dollars per pound to the hotels. As I understand it the same restaurants and the same fish markets could buy the fish caught locally for \$3.75, per pound C.I., but they buy the imported one. Why? I believe these things are perpetuated because of personal interest. I said a long time ago that there are too many cartel operations going on in this country. Perhaps there is that businessman who owns a shop, owning a part of the restaurant; or someone in the hotel owning a part of the fish shop. So the prices are self made. No Caymanian can really compete against that sort of operation. So these businesses must take a strong look at the business practices and see for themselves how they can bring down costs.

I believe also, when it comes to tourism, that the hotels and other places should do more advertising on their own rather than depending on Government alone. Another factor which we need to look at is the entertainment side of tourism: there is really not much for the tourists in the line of entertainment. I am not saying that we must build a Coney Island type of operation. As I said before, we need to stick to the Island flavour. I notice that there is continued importation of big bands from the United States (looking at the music aspect of it), at least at one of the major hotels. The hotels will have to apply their minds as to how they can better provide entertainment for their guests. Government is going to have to do some of it, yes.

I remember some time back a group started what was known as Caribbean Cabaret. I keep referring to this because it was very innovative entertainment and the tourists crowded to see their performances. They were all native performers. I believe that is the kind of entertainment that we need. If it is not forthcoming from the public, then the Government should apply their minds and some resources so this sort of thing will not die out. That one has gone by the wayside; but it was successful.

I feel that entertainment is a very necessary component in tourism and it is going to have to be encouraged. Tourists come here and they want to have fun. We tell them that they must go to bed at 12 o'clock. Look at what it is costing. I guess if I were to suggest to extend music and dancing, so that we can best help our tourist industry, a petition would be sent around saying that I want to turn us into a Monte Carlo or something like that. We are not living in the by-gone era - and I guess that is not a bad comparison, because in those days you could go all night. Really, what kind of policy do we have of closing up at 12 o'clock in the night and opening at 10 o'clock in the morning? You told me some time ago that the word "hypocrisy" is unparliamentary, but you can believe that it certainly applies there.

We are going to have to take a serious look at these areas if we are going to survive. I do not have all the information, and I trust the Member - I know he is diligent. He and his staff have worked very hard in the past four years to get the kind of increase, the \$100 million that tourism has contributed to our economy. That did not come by talk, it took work. I would hope that the Member would look into these areas. Entertainment is very, very lacking in this country.

Labour and pensions are near and dear to my heart. I guess I could add gratuities to that. The Labour Law has been working, but I knew (when the Bill was piloted and voted on in this House) that certain employers in this country would not give it a chance to succeed. We now have to move to amend the law where we find those employers getting around it.

In one hotel, if you joined there January 1st, you would expect that in the 12 month period you could get your vacation and vacation pay. They say, "Oh no, you have to wait until the next December to get your benefits". We need to look at this, and I trust that in May the Member will be bringing amended legislation, because the labour legislation which I envisioned helped both sides and that is what is meant with this Bill. There are people who are out there committed, come what may, to take every little benefit away from their employees. They are going to create unions. We do not want that, that is one of the reasons the law came. But if they do not stop their dirty practices, their inhumane practices in this very affluent society of ours, they are going to get organised labour.

Pensions: We have a new Member for Social Services. I believe that the legislation for pensions is going to come to this House shortly, and I welcome it. There are still the parasites out there who are crying, "no Government pensions". Whom do we trust? Am I to trust my money to firms which I have no control over; when there is so much in-house racketeering; where there is so much in-house trading; where there are so many mergers; corporations buying out one another? We have no control over that sort of thing.

We, the people, control Government and Government must be the people that bring about this pension scheme. I would only ask those people who are committed to stopping

Government, what are they going to do with the man who stood in front of the cement mixer all week; the man who worked at the hotel for 20 years; the man who worked at supermarkets for 30 and 40 years, and were left with a pittance - a wristwatch? And if you open your mouth you are likely to see a letter in the press.

Those Pharaohs of yesteryear must understand one thing: there is a new generation that is not going to put up with it and, thank God, I am part of that generation. Thank God, that I can stand in this House because the people that we should be getting pensions for had the confidence in me to put me here. As long as I am here, I am going to push for those programmes. Why should we build up this country, and after 30 or 40 years people have nothing to rely on?

Some time ago a person, who is today a Member, suggested whole life insurance. I would like to sit them down and show them what they get from whole life insurance. They suggested that we get endowments; 10 and 20 years were quoted. Only the rich can afford the endowment, not the poor man who we are here representing. Insurance is not the answer. Government must move ahead on these pensions and I trust that when the Bill comes before this House every Member of this side, Opposition and Backbencher if you want to put it that way, will give their approval. If not, I will be out there exposing those people with their crocodile tears.

MR. PRESIDENT: Would you like to take the tea break there?

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: Thank you, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 3:16 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:40 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The First Elected Member from West Bay, continuing.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: Mr. President, I would just like to say that in respect to gratuities when the Labour Law is being looked at, and as I said I hope it will come in May, that a more in-depth look will be taken of the gratuities system. From information that I have, all is still not well in that area - it would seem that only legislation is going to cure it. We have talked, we have begged, we have pleaded, and these people just laugh at you.

There are different situations which I believe are hurting our people. Gratuities, were brought into being to help the people in the lower income bracket working in the restaurants, hotels and tourist industry. It was not made for managers and assistant managers, head chefs and all these, because they are highly paid people. But today, that is what is happening. Those people are sharing in gratuities, which leaves very little for the persons it was meant for - the person who actually has the day-to-day contact with the guests. As I said, we need to revamp that situation, and legislation is going to have to tackle it. I would hope that in the forthcoming amending legislation that aspect can be looked at.

The court has recently come under fire and come under question from the public, and rightly so in certain circumstances. I find that there is no consistency with certain sentences. It would seem that Government needs to look at all the works of the courts. Right now, let us not fool ourselves with the recent articles, the country is wondering what is happening with the judicial system. Certain reports in the newspapers do not speak well for our reputable judicial system. There have always been questions in peoples' minds, but when you see large articles and headlines the country will wonder what is going on.

I honestly hope that I would never have reason to go before the lower courts, because sometimes I feel that some people see justice as just a word. I realise that I could easily be called to order and I am not going to delve into this matter any longer, except to say that what one obtains at the courts right now, is not in the best interest of democracy and justice as we know it.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think you put that in the most Parliamentary manner, if I may say so.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH: I am glad you agree with me, Sir. I would hope that Government is contemplating what I am contemplating. That is not for the airwaves but it could certainly get to the right Department if they so wish.

I believe that it is time that we look at the system of Family Courts in this country. That is a special situation, But today, with all our social problems, juveniles, divorces and other matters that require the court's attention, I believe that would be most fitting [to introduce] what is known as the Family Courts. I would hope that the Government would look at that suggestion in the right light.

I believe that I have covered all the subjects that I usually look at. I will now go into my constituency as I usually do.

West Bay has fared well in the past four years. As I mentioned previously, it is a developing district, there is much potential for further development. Because of our vigilance the Government has done much work in the district in the past four years. I believe that sports and other facilities have come a long way from what it was before I was elected. We have a full sporting field and we are going to get another one - the provision is there in the Estimates.

The Third Member from the constituency made the remark that we had to go to George Town for basketball and volleyball and soccer. What the Member failed to say, or, I do not know, maybe he would not admit, was the position before 1984 - not the position today, because this Member and the other Member did a good job in providing sporting facilities down there. Before 1984 our children had nowhere to go. That is not the position today - they can play there all night long if they want to.

Mention has been made about water and, certainly, this is needed. The whole country is experiencing this water problem. We have to move now, and I would hope that shortly West Bay will get its water system. Sometime back, just a few years ago, our well water (and I am speaking about mine personally) could be used. That is not the case today. There has been deterioration of lenses there.

Road work: We have had our share of it and I believe that West Bay had more roads done and new roads put in this past four years than any other time in our history and I will be doing no less, in this period.

We hear about a Civic Centre and that should be a priority to an extent, but of paramount importance to me, as far as West Bay is concerned, is that the school needs to be upgraded with classrooms. The school needs a multi-purpose hall and that will be given my priority. That should have priority over any Civic Centre, any grand idea of a Civic Centre.

I feel that once we build the multi-purpose hall for the school, we can then renovate the Town Hall there. I have my ideas about that. This will be a saving. The Town Hall, in that district, is the largest; I believe it is bigger than George Town. We just can not give up that building. It means too much historically and it is a good building, but Government is going to have to spend some money, not as much as they would need to spend on this fabulous Civic Centre that some people keep talking about. But the Town Hall could be made into a very good Civic Hall. We could even put a balcony in it, to hold 175 people. It would need an extension of rooms - kitchen and so forth - a general overhaul, but we are going to have to use that Town Hall to give the school priority, as the school has now reached over 300 and is growing.

On the whole, I believe that West Bay is going to get good representation. I will do what is necessary for the district to get its share of development funds from the Government. The jetty would turn the district into a favourable area. I foresee cruise ships landing there. I know it will work - I have known it since 1980. We have to move in that direction in the district. I do not need to go into merits or demerits. Everyone knows what George Town is like on cruise ship day - it is not good for the whole country. Tourists are dissatisfied, they cannot get into restaurants; there are parking problem, traffic [congestion] and what have you. I believe that bringing the cruise ships to West Bay anchorage and putting a facility on our property there will enhance the whole country, not just West Bay,

The Turtle Farm continues to be something that is going along, not at the pace that I would like to see it, but it is still our first employment [opportunity], and it is the one true tourist attraction. I am urging the Government, that if the ban is not lifted, the next time that convention (if I may call it that) convenes, I trust that this Government will look at the law that bans turtle importation. I believe that the Members need to look at the Farm... and I do not like to denigrate any one public servant from the floor of this House, but I do not think that the management of the Farm is what it should be at this time. It needs to be looked at. People cannot build empires around themselves, and that is what is happening. It must stop.

In regards to all of our sporting facilities and plans for the district of West Bay, I would hope that the suggestion to encourage our young people, and I should have made this point earlier on when I was dealing with sports, but one valuable contribution to sports that Government can make is to look at helping the associations, especially the Football Association, with insurance. More cost again, but it is needed. We ask our young people to go out there, beat themselves out, it is wholesome activity, yes, it is good. But if there are severe damages attached, who is paying? There are no great funds being poured in to the associations.

Government is doing a great job, yes. But in other countries the private sector contributes tremendously, and some do here too, but with all the billions of dollars in this country it is not near enough. Not near enough - and we need to look at some insurance for those young people and I think Government must take the lead.

In summing up, today this country stands on the threshold of a new era, a new decade. I am reminded of the passage of Scripture from Exodus, "and the Lord said unto Moses, 'Wherefore cryest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.'" There are challenging times ahead. There is much work to be done.

I have learned many great lessons in my time here; I have taken my blows. But I would appeal to all of us. Those of us here and those of us on the outside. Let us not sell our country short. In spite of our problems, let me say that we, in this country, are fortunate. We have good workers in the public sector. That is why I spoke the way I spoke this morning. It hurts me when I see young people leaving the Civil Service who, I know, can make a difference. All they need is patience. We have devoted workers in the private sectors ready to build this country. We have good teachers. We have good skilled men and women. We have good secretaries. I am not saying we have a 100 per cent efficiency in all levels and in all sectors, but there is no country with 100 per cent efficiency. There is much to be proud of in this country. We, who make up the Government are proud of our Caymanian people. Let us not sell ourselves short, for we in this House, are called to lead the country.

"Let us speak unto the Nation, the children of Israel, that they go forward." These scriptural words were spoken at a decisive movement in the history of a nation where the people had a rendezvous with destiny - before them lie the Red Sea; beside them were the mountains; behind them was the Egyptian Army in hot pursuit. This, indeed, was their critical moment - a moment charged with destiny, a moment that held a unique opportunity, that, if unused, would plunge them into chaos and anarchy and disaster - a

moment which required the consensus and the collective will of the people, marshalled as a striking force to take a common objective. It was at that moment of opportunity and destiny that the word of the Lord God came to Moses; "Speak unto the Children of Israel, that they go forward."

We were given a mandate to lead our people in the last election. Our mandate is to help them understand that the presence of obstacles is a part of life that comes with development; that if we have the good things, the bad things will come. They constitute exciting challenges and opportunities for fresh outpourings of courage, of daring, and of faith. We have much to look forward to. We have done well as a Government. As a people, we have been blessed.

Finally, in closing I would say that the Government, as an Administration, has not managed the best at all times, but we have done well and I can say no more. We had a job of bringing back the economy to where people are investing again - Caymanians and foreigners alike. Our national airline which was in a pitiful condition at the end of 1984, is in a much more favourable position today; we know where we are, at least. We found a badly shaken social fabric which, today, still leaves a lot to be desired. But Government has started plans, schemes and policies to try to arrest the deteriorating position. We have not sat still. Whether it came from Executive Council or whether it came from us, the Backbenchers, we have done something. No one can deny that respectability has not been put back in our country, so that internationally we might have a good name. This was done. No more are we hearing about Bank Managers being held up in Miami. A hard pill to swallow, sometimes to see our own people get caught in that trap, but that is life. Nobody should try to blow up an already extreme and volatile position. If we do wrong, we must pay for it.

I believe that every Caymanian must now assess where he or she wants to go and what kind of society they want to live and raise their children in. I believe that each of us, as individual citizens, must develop a sense of personal dedication and participation in our country. The preservation and development of these Islands must go beyond politics, beyond factions and beyond self interest. That is why I said earlier that Members of the House should tell our people all the good that is going on. They should not try to keep things from them, and they themselves inherit the goodness in what is going on. All of us must have commitment for our country and for the ideals for which it stands. Caymanians, all individual Caymanians, must have direct participation.

That is why I call for a more serious look at our Governmental structure. If we do not do this and all of us have, regardless of our misgivings and opposing of one another in this House, the country's interest at heart; if we do not work together, what will happen? Special interest groups, self-seeking politicians on the outside might take over. This simply must not happen. Caymanians must stand their ground, we in this House must stand our ground. We have a job to do, and that task is to do what is right for Cayman, and what is right for Caymanians. It must be done within these Islands. It must be done by all Caymanians. It is a job that cannot be done by temporary managers of our society, they are just passers-by. It is a job that our forefathers have started, a job that will be done - that must be done - a job that can be done by the owners of our society, namely, the citizens of these Islands.

In spite of all of our problems and our shortcomings, in spite of the ridicule that we might sometimes heap upon one another, in spite of the obstacles we must hurdle, I agree with the words of the Jamaican Festival song, "Nowhere better than yard". As for me, I have done my best. I have been honest with the public and I will continue to be so. But still: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep,..." I support the Appropriation Bill, 1989, and the policies as set out in the Speech from the Throne. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Honourable Member for Health.

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Yes, Mr. President. It looks like I will have to be night watchman tonight.

I would like to take the opportunity, Sir, to congratulate you in your capacity as Governor on the presentation of the Throne Speech, and also the First Official Member in his capacity as Financial Secretary on the delivery of the Budget Address.

I propose to deal basically with comments and criticisms that have been made in the areas for which I am responsible, to try and broaden the areas that were presented in the Throne speech and the Budget Address so that Members and the public at large might have a better perspective of the objectives and the hopes and aspirations of my Portfolio and the subjects for which I am responsible. Let me dispense with the niceties by thanking all those who gave me accolades for what is being done, and for my youth and vigor, and even for those who wrote it off to inexperience. I can assure them that I am always willing to listen to advice, but I always reserve the right to weigh that advice and make the decision as I see it. Though, we may at times differ, because I have not accepted their advice, as they say here colloquially, "hook, line and sinker", I am always willing to listen, both to their criticisms and otherwise.

The matter of Health Insurance, on a national basis has been raised. Health Insurance is under active consideration at the Portfolio level. However, I believe that there are certain things that have to first be put in place, before we can make rational and informed decisions on the kind of health insurance that this country needs. My personal bias, at this time, is that it has to be compulsory, because everyone has to have it. It has to be universal, if it is going to work. I believe that it has to be voluntary from the point of view in that once it is made compulsory, people should have a choice as to where they buy their Health Insurance, provided it meets with the criteria and standards laid down by the compulsory side of the Legislation. There is no doubt in my mind that at some stage, and preferably sooner than later, some form of third party payment system must be introduced we are going to protect our citizens from catastrophic illnesses. Here I am talking about the financial consequences of illnesses and, secondly, if the country is going to be able to reduce its

annual percentage and budgetary allocation, for health care in this country.

Health care in this country is, today, very much in a transition stage. It is hoped that a consultant firm will start work on the first of April to develop a National Health Plan for this country, which is going to be two fold. It is going to provide for the service side of health care of this country, in that it is going to identify the areas of service that are needed. It is going to identify the methods by which those services can be delivered. It will identify the spacial, that is the physical needs in order to deliver those services.

The second aspect of the plan will be the production of a physical plan. It is hoped that this is going to be, at a minimum, a 15 year plan. It will address the new hospital from a structural stand point - what kind of a Hospital we will need; where the new Hospital should be located; what type of building the new hospital should be, whether it is going to be a multi-storey complex with a kind of spoke and hub design, with the essential services, nursing station, etcetera, in a central hub with all of the different wards (whether they are the open ward type or private rooms) coming off that central hub of activity, as spokes; or whatever form the physical plan has to be designed in order to best fulfill the needs as identified in the first section of the plan.

The plan is going to be very detailed. In verbal discussions with the consultants I have asked them to do the plan as if they were preparing it for the United States in order to meet a Certificate of Need. Anyone who is familiar with the requirements of a Certificate of Need in the United States knows that the minimum pages alone required to meet those requirements, is anywhere from 500 to 5,000, depending on the details.

It is going to look at alternate sites for the new hospital which will include a detailed analysis of the present site. If it is not suitable for further development, it is hoped that recommendations will be given as to how that facility can be used within the health care services; whether it is as an outpatient clinic or whether it is for emergency services, etcetera.

It will give cognisance in terms of site location to the Master Ground Transportation Plan, which study is being investigated by the Government at the moment, so that we can guarantee quick accessibility for the site. It will address the size, beds, etcetera, based on the population forecast and, although the census results might not be finalised, I am sure that data gathered in October, from the general census of the population, will be very handy indeed in making these kinds of forecast, as to what we are going to need in health care in the next 15 to 20 years.

Further to the details of the site development, and the actual plan for services that need to be provided, the consultants are also being asked to address management, staffing, and funding for the institution. The projected timetable for this study is 1st April 1989, with final plans being presented by the 31st December 1989. At that time, I believe, we will then be in a position to make a decision as to where and when the new hospital is going to be built. Concurrently, with this survey, the in-house policies and rules of operating the hospital and health care facility are being addressed and the management within the institution has been given the same time frame to revise and produce recommendations for new hospital bylaws and policies for the operation for the institution.

It is my hope or, I should say, my bias, that is, a personal one - it is not Government's at the moment - that the new hospital will be operated on a break even basis, with very little or no funding from Government's general revenue. It is hoped that it will be operated by a Board of Directors and here we are talking about the in-house, in-patient, facility, because it must be understood that Government will have to always accept the responsibility and therefore provide for public health; prevention and education of diseases in our country.

The physicians will probably no longer be on salary, that is those who are working at the in-patient facilities. The medical officer for Health and the Public Health Doctors will probably have to be retained on salary, because of their role in the prevention and the public health aspect of health care. I hope that all the physicians working in the new hospital will be on a fee per service basis.

While some Members have asked about Government encouraging a private hospital, I have no problem with private hospitals. I believe that anyone who wants to construct and operate a private hospital is free to do so, provided they meet all the legal requirements of the respective laws in the country. Of course, the standards will have to be those of Government, or better. I think anyone that wants to invest in a hospital and operate it as a private enterprise, as far as I am concerned, they are encouraged to do so, and they are free to do so. However, Government cannot, should not, and it is my submission that it will not, give up the Government hospital, because I do not believe that a fully private hospital will fulfill the role of the public.

ADJOURNMENT

HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:
tomorrow morning.

I move the adjournment of this Honourable House until 10:00

THE PRESIDENT:
until 10:00 tomorrow morning. I shall put the question. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

The question is that this Honourable House do now adjourn

AYES.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Tuesday morning at 10:00.

The Ayes have it. The House is accordingly adjourned until

AT 4:30 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1989.

**TUESDAY
7TH MARCH, 1989.
10:07 A.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT:
and Culture.

Prayers by the Honourable Member for Education, Recreation

PRAYERS

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings of the House are resumed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

MR. PRESIDENT:

Before we start, there are two administrative matters. It appears that there is some problems with the air conditioning, if Members should wish to take off their jackets, please do so.

The second is that, as Members will know, there is a Trade delegation from Costa Rica here at present. There is a luncheon to which most of the Members of Executive Council and myself are invited. I therefore propose to adjourn at 12:15. The Members will enjoy a two hour break for lunch today.

Government Business. Continuation of the debate on the Throne Speech and the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Honourable Elected Member for Health continuing.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH
AND THE SECOND READING ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989.**

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Yes, Mr. President. I wonder if the Opposition had anything to do with turning off the air conditioner, having delivered their speech in comfort, maybe they are trying to make me uncomfortable to try and keep me quiet. I thank you for the invitation to take off my coat, and I hope the necessity will not arise. I will try to keep as calm, cool, and collected as possible.

Mr. President, when we adjourned yesterday afternoon, I was dealing with the section of your Throne Speech which dealt with the 15 year Physical Development Plan for the expansion of the Health Services in Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. This plan will be for all three Islands. Members are no doubt aware that the Portfolio has basically put a moratorium on any building or additions to the facilities in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac until this study has been completed and we have a clear indication of our needs, and the direction which we will have to go to fulfill those needs.

I sympathise with some of the departments within the Health Services which will have to continue to operate with physical and spacial handicaps. But we hope that when we do bring relief to their areas it will be of a much better quality and much longer lasting than some of the ad hoc developments which have taken place in the past.

This is the second attempt at developing some kind of long term plan and the plan of action for the health services in this country. The first attempt was made in the early 1970s by

the now Member for Education, when he produced a 15 year plan, which at that time was a good plan. It is unfortunate that succeeding Governments did not implement the plan. They chose to put it in the cellar of the Administration Building, and now we have the concrete jungle that we have at the hospital. It is hoped that some kind of commitment can be gotten from Government, although I realise that we cannot legislate for any incoming Parliament. It is hoped that the administration will be given the opportunity to implement this plan.

Just to give Members an overview of the kind of areas and detail that this plan envisages, so as to get the best possible plan, first of all there is going to be an assessment of our current health care provider resources. There will be an identification of unmet health care needs, identification of the resource requirements; evaluation of public versus private; resources interaction and coordination of health care services and delivery; evaluation of in-patient/out-patient delivery modes and services; hospital related versus non-hospital related systems; projection of additional future resource requirements; development of alternative provider systems; recommendations for optimum health care delivery systems, and development of a strategy and implementation plan. Further, to get the best possible plan we are asking the consultants to stick with us until it is implemented, to help us set the management up in place to see that it is working properly and that we are achieving the goals that we identified in the study, and that the system is run in the most economic way feasible.

Just to put Members at rest - that we are not spinning wheels in the dark - the legal department, under the auspices of the Honourable Second Official Member, is this very week reviewing the contract for the retention of International Ambulatory Health Care Corporation to provide the services. The terms of the contract are that they must commence work (that is the collection of their data) on the 1st of April, and they must complete this by 31st December, 1989.

The Budgetary requirements of 1990 (or soon thereafter) of the new hospital will probably be very large. Members will have the opportunity to debate the pros and cons of the plan. The Portfolio envisages keeping the public and Members of the Legislative Assembly informed (as was done with the Master Ground Transportation Plan) and involved in the whole development process, so that Members and the public can feel a part of the final product.

The First Elected Member from Bodden Town quite rightly mentioned that he would like to see health education expanded. I agree with him wholeheartedly. It is the intention of the Portfolio to do just that. Members will remember that earlier in this meeting I tabled the Medium Term Plan on AIDS. The emphasis of that plan was on education. That education will take place in several forms. We hope to have it in the schools and to get the media involved in a large scale public and Islands-wide campaign of public education on AIDS. To that end, on Thursday night in fact, we are having the first meeting of all the media and other organisations which we believe can contribute greatly in the success of the AIDS education programme. We hope to expand that education programme in the future to other areas and, in particular, other social and behavioural diseases. Some of the other areas, like high blood pressure and diabetes, are presently being handled by organisations set up specifically for those areas. We believe that our efforts would be best spent in public education of the social and behavioural diseases - where a change in one's life-style could have some benefit.

One Member, I think it was the Third Elected Member from West Bay, seems to feel that we need to do more to encourage Caymanians, and to employ Caymanians in the Health Services. I could not agree with him more, Sir - but that is a lot easier to say than to do, because there are just not that many qualified Caymanian doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, available. I believe that all of the Caymanians qualified to work in the Health Services, who have the desire to work in the Government Health Services, are already employed. One must not take for granted the contribution that Caymanian health care professionals are making through private enterprise, setting up their own businesses and contributing to health care provision for the country as a whole. Even though those people may not be employed at the hospital or in the Government services, they are, in fact, contributing to the whole health care delivery system.

I could never subscribe to what was done in the late 1970s just to get Caymanian professionals; that was to give all the doctors Caymanian Status. I think we have to train our own people and that is going to take some time. The Member has my assurance that all that is possible is being done, and will continue to be done at my Portfolio level, to facilitate the training and employment of Caymanians in the health services.

He also mentioned the upgrading of the district clinics; increasing doctors' visits to those out-lying districts as a method of reducing overcrowding at the hospital. That sounds good in theory, but the fact of the matter is, and the experience has been, that the only people who really utilise the district clinics are the chronically ill - those people who have high blood pressure, diabetes, and illnesses like that. Unless we had the resources to put full-time medical coverage in those district clinics, acute health care, acute sicknesses - colds, flu (illness like that) - are going to continue to show up at the hospital irrespective of how many visits per week the doctor makes to those district clinics.

Those district clinics, however, will be evaluated as part of the study on the Health Services as to what services can be economically provided and what services have to be provided, irrespective of the economic cost. There are some services that we will have to provide even though it might not be economical to do so.

The Member made a few statements that were inaccurate, and one of those was that to the best of his knowledge, there were only 10 doctors at the hospital. The fact is that there are now 17 doctors in the Government Services, two of whom are in Cayman Brac.

While the rostering of health professionals is a small part of the problem of doctor utilisation at the hospital, one has to realise that there are certain areas that do not allow the rostering of those professionals as one would do with maids in hotels - the surgeon and the anaesthetist, for instance, are both on 24-hour call, seven days a week. I can give the Member the assurance that it is actively under review and, just to strengthen the argument that the management philosophy practice at the hospital has changed,

I would like to quote a few paragraphs from the management of the Hospital in a letter written to a senior member of staff. The point I am trying to make here is that the new management in place at the hospital understands the problem, and they are, certainly (from what I will read) not afraid to deal with the problem. I quote:

"Unfortunately, I have received a written complaint from a medical colleague regarding your tardiness at reporting for duty which has caused inconvenience and irritation. Under normal circumstances I would ask you to attend a discussion for an amicable resolution. However, you should know that upon assumption of my appointment I was in receipt of a written complaint from the nursing staff alleging tardiness and non-availability which I chose to ignore.

Three weeks ago I received a very similar written complaint, again from nursing staff. Further, you will recall that very recently I had occasion to telephone you at home during working hours and that we subsequently spoke about duty and attendance in my office.

Since then I have received the written complaint referred to in the first paragraph above. You should be aware that it is not my policy to repeat myself, ever. I have asked you to remedy this matter once. Therefore, this letter is a formal warning that I anticipate unquestioned compliance with my previous instructions to you. Should I receive a further complaint, I will refer the matter to higher authority.

If, for any reason, you are unable to perform unrestricted duty, I would urge you to discuss the problem with me in confidence, when I will do all I can to help. However, my authority is not a matter for debate or capable, even, of being slightly eroded. When I ask someone to do something, it will be done. I do not expect to have to mention this matter again."

Mr. President, I believe that short note makes it clear that senior staff within the Department are now accountable and are expected to perform to the highest possible standards.

The Third Elected Member for George Town had very little to say about the Health Services, and I thank him for his compliments and his recognition of my youthful enthusiasm. I had previously stated, and he inquired, as to whether Government would encourage a private hospital. I think I made it clear yesterday afternoon that Government has no objection to a private hospital, provided it meets the laws of the land and the standards set by the Government Medical Department. If by 'encourage' he means some kind of Governmental involvement in the private hospital, then I do not believe that Government is prepared to encourage it in that way. But any Caymanian who wishes to invest in a private hospital to provide a service that they feel is necessary is free to do so.

I do not subscribe to his views that competition in health care is the answer - that is, competition in the terms of who can do the most appendectomies, etcetera - and I do not subscribe that a private hospital is going to relieve any of the budgetary burden from Government. The only relief for that is what was addressed by the First Elected Member from Bodden Town in his speech - a health insurance scheme which allows Government to recover completely the cost of providing health care services in the country. He did indicate that he thought a private hospital would reduce Government's subsidy. Again, I cannot subscribe to that view because I think that if a private hospital was successful, it would cater mostly (and it would have to) to those people who are presently going overseas for the majority of their health care services.

He stressed that he had published policies while he was the Member responsible, and that is true. What I cannot subscribe to is the type and the kind of policies which were published when he was the Member responsible for the Portfolio.

We are in the process of developing new policies and bylaws for the hospital to address, in particular, the relationship between private physicians and their use of the hospital; bylaws which are going to clearly lay down the chain of authority and command; policies, procedural manuals, which are going to clearly specify the procedures to be taken in dealing with medical problems. These policies, which I envisage being produced by the management of the hospital, have been given a time frame; the deadline for the development of those policies and bylaws and procedural manuals is the 31st December, 1989.

What these policies will not do is set up appeals from Caesar to Caesar, as the previous (and present) policies did. I would just like to share with the public what I see as completely undesirable. I will take just one area, and that is the complaints area. At present [this is] the way complaints are handled, as laid down in the Medical Policies which was issued on the 9th August, 1977:

Complaints Committee

"A Complaints Committee shall be set up consisting of the Chief Medical Officer, Hospital Administrator, Chief Nursing Officer, plus two persons appointed by the Portfolio.

The Committee shall have power to co-op members and should co-op the Head of any department when the complaint is against that department, including the dental, x-ray, laboratory, dietary, pharmacy, physiotherapy and administrative

departments."

Now, I do not believe that the public can feel any complaint that they table would be given complete, serious, and adequate consideration if they are, in fact, complaining to the same people about whom they complained. In fact, I have refused to re-appoint that Complaints Committee until the Medical Policies can be amended to allow for a much wider public participation in the review process of that Committee.

The misuse of drugs and the plans of the Portfolio to deal with this menace in our society, received much criticism over the course of this debate. Several speakers seemed to be unjustly misdirected into preoccupation about a concrete building. One Member, I think it was the Third Elected Member from West Bay (and this was endorsed by the Third Elected Member from George Town) seems to feel - and here again, their figures are incorrect, as I will prove later on - that it is costing in the region of \$10,000 for rehabilitation of people who seek this kind of help. If we did 100 persons, we would have a million dollars; that could build a building and that would be the end of it.

Now, Mr. President, several years ago we heard that same kind of argument about the Prison - that it was only going to cost a couple of hundred thousand dollars to put up the building; we would have our prisoners on our shore and it would be a piece of cake to look after them; the recurrent expenditure would be little or nothing. We all know what a problem the magnitude of the recurrent expenditure is to operate the prison to a reasonable level of competency which is acceptable by the public. I believe that they are doing a fairly good job, but it has not ended with the capital investment. I believe that if the records are checked, we will see that the actual recurrent expenditure has cost a great magnitude for that institution.

I believe we would be in a similar set of circumstances if we barged ahead blindly (as we would be doing at this time) into constructing a multi-million dollar complex as a drug rehabilitation center just so that we could point to some concrete building as an answer to our problems. Anybody who believes a rehab system, once it is built, can carry itself with the kinds of patients that we would have to put in it and their ability to pay, is, I believe, a little bit ill-informed about what is involved in offering adequate in-house rehabilitation coverage. It is a very complex thing. It is not just a matter of putting up a building with a number of rooms and restroom facilities, a game room, a kitchen and a work shop. My humble submission is that programmes are needed. Programmes must be put in place from which we can gain experience and results. They will have to be evaluated on a regular basis to make sure that we are, in fact, achieving the objectives and goals as we see them in the area of rehabilitation.

I have stated publicly in several forums - and I will repeat it again - my informed opinion is that we are much better off, and it is going to be more economical to purchase in-house rehab and detox facilities for some time to come in this country. To that extent, the Principal Secretary, the Drug Counsellor and I, have visited two institutions in the United States, both of which are very highly recommended. One of these, the Hazeldon Rehab Center in Minneapolis, comes well recommended. Just to give Members and the public some assurance that it is well recognised and well recommended, I would like to quote from an article that appeared in *Vogue* magazine. It is entitled, 'The Last Resort':

"Addicts, with nowhere else to turn, head to Hazeldon, Minnesota's state of the art treatment center - the granddaddy of all treatment centers for chemical dependency - Minnesota's showcase, Hazeldon Foundation."

Here, Sir, I would like to suggest to Members that in talking about drug rehab, we must be very careful when we separate alcohol from drugs. Most of us tend to talk about drugs and alcohol as if alcohol is an after-thought and not really a serious problem. In all forums that I address, I use the word "drugs" or "chemical dependency", and it is all-encompassing; it includes alcohol and tobacco, nicotine, etcetera. When statistics are looked at we will see that alcohol, though not illegal, and in some circles not as glamorous, certainly contributes its fair share to the problems of society and our social structure.

A lot of frightened and desperate people have taken the road to Hazeldon: Kitty Dukasis, terrified after years of quiet addiction to diet pills; Dexter Manley, the hulking Super Bowler who can handle anything but a bottle; Truman Capote, grasping at a last chance in a life-long battle with every mind bender from cocaine to gin. Most, including the star-studded Betty Ford Center at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California, follow what has come to be known as the "Minnesota Model and Program Developer", developed by Dr. Anderson and Dr. U. Bradley, which meshes the strong spiritual lessons of A.A., with physiological and medical treatments.

Success rates are difficult to gage. Estimates are that 50 to 80 per cent of the graduates are improved after a year. A month at Hazeldon, which is the in-house detox, rehab programme, costs about \$5,300. Now, here we can buy what is regarded in most circles as the best possible service for \$5,300. Imagine, it has taken Hazeldon - they are celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year - 40 years to get to that standard. I would invite Members to use their imagination as to how long it would take this country with its limited resources, both financial and in personnel, to be able to offer this type of quality, high standard, rehab service to its citizens.

One of the interesting things that we learned on our visit, was that the success rate between people who voluntarily go to the center and people who are forced, as it were, either by family, employer, or courts to go to the center, is about the same. That was very interesting to me because in most circles in Cayman it is believed that if we put in our legislation the enabling laws which would allow judges or magistrates to sentence people to a rehab center, it would be counter productive. The experience at Hazeldon says that it is not counter productive. The difference between the two types of patients only arises in the first two or

three days, after that peer pressure takes over and the rehab success is about the same.

I am not proposing that we purchase that service in isolation. Members are aware that I have, again, made public my intention of what to do about rehab services. Presently, people are going off to Rehab Centers. They are doing the intensive 30 day detox in a variety of centers throughout the United States. Their success rate has been marginal. It is my opinion that while the people are in the intensive detox and rehab, while they are in the after care programmes, which are commonly called half-way houses, or three-quarter houses, or worker programmes, etcetera, they are doing well. When they come back to the Cayman Islands they fall back into the same old environment. They lose the interaction with their peers who are in the same position. We must understand that we are not talking about a cure for any of this stuff, we are talking about assistance; rehabilitation of the individual to allow him to conduct a more normal life-style, while recognising that they have that problem of chemical dependency and, to a large extent, they will have it for the rest of their life.

While they are in this environment they can be encouraged, their peers are assisting them in controlling and recognising their problem and dealing with their problem and they do fine. When they come back here they get back into the same routines, the same friends, going to the same places with the same temptations; they do not have the advantage of having encouragement, peer pressure from other people. Most of them, unfortunately, fall back into their chemical addiction and are constantly visiting rehab centers.

What I envisage... and some people took the idea of half-way houses and used the words as if it were half an attempt, to try to make fun of the whole idea. A couple of years from now I am going to ask them to look back at it, and if I have made a mistake I am man enough to admit it. I hope that if we succeed they will be men enough in a couple of years to say, "You made the right decision, the people are now receiving the kind of rehabilitation programme they should have."

In conjunction with the purchase of this in-house rehab and detox programme from Hazeldon, we are going to develop the after care programme in this country so that we can facilitate those people when they come back to the Cayman Islands, to live a normal life with their problem; to give them the opportunity to get involved in the local after-care rehab programmes and help their fellowman while they themselves learn, daily, how to better deal with their own individual problems. That, I believe, is the answer to our rehab programme - not a concrete building with fancy windows and air-conditioning, fancy carpet and marble floors and what not - programmes that are going to involve these people where they can continue, after being taught how to do it in these intensive programmes. Hopefully it will even help some who have not yet reached the stage of chemical addiction where they have to go to intensive detox. While we are talking about detox, I believe that it is fairly well established and recognised now by the medical fraternity, that the substitute for cocaine, in particular crack, does not exist.

In keeping with the objective to develop the after-care programme in this country - and we hope to be a little bit novel by using a little of the good old Caymanian ingenuity, and not only have aftercare, but have before-care for the people I was talking about who really do not need to go to the in-house detox programme, but who need a little encouragement. They need to be told that a dozen beers a day or ten shots of whiskey is not the most healthy thing to do. They need to get involved with people who can help them to live with that problem; if they have been doing it long enough to where they are starting to get chemically dependent on it, to help to show them life-styles that can allow them to continue to be productive members of society and live normal life-styles while dealing with their problem. To that end, a consultant from Hazeldon will arrive in Cayman on Sunday, the 13th of March, for a three-day stay. He is the forerunner of a team of three, which will carry out a study during April and May to advise the Government on the way to head in the anti-drug and rehab fight.

Most Members are aware that last year legislation was passed which established the Drug Advisory Council, and most Members are also aware that the Drug Advisory Council has been meeting every Monday afternoon for two hours for the last several weeks. What they are trying to do is collect all available information from various individuals and organisations on what programmes exist in the community to counteract the misuse of drugs. This information (which is to be submitted to yours truly by April the 30th) will also be vital to the Hazeldon study, because, hopefully, that report is going to give us a current evaluation of the present position of what is going on in the Cayman Islands, and who is doing it on all three fronts - education, rehabilitation and interdiction - in terms of finding some way ahead to deal with this problem of the misuse of drugs. In addition, Hazeldon will be formulating questionnaires which will be used to interview two dozen people in the Cayman community which have been involved in the anti-drug struggle.

Just to put the Members from Cayman Brac and Little Cayman at ease, we are going to spend an additional two thousand dollars to do the same thing in Cayman Brac, because we intend to involve them. Although their problem might not be of the same magnitude as ours, I think they will agree with me that they do, in fact, have a problem, which needs to be addressed.

The contract for this study with Hazeldon will be signed this week to provide the service. Their brief is to provide a long range plan for the development of new or expanded services which includes unmet needs, and underserved populations, priorities for service development, estimated cost and a recommended timetable. It is anticipated that training in various areas in the form of workshops and seminars will be shared by Hazeldon and the Johnson Institute, both leaders in the field of education against substance abuse.

Here again, the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce has already indicated its willingness to underwrite an employee assistance programme. It is hoped that sporting and other organisations, including the school system, will be drawn into the training programmes which will be offered. I believe that it is time that we identified the needs in this area and that we also develop a plan.

Members will no doubt have garnered the feeling that I am very

particular about time frames and deadlines; that I like to have people locked-in to when I will get the recommendations or results. There is some method to this madness on these particular dates, because it is hoped to have the National Drug Rehabilitation Plan, or strategy of what we are going to do, to lay on the table of this Honourable House in the next sitting, that is, the May sitting - it might not come until towards the end of the sitting, but I can assure Members that I am going to do my best to have it available and give them the opportunity to debate it, if they so wish. I do not believe that they are going to be able to find too much wrong with it when I am finished with it, but it is always good to get constructive criticism.

Mr. President, I hope those Members who feel that a concrete structure is the answer to our problem now agree with me, that the answer lies with programmes. Once we have, in fact, identified, and have some experience with, the programmes that we are getting good results from, it might well be in the distant future that some kind of center might have to be built. That is not my objective. My objective is to change the behavioral plan and patterns of the generations coming behind me so that we have no need. The ultimate objective is to develop the education facilities in these areas which will produce the positive behavioral changes so that in a decade we will not need rehabilitation services at all. Now, that might sound like Utopia - maybe it is. But I am much more comfortable with that kind of Utopia than building a building to house the problem.

I would hasten to add and to assure the Third Elected Member from George Town that, while the focal point of the public view at this time is the misuse of drugs and chemical dependency problems, other areas of social development and facilities are not going to be neglected. He did make recommendations that I should seriously look at it, and I would hope that he would join me and be serious about doing something about the problem, because it is no laughing matter. When we ask for input, when we ask for support from the Opposition Members, they are going to be constructive and not seize it as an opportunity to make political mileage and start some petitions to alleviate the expectations of the more active political group, because they can rest assured that this Member has no fear of taking any of them on in any public forum any place in this country on any of these issues.

As I said earlier, I am prepared to accept advice, to accept counsel, but I am also prepared to make decisions. If I make the wrong decision I believe that I am humble enough, when it can be proven that I was wrong, to say I was wrong and to suggest that we correct it in haste. But I will not be over influenced by their inaccurate statistics and ill-informed judgments as to the current picture and what needs to be done about this problem.

In your Throne Speech, Mr. President, you said that the Caring Home Facilities are to be assessed with a view to improving the programmes. While Members did not address the problem of Caring Home Facilities in this country - I do not know whether silence gives consent, or they feared to wander into that area, in opposition or not - for some time now the Caring Homes, that is the Frances Bodden Girls' Home and the Bonaventure Boys' Home, have come under criticism by the public. The public does not appear to be convinced that the Caring Homes are giving the best possible service. It is in this light that the Portfolio has set up a small group of people to review the way the Caring Homes are presently managed, with the hope of making them more autonomous; giving the homes themselves more authority and responsibility for their operation, while giving them specific guidelines and objectives as to what we expect the results to be. It is hoped in the very near future to have these recommendations at hand. A decision will then be made as to what to do with the caring homes to ensure that the children who are placed in those homes are getting the quantity and quality of care that they deserve.

The Juveniles Law has been in the process of review for some time. It is hoped (as mentioned in your Throne Speech) that this Law can be presented in the May sitting. I believe that most Members will agree that it is time that it be done. I want to assure Members that if we bring the Legislation in May we are not going to purport that it is going to be perfect, or that it is going to solve all the problems. I think we certainly can correct some of the glaring inadequacies of the present Law. I have always been of the view that the reason Parliament meets four times a year is to amend Legislation, to meet the objectives if it has not done so in the present form. If the First Elected Member from West Bay had his way, and we met once a month, amending the Legislation would be no problem.

He knows how I feel about the more frequent meetings of the Assembly; I seconded his Motion when it was brought years ago, and I have not changed my mind since I have been on this side. I still believe that we have been here a long time and we are probably still going to be here a long time this sitting, and if we met more frequently there might be less business to do, therefore the sessions would be shorter because my desk is beginning to look like it belongs to the Member for Education (Members' laughter). Maybe, I will invite him to come in one weekend and clear it so that I can see if it is still the same colour, or whether the papers have changed the colour of the desk.

The Cayman Islands Pension Plan is another, shall we say colloquially, sticky wicket.

MR. PRESIDENT:
break?

Would you like to leave that particular subject till after the

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Yes, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Fine. Proceedings suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 11:15 A.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:42 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:
continuing.

Proceedings are resumed. The Honourable Member for Health

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Mr. President, before leaving the area of Social Services I should say that its functions and areas of service to the public are also under active review, with a view to developing a strategic plan; clearly identifying what needs to be done and the resources necessary to fulfill those needs. In fact, we probably will have to go to some kind of enabling legislation in the long run to give the Department the proper footing to establish the actions of the officers, things like that, and some legal basis so we can offer them protection for the services that they have to perform.

The Third Elected Member from George Town, who for the majority of this session has been urging me to slow down and to take more advice, feels that we need to move faster in one area, that is, Social Services. He mentioned that we should activate his little pet project which he started in 1984 where (I do not know how much was spent) the Budget has \$260,000 in it, and I believe we got a one bedroom house in the Watlers Road area which was unoccupied until late 1985 or early 1986. I believe that is a clear example of launching into areas without properly planning and accurately identifying the needs in those areas.

I can assure him that indigent housing and low cost housing is going to be adequately provided for in this country. Just as an aside, you know in the recent election there were many proposals as to what Members could do with their MLA salaries, and some of those people were going to set up scholarship funds, and some people were going to bring Motions to reduce it to half and put the rest into whatever. Maybe those people, who do not feel that they deserve the salary - or are not earning it - could invest it in Housing Development Corporation Bonds. They will get 7.5 per cent return and, if it matures in 20 years, they can look forward to a good little piece of change at the end, or when they want to start retiring and enjoying life. If they are inclined to not accept their salary - if they have difficulty or their consciences will not allow them to accept it because they are not earning it - I would suggest that they invest it in the Housing Development Corporation.

I mentioned the review of the services of the Social Services Department - I could add here that I have, in fact, held preliminary discussions with the National Council of Social Services to make sure that they understand what I perceive as their role, and that I understand what they perceive as their role. One of the things that we have agreed on is that the Pines' Board will take over the management and operation of the Sunrise Cottage in East End. I do not want Members to feel that Government is, in any way reneging, or reducing its responsibility to the people in that area, but, while we will continue to support the Sunrise Cottage, I believe it can be better administered, and operated much more successfully to the benefit of the people who are at the Sunrise Cottage, if we do it under the auspices of NCSS and the Pines' Board.

I could also add that the Portfolio fully supports the proposed Childrens' Centre and welcomes its introduction, its construction and the service that it will provide by the NCSS. Basically, it is a centre that the NCSS is developing which will provide a home for children who have no place to go, and other services which are in demand, and much needed, by some children in our society.

The Cayman Islands Pension Plan is, as I said, another sticky wicket. I am prepared to go to bat on it, and if I lose my stumps, well, I will have lost my stumps. Everybody knows my position on a Pension Plan for this country - the Motion which saddled the then Member responsible for Health, Education and Social Services almost four years ago. I was very much involved in the debate and in bringing that to the floor of this Assembly and my mind has not changed on that either. However, I must say that I have had several meetings with the Chamber of Commerce. People might find this hard to believe, but the Chamber of Commerce and I have actually agreed on most areas of the Pension Plan. We have gone as far as reviewing some of the draft legislation and, surprisingly and quite encouragingly, we have agreed on most of it. I believe that in the next newsletter from the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce the public and Members will be pleasantly surprised to hear that the Chamber of Commerce is now supporting the Cayman Islands Pension Plan.

We are experiencing some difficulty in getting the services of an actuary to check the calculations of the actuary who developed the plan in the first place. We are actively trying to get one from another market, with the assistance of the insurance industry and the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce. Basically the two jobs that we hope this actuary is going to do are: 1) To conform, or to correct, the figures which were put into the calculations and make sure the 8 per cent contribution rate does, in fact, fund a programme; and 2) He will be asked to identify what Government's current liability for the pension for its civil servants is, so that we can adequately deal with that problem.

The only one who mentioned the Cayman Islands Pension Plan was the Third Elected Member from George Town. He dealt with it when he was dealing with his Capital Reserves, and he felt that the funds for the pensioners should be put in a reserve fund. We could do that, we can put it in the Cayman Islands Pension Plan and administer it from there. So he can rest assured that the Pensioners, for which he is correctly and so deeply concerned about - provided he supports the Cayman Islands Pension Plan - will be adequately protected. It is hoped that the Legislation will be forthcoming this year and administration mechanisms will be put in place to start administering this programme in 1990.

Mr. President, the Housing Development Corporation is now my responsibility. Once again I will try and assure Members that I am going to do the best I can to make sure that the needs of the Country are met when it comes to low cost housing.

We now have approval for the new bond issue at 7.5 per cent. It is a bit unfortunate that due to the delay in getting this to the Assembly (in many respects [due to] factors beyond our control) interest rates have started to climb and it might not be as attractive as a strict financial investment as it

would have been if interest had remained where it was when the 7.5 percent bond issue was first decided on. I would implore the financial institutions - in much the same way that I have implored those who cannot find use for their MLA salaries - to invest in the bond issue. While their financial returns might not be as great as in some other areas, the social contribution and the stabilising influence to the economy, so that people of this income level will be able to find proper and affordable housing, goes far beyond straight financial gain that any institution might obtain by investing in this.

Cayman has always been a place where people have tried to maintain good, adequate, and proper housing. I think that was clearly proven in the recent Hurricane Gilbert. The houses built here are of substantial strength and they are not just shanty towns, as might appear in some other neighbouring countries. If this bond issue is successful it is hoped that during the year 1989 - 1990 we will be able to facilitate 30 new loans; in the years 1990 to 1991, 45 new loans; and this year we hope to do 20 loans, providing the financing starts to come in on time. In the next couple of days I will be wearing out several pens signing letters asking people to invest in this issue. It is hoped to have the issue ready for the first of April, and that funds will start to come in.

I cannot over emphasise to Members the importance using what influence they have on anyone, or any institution, to encourage them to buy this bond issue to allow the Housing Development Corporation to have funds in which to provide these additional loans for people.

The First Elected Member from West Bay mentioned that the new board of the Housing Development Corporation is going to review the present policies for lending and their qualifications for the loans. We are also hoping to find a way to successfully use the expertise available to the Housing Development Corporation to address the indigent housing which, up until this time, has been run through the Social Services Department. This department has been bogged down because it has a lot more work - in many areas, work that is more important than dealing with indigent housing. We hope to come up with these guidelines sometime in the very near future and to get approval and introduce the mechanisms by which they can be handled. It is not an easy solution because we have to be very careful that we do not reduce people's view of the Housing Development Corporation from an important financial institution - to which one's commitments in financing must be met - to that of the welfare-type organisation, which is going to dole out funds to help people without any intention of returns. I believe that the Housing Development Corporation can get involved in areas which can help to alleviate the indigent housing situation, but the funds must be returned to the Housing Development Corporation.

If I could try and put it into perspective: The one idea that some other Members and I have as to how it might work is, for instance, if the Housing Development Corporation was to buy, build, or rent a house for someone, and the mortgage financing of the purchase was \$500 a month, and it was determined by the Social Services Department that the indigent person could only pay \$100, the Social Service Department would have to use their indigent funds to top it up so that the Housing Development Corporation got its full financial commitment and could continue to help other people rather than losing in one investment.

I do not believe that most people in this country want any kind of handout. I agree fully with the sentiments of the First Elected Member from Bodden Town - that we do not want any housing development schemes which can be identified as where the poor people live and, as he said, the roofs are all the same colour, the porches are all the same size, the gardens have all the same colour gates, etcetera, etcetera. What we envisage is the Housing Development Corporation strengthening the Caymanian tradition of self help - providing individual ownership of houses and homes to live in, in scattered areas. I am not going to be a part of any development of any large-scale housing scheme in which we will put all the indigent people. I believe that we have to help people to help themselves in their own districts, on their own land, etcetera, etcetera; but it must be as part of total community development. That is how I envisage the Housing Development Corporation, helping with indigent housing.

I must emphasise that the Board, which I am only the Chairman of, has not made its final decision on any of this yet; but we are actively considering it and hope to be able to deal with it in some sort of reasonable way in the very near future. Of course, if the bond issue is totally successful and we get subscription up to the \$5 million, we envisage there should be a profit turned by the year 1990/1991, which is going to be very small, but at least those funds can then be used again to invest in indigent houses which can be turned over on an annual basis, where there is some kind of planned and organised programme to deal with it.

In the area of Environmental Health: My greatest concern right now is the amount of duplication of efforts in areas for the regulation of our environment. I believe that the Member for Education and I will have to sit down with our respective Portfolios and clearly define the areas of responsibility, and the methods by which we are going to tackle the various problems to try and get some kind of consensus on ways to reduce the duplication in resources, buildings, manpower, and recurrent expenditure.

For a long time - in fact, up until this time (and probably until we get it straightened out in the future) - Environmental Health has been part of the Hospital Health Programme. I believe the magnitude of the problems in solid waste disposal alone, when one includes with that the monitoring aspects for food hygiene... because the present Member for Education spent a lot of time making regulations for the handling of food and hopefully those regulations will be finalised very soon. As usual I will get the benefit of his four years of hard work and I will take that to Executive Council and it will come out in the press that the present Member for Health has brought regulations for food handling - but his Portfolio has worked hard on it and they are in their final stages. The responsibility for the monitoring will fall on the Environmental Health section. I believe that it is time that the Environmental Health function be elevated to department status. It is headed by a young, energetic, Caymanian... and while we are talking about Caymanians, I would just like to thank the Third Elected from West Bay for reminding the public that I am a Caymanian.

Solid Waste Disposal is a problem that is fast getting out of hand. I believe that we are presently handling 300 tons of solid waste at the dump site per week. Members will

have no doubt noted that there is close to half a million dollars in the Budget for the purchase of land around the present landfill site to allow us to continue to develop the landfill in that area.

The people are coming out of the woodwork, so to speak, with magic solutions for the solid waste disposal problems of this country. I believe that I have in my office somewhere in the region of 12 to 15 different proposals on how to handle the solid waste programme in the Cayman Islands. It appears that the best way forward at this time is going to be some kind of clean-burn incineration method for which the waste heat can be used to either generate electricity or supply water. I want to make it clear that I am not advocating that the Government stay in the water business. I would prefer to sell it to a private enterprise. But, we have had a Pan-American Health Organisation consultant come in and look at the solid waste problem and it is hoped that his recommendations can be taken to Executive Council for their consideration in the very near future, and a decision made on how we are going to go forward in this area.

Some of the solutions that have been offered, like the customer doing their own sorting and recycling and things like that, sound very good in theory; but I believe that we are several years away in public education, in terms of the public's awareness of the damage to the environment by solid wastes. Certainly, because of our peculiar problems of transportation, the solution of recycling is not as lucrative, nor as attractive as it appears in some North American city, where you have factories downtown that will in fact use and recycle the waste. Here the waste would have to be transported to, perhaps, Florida to try and find a market for it. At this point in time it appears that the only thing where we could approach any kind of break-even position would be the aluminum from cans. We believe that even that is not as lucrative as it first appears to be, basically because of the transportation problem, and getting it to market.

I want to assure Members that the Department of Environmental Health (if I could start to use the term) has the solid waste programme actively under consideration. They are certainly aware of the problems with solid waste management in the Island, and we hope to have some solutions which can help to alleviate the magnitude of the problem. I would sound a word of caution, in that the public must realise that solid waste disposal in this country is presently very heavily subsidised by the Government in terms of what it costs to pick up garbage to take it to the landfill site, bury it (or if it turns out in the future, to burn it); in terms of what the average member of the public is paying at \$50 per month. I would encourage all to pay their garbage fees on time, even if they have not had a written bill from the Department of Environmental Health Services. It is very heavily subsidised and the more we can encourage people (that there is no such thing as a free lunch) the better position the country will be in when dealing with the solid waste problem. I must correct this: it is \$50 per year, per household, not per month. Fifty dollars per month, per household, is probably more realistic, but the present fees are \$50 per year. I want to assure Members that I am not advocating at this time increasing garbage fees to \$600 a year!

I have tried to deal with most of the areas for which I am responsible. I intend to practice what I preached while on the other side, that is, to try and keep Members and the public informed about what is going on in my Portfolio - what we see as the problems, and what we see as part of the solution to those problems.

Speaking about information, I would just like to mention that one Member encouraged us to pass information on to the Backbenchers (or Opposition), and to members of the public. I believe that the present Elected Members of Executive Council are trying very hard to do that. We had an open press conference the day we accepted responsibility for our Portfolios. We suggested at that time that, perhaps, the press would like to have them more often; I do not believe that any of us have been approached since that day about holding a joint press conference. I dedicate one hour per week, every week, to the press, that is, from one o'clock to two o'clock on Tuesday. Unfortunately, as the present Member for Education has so many times reminded the First Elected Member from West Bay and me, the perception of this whole thing about not having access was very much greater than reality. I believe that in four months the track record of the press in attending those press conferences is atrociously poor. The first week most of them came, and we managed to lay down the ground rules on which we were going to operate. Basically, I was going to be truthful and level with them, and I expected them to do the same for me. The second week, two members of the press came; the third week, nobody came; the fourth week, one person came; the fifth week, one person came; and the sixth week, nobody came. In the last three months, other than when I called a special press conference for the release of the information on AIDS, in order to keep with the commitment that I gave to the public on AIDS day (1 September 1988), nobody has shown up, except once in the last two months.

It is unfortunate that in one of those instances one member of the press asked a question and he was told, quite explicitly and emphatically, that I could not comment because the matter was sub judice. He chose to print that the Member "refused to comment", and did not qualify it. I have asked his editor to correct it in the next issue and, if he does not, that member of the press will not walk through this Member's door ever again. He was given the facts off the record - because I thought that I should give him the facts because there were many rumours on the street - but I made it clear they were off the record. I could not make a public statement because it was sub judice, and I asked that it be treated in that light. He went ahead and printed a very inaccurate story and made the statement that the Member would not comment. If it is not retracted in the next issue, I am going to stick to my guns. Part of the ground rules were that I would level with them, and I expected them to treat me with the same respect that I gave them.

Mr. President...

MR. PRESIDENT:

Perhaps you would care to continue after the lunch break?

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Yes, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are suspended until 2:15.

AT 12:20 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:20 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are resumed.

traffic than any other Honourable Member.

I do apologise for being late. I have no more control over the

continuing.

Proceedings are resumed. The Honourable Member for Health

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Yes, Mr. President. Traffic is a problem especially when a

Nor'Wester is coming.

MR. PRESIDENT:

[addressing another Hon. Member] If you leave, we will not

have a quorum. Fine.

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Yes, Sir. I am all alone on this side. I hope you do not call for a vote now, because it would be one against five or three. I have some support over there.

responsibilities, just giving Members the assurance that we are going to do the best we can and, in conclusion, I would like to make a few general observations.

When we took the break, I was finishing up on my Portfolio

Several Members who spoke voiced the opinion that we need to slow the economy down, but I have always maintained that the economy of any country is not like a car that we can turn on and off at our own whims and fancies. It was interesting to hear them criticise the Honourable Member for Tourism, about the small (and what I believe is going to turn out to be insignificant) downturn in the number of tourists for the month of January, telling him we need to do all sorts of things to get more tourists to stimulate the economy; and then, on the other hand, asking us to slow it down. I believe very much in supply and demand. I think the economy will slow itself down and we can just leave it alone. My concern with any kind of governmental or public intervention in the forces which move an economy is that it is very difficult to stop it once it is started. There are always going to be those critics who are going to say you did not succeed because you did not interfere far enough. Then there are going to be those who are going to say you did not succeed because you interfered too much. I think as little interference as possible has served us well in the past, and I believe that it will continue to serve us well in the future.

The Third Elected Member from West Bay mentioned that we need to remove the duty from foodstuff in order to help certain sectors of our population. I know of no instance where duty was removed off anything, foodstuff or otherwise, in this country where the price actually went down. I believe that in most instances the price went up, and the only people who benefited from the removal of duty were the merchants who were selling it in the first place - Government lost its income from the duty to be collected, so it reduced the resources Government had to help the people with social programmes. So I am not in favour, especially with the country's economy, and the (as some people describe it) overheated position that it is in, I do not think that now is the opportune time, nor would we get the benefits of the reduction of duty being passed on.

The Third Elected Member from George Town was very concerned about the public debt and any steps taken which might increase it. I believe that we are all conscious of the public debt situation. I do not believe that he is any more concerned than any of the rest of us. I think he might be a little more of an alarmist, but I believe that the public debt is still well within the respected bounds of what is allowable in any Government financial position. Further to that, I notice that even though he went into great details about his concerns for the public debt, he did not identify any of those, what I regard as, essential services that are being funded by public debt, or any of the projects in the Capital Budget which he would be prepared to put off for another day. It is all well and good to complain about the excessive (some people may feel growth is excessive) amount in Capital Budget, but, as far as I am concerned, those Capital projects are very essential to the progress of this country. I do not see any projects in there that could be put off for another day. If you put them off, we are simply going to increase the cost to get them in the final analysis.

I was overjoyed to hear the Third Elected Member from George Town sound as if he was in favour of dredging when he wanted the White Hall area dredged so that he could launch his boat...

POINT OF ORDER

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

Mr. President, on Point of Order, under Standing Order 34 - I do not know if he would wish to give way, but I would like ...

MR. PRESIDENT:

He has given way. He sat down.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

I hope the Member is not trying to tell the public, or impute to the public, relating to dredging, as such... what I said was that the dock, the launching ramp in White Hall needed to have some of the fill that was pushed in by the Hurricane removed. I did not get into the question of dredging, as such and I did explain with a back hoe...

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Member may now choose to comment as he wishes.

You really must not make a speech. You have made your point.

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

Mr. President, as usual, I apologise to the Member if I mislead the public on his intentions - but a rose by any name is just as sweet. There is only one way to get that fill out of that area, and that is to dredge it. Now whether we dredge it with a back hoe, or we can dredge it with a suction dredge, or we dredge it with a drag line, or we dredge it with a High Mac, dredging is dredging.

Since we are on the subject of dredging, I might just as well continue to upset them. I think the Third Elected Member from West Bay spoke about dredging, and I think he refers specifically to the Safehaven project. He referred to the royalty that Government was going to get as peanuts. I think that is a very narrow minded view because, certainly, Government is going to get much more from that project as it continues to develop than the royalty from the dredging. The Government revenue from that area is going to come from land sales, house sales and the 7.5 per cent transfer tax, and other areas. I think we will wind up with a little more than peanuts, Sir. I think that in the final analysis it will be a good project.

But in having taken a verbal beating earlier on in this session when I moved the Motion for Medical Termination of Pregnancy - everybody drawing in the fact that I was likely to legalise drugs and gambling next - I wonder what the Third Elected Member from West Bay meant when he said that Cayman could become the Monte Carlo of the Caribbean? As I know it, the economy of Monte Carlo is mostly based on gambling, with casinos, etcetera, etcetera. I do not know if he is advocating that we should pick up this slack in tourism from gambling. I just want to make it clear that I would not support making Cayman a 'Monte Carlo', where the economy is concerned.

On the whole, I believe that the economy of this country is in a good position. I believe that the Capital Projects which are in the Budget are needed, I believe that they are timely. I support the appropriations as outlined in the Budget Address and Appropriation Bill. I urge all Honourable Members to support the Appropriation Law, 1989. Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Elected Member for East End.

MR. JOHN McLEAN:

Mr. President, I am delighted to debate the Throne Speech and Budget Address, both of which were so ably presented to this Honourable House on the 17th of February by His Excellency the Governor, and by our Honourable Financial Secretary. Suffice it to say both documents are quite lengthy, but at the same time filled with information which is most relevant to the present and the future of the Cayman Islands.

The Governor mentioned that there would be some overlapping between the two addresses. This is quite true, however it was most important to do so in all cases. Tribute was paid to the Supervisor of Elections and his team for their efficiency in the recent general elections. I certainly would like to endorse that statement and I would add that we are still quite fortunate here in the Cayman Islands, to have elections which are carried out so peacefully. As we look around us in neighbouring territories, we hear of much violence and I also hope and trust that we will be in this position for many years to come.

There were a few things highlighted in the Throne Speech, and I believe one which was mentioned was that of postal voting. I believe the classic one, which really was not in the Throne Speech but is worthwhile mentioning and should be addressed before 1992, was that in one what district there was the nomination of a U.S. citizen who had not renounced their papers. We need to ascertain that matters such as this do not happen again.

In both addresses the continued growth of our economy was stressed and I felt this was most important to do. As I have mentioned many times, these Islands are in a very fortunate position; we are considered the envy of the world. I would urge this Government, and any other Government in the future, to endeavor to maintain that position; let us try to always be the envy of the world.

Tourism: Mention was made in the Throne Speech that tourism was showing signs that the rate of growth was slowing down. Several reasons were advanced for this. The one which is of most concern I would say, is that in some cases we may be pricing ourselves out of the market. This statement is a serious one, but at the same time it is quite true. I would voice caution to all those who are engaged in any way in the tourist related industry, to try to maintain as low prices as possible. We must always remember that around us there are other areas that cater to tourists, and in some cases they may have much more to offer.

Cayman Airways: I would like to say that I have always offered my support to our national airline and it is my intention to continue this in the future. I believe it is most important that we have such a service for our people and for visitors to our shores. It has always been my hope that the National Airline would offer to our young people, an opportunity to promote themselves in the various areas of opportunities that the airline offers. I have to say with deep regret, however, that I am a bit worried about the increasing number of foreign employees with the airline. I can recall when flying from here to Miami you felt as much at home as if you were walking around in Cayman. This has changed, and we might as well admit the fact. Sometimes on our national Airline one would believe that one was actually flying a foreign carrier because the stewardesses are all foreign and the pilots are all foreign. In some cases it is even hard to understand what is said to you over the intercom. I am aware that we have been told that one of the reasons for this is because of the salaries that are paid to employees. My honest opinion is that there is something more than salaries, and I would encourage the powers that be to check into this, to make certain that this matter does not balloon further out of proportion.

I took note from the Throne Speech that the company, Cayman Airways Limited, will be carrying out studies to evaluate different aircraft for the future. I honestly hope that it is for

the future, because by all reports it seems as if Cayman Airways Limited has as capable, as reliable, as good aircraft as there is presently used in the skies today. I believe that it would be a mistake to contemplate changing to another type at this time.

My information is that only last week the airline brought in from the United States a representative from Boeing Airlines, and an in-house study was carried out on some sort of lease agreement for two 757s or two 737s. My understanding is that a 757 will cost something like \$40 million; a 737 will cost about \$32 million; and I also understand that the payments would probably double or triple what we are paying quarterly on the 727s.

I recall when the 727s were purchased. Much study was put into the type of aircraft which was most reliable and most suitable for Cayman. The end result was that we ended up with the 727 which is an aircraft as I understand, capable of taking a fair amount of cargo and, at the same time, is capable of long ranges. My understanding is that if we are to change to either of the aircrafts mentioned, that is the 757 or the 737, we would have to look further at the possibility of making arrangements for cargo and I guess we would probably end up with another DC-6.

As I have mentioned, while I support our National airline, at this time I would find it hard to consider supporting such a large expenditure for what, I consider, is not even necessary at this time. These are my views. What I would support is a similar study, carried out on the Shorts Aircraft so that we could perhaps purchase a more suitable and reliable aircraft to do the flight between here and the Lesser Islands. I have heard many rumours on this aircraft. As a matter of fact, in this session much has been said as to the age of the aircraft. It is my humble submission that we should not wait until an accident happens. I would agree that it is much better for us to consider selling that aircraft, even if it is at a loss, rather than waiting until an accident occurs. I believe that there are many small aircrafts that would be more suitable for the run between here and the Lesser Islands. As I have mentioned earlier, I could support such a study, because I see it as being most necessary if we are going to continue to promote a good service to the Lesser Islands.

I would like to pay tribute to a gentleman who has contributed to tourism in these Islands and who has recently retired from the Civil Service. I speak of Mr. Eric Bergstrom. I hope and trust that his retirement will be a good one and his replacement will be equally as good as he has been and, hopefully, better. I know that there is a big job for him but it is one that is necessary for the continued growth of these Islands, so I would say to him, to take the bull by the horns and make every move possible to continue to promote tourism for the Cayman Islands.

On the Banking and Trust sector of the community. It is good to hear that there is a steady growth and that the number of banks and trust companies is now at 527. The Banks and Trust Companies, like Tourism, contribute much to the economy of these Islands. We have to be mindful of this fact at all times. We have presently on our agenda, a Bill for a Law on the Banks and Trust Companies Law which I have every intention of supporting with certain amendments. I see this as trying to secure and to strengthen what we have that can be considered the backbone of our economy.

While on the Banks and Trust Companies, I take note of a comment made in the Budget Address with regard to certain staff shortages and, I think, one area that was mentioned was the Bank Tellers. I am very concerned over this because this is a bracket of employment in the Banks where children coming out of High School, or any other school, have an opportunity to start off. I am hoping that the Bank Inspector will look into this very important matter to see exactly what the problem may be. I am an old banker - as a matter of fact, it was my first job after coming out of school. I must say that whatever I have done since that time, the experience which I have gathered there has helped me through life. I would encourage that it be looked after, and I hope and trust that a solution will be found for it.

I would like to pay tribute to the retired Collector of Customs, and at the same time welcome a young Caymanian, whom I have great respect for, taking up where Mrs. Bodden has left off. This is a very important job and I have no doubt that the young man who has been chosen for this position will do equally as good a job, or even better in the future.

In the Budget, Mr. President, some \$34 million was collected and we have always got to be mindful of the Customs Department because, as it has been stressed many times, this is an area which collects most of the revenue for these Islands. The task of the Customs Department goes even farther than the collection of revenue and again, I am pleased to see that it has become equipped with a boat which can now attend to what has become a very serious problem in these Islands - that of the drug problem. I believe that the Customs and the Police will be able to do a better job in the fight against drugs and crime in these Islands.

From the information given in the Throne Speech and the Budget Address, it is good to know that our currency board continues to make its contribution.

I also would like to pay tribute to our Broadcasting Department, which continues to play a very important part in these Islands. I recall during the recent Hurricane when we, in the district of East End, were somewhat cut off from communication. We relied heavily for the news from Radio Cayman, as to the location of the Hurricane. I am also encouraged to know that it continues to cover its expenses and for this we must pay tribute to the able staff of our Broadcasting Department.

This is one area that I can recall when a past Government of which I was a part, decided to have a Caymanian at the head. Much was said as to whether the individual would be able to manage and to run the facility properly. I am pleased today that we can look back with pride, because ever since, the Broadcasting Department has been run, and run well. I am pleased to know that I was a part of a Government that took such steps.

Again, I take pride in offering to the Legislative Assembly's Staff a tribute which I consider in every sense of the word, as deserving. The staff of this Assembly continues to do a

good job, continues to offer to each Member special courtesies and for my 12 years, I can only say that the staff here has been a pillar of strength. I hope and trust to work along with them as much as I can, and I give them the assurance that my support is with them.

I wish to also speak briefly on the Police: the Cayman Islands Police Force. I have always supported our Police Force. I have always reminded Members how important it is that we, as Legislators, should offer, in every way possible, our support to our only means of defense in these Islands. I was a bit saddened over what took place recently with regard to the Deputy Commissioner of Police. It is my hope that those Caymanians who are still in the Force will try as much as he has, to work themselves to the top and that one day in the near future we may again have a true born Caymanian as Deputy.

We have a new Commissioner, and I hope and trust that he will endeavour in every possible to exercise good leadership to our force. I hope that he will endeavour as much as possible to Caymanianise the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force. I have spoken to several of the Officers and I know that at this time the morale of the Force seems to be low. I hope and trust that the newly appointed Commissioner of Police will do his endeavours to mend the fences that have been torn so that in a short time, we will be able to see the results. I believe that he is an individual with those capabilities and I honestly believe that he will exercise whatever he needs to have this done.

Mention was made by a previous speaker of the behaviour of certain officers from within the Force. Right or wrong I would say that such a complaint should be investigated. I think it is unfair to those officers who are dedicated, those officers who are well behaved and well mannered and who are trying in every way possible to promote the Police Force. I have no axe to grind. If it is necessary to weed out a few to maintain a good Force, let us do so. The Police Force is an area that needs to set proper examples for our people, therefore we must be firm when it comes to matters as important as this one.

During this session, I tabled a number of questions, some on the police within my district. As I mentioned from the floor of the House, I did so with the greatest respect to the Civil Servant who is in charge of the Police, the Third Official Member of Executive Council; I did so with the greatest respect for the Officer who is presently in charge of the station in my district, because I am aware that he has a roster to go by and the times that he is not at the station, I am certain it is because he has duties to perform elsewhere.

It was brought to my attention that on more than one occasion, our police station was left unmanned during the night. Being the farthest away from the Capital, I feel that it is only right for us to have an officer in that station at all times. I have spoken to the Member with responsibility and I feel certain that I can depend on him to take the necessary steps and that in a short time this will be corrected.

I would say that if in order to get in contact with an officer my people have to be put on to another sub-station, say North Side or Bodden Town, by the time the Police arrive to the scene it may be too late. Thank God the incidents that I am speaking of this time were not too serious, but who is to know? It could have been a very serious matter. So much for the Police.

MR. PRESIDENT: Perhaps you would like to break, if you are changing subjects.

MR. JOHN McLEAN: Sure, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 3:15 THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:42 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The Elected Member for East End continuing.

MR. JOHN McLEAN: Mr. President, I now turn to the Prison Services. I would like to say that, like many other Members, I have great concern over the growing population of our Prison. At the same time, I am very concerned over the number of expatriate staff members.

A few days ago I tabled a question here and certain figures were given to me. Maybe I did not ask the supplementaries to get the answer I wanted, but I would say here that I honestly believe that we could have more true-born Caymanians on the staff of the Prison Services. I was told of a number with Caymanian status, but that in no way indicated to me the true figure that I have just mentioned. Many questions were asked and I believe that now that they have been brought to the attention of the Member, whom I mentioned earlier, I trust that he will realise that the questions were brought on the strength of complaints which were brought to me. We should try to do whatever is possible to make sure that we do not create unrest among the staff there.

I have been told by a fairly good source that officers were recruited from one of the Caribbean Islands, brought here and trained at the expense of these Islands. At the same time there were many Caymanians who applied; some with experience as police officers, some with experience as customs officers. Those receiving the jobs were the ones that were brought in - who did not even have the training that was necessary, and had to be trained in the Bodden Town Civic Center. I consider this unfair to our people, and it is for this reason that I have decided to bring it to the floor of the House. It is my hope that in the future we can see another Caymanian as head of the Prison Services. It was with deep regret to me that the incident happened, but, I would say, such is life. We must go on, we can not become discouraged. I would say at this point

to my fellow Caymanians who may be listening, they should consider that this is their Island and they should look at the future and make every effort to work towards filling that post in the future.

On Immigration: It is true that this is one of the departments of Government which is most affected by the economic growth of these Islands, but I would say that they have been able to cope quite well. I take note that mention was made of the present accommodations in the Budget, and I support this 100 per cent because this is an important department. We must do whatever possible to provide the proper accommodation so that in the future they will be able to exercise even greater authority as they carry out their day-to-day job.

On the Civil Service: I would like, as always, to pay tribute to them as they continue to work hard. One Lady Member used to say (Miss Annie Huldah Bodden) that the Government was as strong as the Civil Service; that the Civil Service was the backbone of the Government. We need to do everything possible to continue to encourage the many hardworking civil servants presently in the service. We need to do whatever possible to give them proper training. I agree that we should do job rotations within the Civil Service in an effort to broaden the knowledge. I feel that over the years there have been many obstacles for some civil servants. I know that since I have been a Member of this House I have heard many aired on the floor of this House, which I do not care to get into today, but I would just like to say that we have to keep a watchful eye at all times on our Civil Service. We must endeavour, as much as possible, to make sure that they are happy.

On Cayman Brac and Little Cayman: I am pleased to see from the Budget Address the progress that has been made in the Lesser Islands. We have the Airport building at present, and the Fire Station which is just about completed. I trust that with these new facilities we will soon see a great boom in their economy. I give the assurance to the Members and the people of the Brac, that I will continue, as I have in the past, doing whatever I can to support them in any way possible.

The Fire Services Department in Grand Cayman: Once again I am proud to say that under the able guidance of a well respected Caymanian, Mr. Kirkland Nixon, we have a Fire Service Department that we can be justly proud of. I am most happy to see that after several years of waiting we have been able to offer better equipment and better accommodations. We have been able to establish sub-Fire Stations in several districts. All of this, in my opinion, will assist him and his staff to offer to us an even better service in the future. I have every confidence that Mr. Nixon will continue to Caymanianise his department, and at the same time offer to the general public a top service.

I now turn to Education. I would say that we can honestly be proud of the system of education which we have in these Islands. I know that we have heard much; what system has been good, and which one has been bad, and who did what and who did not do, but I would say that for Islands the size of the Cayman Islands we have much to be thankful for. We cannot honestly stand in this Legislative Assembly and praise any one Government for the progress that we have made in education, because I honestly believe that the credit has to be spread over the many years and up to this time.

I am most delighted about the promotion of a Caymanian as advisor for Special Education. You will find these services in any part of the world rated as a very, very important area of education and it is no less here in the Cayman Islands. It is good to know that we have grown from 15 pounds, to almost (or over) \$10 million of spending on education in these Islands. It is my humble opinion that monies which are spent to educate our young people are monies well spent. Our society needs educated people and, as has been said, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."

I take the point of teacher recruitment for the Islands, as it was mentioned in the Budget, and I am aware that this is most important if we are to maintain the high standard of education which we can freely boast of today. I have a concern, however, that more could have been done, or more should be done, to attract and to keep more of our true-born Caymanians in the teaching profession of these Islands.

It would take me four days (not four hours) if I stood here and put forward every complaint, every problem that has been brought to my attention by Caymanians who have engaged themselves in being teachers for this country and who, for one reason or another, became dissatisfied and decided to work in another field.

Yearly, we spend millions to promote tourism in these Islands, and rightfully we should. I am in no way objecting to that. The point I am making is, what is wrong with us spending a few more hundred thousand or a few more million dollars in upgrading the salaries of our local teachers, so that they may reap the benefits of expatriate teachers who are brought to our shores? I am not saying that if we bring in expatriate teachers they should not be paid good salaries; what I am saying is that it should be equal for the local teachers. We have young Caymanian teachers who come back hoping to own a car, to have a home, a family. What is wrong with us extending to them the same allowances which we give to the foreign teacher? I believe that it is only fair to our own people. It takes much dedication for an individual to take up the teaching profession. I assure you I could never make it teaching somebody - I do not have the patience. But I admire young Caymanians when I see them move in that direction.

I believe that more dedication would be given from a Caymanian teacher if he or she knew that they were equally treated. I am saying this with the greatest respect for the teaching profession. I am not trying to belittle expatriate teachers because, as I pointed out when I started, we need to maintain the quality of education which we enjoy in these Islands. My only concern is the one which I have put forward.

While speaking on education, I have to agree with a previous speaker who objected to the idea of wardens on the school buses. I did not agree with this in the initial stages and I cannot agree with it now. I believe that this should be handled at a classroom level. It should be handled at a

parental level. I know that in this Chamber today there are many of us who had to travel by bus to go to school here in George Town and I recall that at no time where any one of us manhandled due to behaviour. The individuals in charge of the buses were men who demanded respect. If there were among us an upstart, the bus driver knew that he could deal with the matter, and in most cases it did not take much more from him than a look over his shoulder to sit us back in our seats.

I believe that the parents can also play an important part in their child's behaviour as they move from home to school. I can think of no morning when my children are leaving home (if I am on the Island) that I do not remind them of the way that they should conduct themselves on the school bus. I believe that the time has come in these Islands when parents must shoulder more responsibility for their children. In matters such as this one they should play a very important part. I am aware that none of us can put our heads on our children's shoulders, but at least we can try. We can try with our children.

I noticed in the Budget that much work had to be done on the schools after the Hurricane and I would ask here that, perhaps, a proper inspection be carried out on all school buildings throughout the Islands, because it is my understanding that in one area we could have lost lives had a certain classroom been occupied during the Hurricane. I am certain that the Member with this responsibility will do whatever possible to have this looked into. I feel that this is something that is due not only to our children, but also to the teachers who occupy those buildings on a daily basis.

Furthermore, it was mentioned that in many districts schools were used as hurricane shelters. I would say that we should try as far as possible to update and reinforce those buildings because I know that in some cases, some of the buildings are now several years old. It would be bad enough to have a Hurricane, and God knows I hope that we will never have another one like I have recently experienced, but what would be worse is to know that we take people from their homes to an area that should be safe, only to find we have roofs that may collapse.

I would like to say a few words about the Library services and the progress which has been made. I am glad to see that we have had a reorganisation and that the local history is now in a special collection. I feel that the history of any Island should be preserved as much as possible.

I was most pleased a few years ago, when (I think it was) Mr. Allison Ebanks tried to put together some history on these Islands. He has put together something on the story of the Majestic, and on the terrible hurricane of 1932. I would say his efforts there have proven that we should not wait until it is too late to make a move on this, because in both of the stories mentioned, those who played a very important part have, since that time, passed on.

I would say that, especially in the case of Mr. Dixon, we can look back with pride to his family for having such a very courageous individual who created history for these Islands and who saved many lives. Also in the case of Mrs. Nina Connolly, who weathered the terrible storm which she is so ably passed on information about. These are people whom we must be sure that, even after they have passed on, we can look back on with pride to know that they have left their history behind, and that will be most enlightening to generations to come. I hope and trust that great emphasis will be placed on this in the future because as we look around us, from district to district, we can see that the old folks who have the knowledge, a great knowledge, of the history of these Islands are slowly passing on.

I am pleased to see that a closer relationship with the Library and the Primary Schools, International College, Triple C School and the Northward Prison will be established; I feel that this is most important. The world being in the state it is today, we need to upgrade our facilities so that we can be current on world affairs.

Briefly, on the Museum: I would like to say that whenever I think of the museum I think of our dear departed friend and fellow Legislative Assembly Member, Mr. Jim Bodden, who made many efforts to establish a museum. I am glad to see that, thus far, we are moving in the right direction. There is only one regret with the temporary accommodations: it was not a building constructed of concrete which we could use for the Museum, because that building, in itself, is a museum. It is a fact that it is not safe and I agree fully that if we ever are to establish a museum, with the many years' collections, we must house them in a building that will be suitable.

I would like to touch on Sports, which everyone in these Islands will agree with me has ballooned over the last few years, especially in the area of football. When we are speaking today of Sports, and we are speaking today of football, we are speaking of our young people. Young people from every district of these Islands. Young people full of enthusiasm who are ready to compete amongst themselves and who are ready to compete abroad. These are our young people and, again, we must do whatever necessary to help them to promote themselves. Emphasis must be placed on facilities throughout these Islands and I would say that here on Grand Cayman, especially the out districts (my district), have many well known football players who have shown great competition over the years and who are prepared to do so in the future.

I am aware that a lot of gossip has been spread about me concerning facilities in my district. I would just like to put the record straight by saying that the first ever play field in the district of East End was put there through my efforts. It was found that it was too small, and I made every effort to have a second one. Quite recently I understood that a group from the district wanted a larger one which has been started next to the Civic Center. I approached the Member and asked him, and I must say he has now given me the assurance that he will try his endeavours to help me.

I recall that I mentioned in this House on many occasions the need to upgrade the present facility in my district. I asked questions, I even submitted, what was called the "shopping list" in an effort to try to upgrade the facilities in my district. So, I find it quite unfair when those who know better will try to degrade me, and try to tear me down by saying that I have not tried to promote sporting facilities in my district. With all that, I can look at those individuals and say (as has been recorded in the Good

Book), "Get thee behind me, Satan." Deceit does not kill John McLean, because I would have been a corpse long ago.

MR. PRESIDENT:
may be? We are just on half past four.

May I interrupt you and ask how much longer you think you

MR. JOHN McLEAN:
4:30, but it looks like it will be much longer.

Mr. President, I am sorry. I mentioned to you that it would be

MR. PRESIDENT:

Fine.

ADJOURNMENT

HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:
until 10:00 tomorrow morning.

Mr. President I move the adjournment of this Honourable House

THE PRESIDENT: The question is that this Honourable House do now adjourn until 10.00 tomorrow morning.
I shall put the question. Those in favour please say Aye...Those
against No.

AYES.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

The Ayes have it. The House is accordingly adjourned until

AT 4:32 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1989.

**WEDNESDAY
8TH MARCH, 1989
10:04 A.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT:

Prayers by the First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

PRAYERS

CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:

Let us Pray.

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings of the Assembly are resumed. Government business. The continuation of the debate on the Throne Speech and second Reading of the Appropriations Bill. The Elected Member for East End, continuing.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH
AND THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989.**

MR. JOHN B. McLEAN:

Mr. President, when we adjourned yesterday I was on the topic of sports. I was about to go on to a section that dealt with my district, East End. I had reached the area where I said that I had discussed the matter with the Member and he had agreed that we would go out at a suitable time to visit the district, and that he would do whatever was possible to assist me. It is necessary to have some more topsoil put on the field in my district. There is a portion of the property that needs to be properly cleared and leveled. Very importantly, the property needs proper fencing. Like other districts, it would be good if I could have the field lit so the young people could practice at night and prepare themselves for games.

I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to the Member for his assistance with the hard court for volleyball, netball and basketball. I feel I speak on behalf of the young people when I say how grateful they are for this.

As I mentioned, I have always supported sports. My recommendation to the last Government was to purchase a parcel of property in the Gun Bay area. I need not explain to the House the way the district of East End is laid out. Geographically, there is a lot of space between East End central and Gun Bay. Gun Bay is a growing community, Sir. We need to look at some sporting facilities for that area. This goes back to 1984 when there was \$30,000 budgeted, but because there was a problem with the property at that time it could not be bought. It is my understanding that since that time this has been cleared up. I would seek Government's support to try to do whatever possible to purchase it in this year's budget.

On health: I must congratulate the Member for his firm action in regards to AIDS within these Islands. It is a fact that AIDS is a serious killer, every possible step must be taken to try to prevent its spread. As in many things, education comes first. I was most pleased to see that we were able to join with other nations on the 1st of December, 1988, in observing what was the first World AIDS Day. I was especially pleased to know that he was able to distribute certain brochures which will help the populace of these Islands to understand what AIDS is all about.

As drug abuse has become a huge problem in Cayman, I am happy to see that the National Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs has been set up. I would like to pay tribute to the various organisations that have been offering counselling on drug abuse. I feel that it is only right to make special mention of Cayman Against Substance Abuse (CASA). I would say that they have probably been more active than most other organisations. They have reached out to the various districts and in each case there are drug education programmes available.

In an effort to eradicate drug abuse in these Islands it is incumbent upon each and every individual it concerns to join hands and try to fight this giant which has already destroyed many lives and will continue to do so in the future if more is not done. The time is now for us to discontinue shaking the leaves on the trees and to work on the roots. It is a fact that for a long time, this is what has been happening. The Police Report reveals figures of some 3,061 reported cases in 1988 of which 2,258 were cleared up. I would say that there is a huge escalation from the four cases that were mentioned in 1984.

Regardless of whether we agree with it or not, another very serious problem in these Islands is alcohol abuse. It is sad to say that we have infants who are suffering as a result of parents being alcoholics. We have families that are torn apart because of those who are alcoholics. I feel confident, Sir, that with what the Member has said he will endeavour, in whatever way possible, to work toward trying to curtail this problem. I do not know if we will ever find the solution to stop it. Again, I would urge all organisations, including the churches, to continue to do their fair share, especially with counselling to see if we can work together and do whatever possible for the betterment of these Islands.

On district clinics: I am pleased to know that we will have an evaluation of the clinics in the near future. I feel that this is most necessary because, while I am happy about having a clinic in my district, there are one or two things that I am far from being satisfied with. It is my intention to get together with the Member and to bring these to his attention to see if we can do something to make the situation operate much smoother. I agree with the previous speaker that we need to consider having more doctor visits to the out clinics. At my clinic, in particular, and perhaps the one at North Side, we need a nurse on call at all times because there will continue to be accidents in the future as has been in the past. We need to know that we have a source where we can go to control the problem until aid can be brought in from the General Hospital.

On sub-standard Housing: May I say that the survey which was completed in 1988 is a very good thing. I am glad to know that it has revealed that only 3 per cent of the population falls within that category. I am certain that this condition is not one which was brought on by any family or any one individual because, as I have said many times, Caymanians are a very proud people; they are always ready to try to better themselves. My humble submission on this matter is that if we now know that it is only 3 per cent, let us endeavour to take the necessary steps to stop it. The action thus far by the Social Services Department and the Environmental Health Services to upgrade 14 sub-standard homes is a step in the right direction. Both Departments should be commended for this work. Again, I was happy to hear what the Member had to say on this matter. I feel certain that he will do his best to have it attended to as soon as possible.

Mr. President, one Member mentioned a few days ago that we need to seriously look at the lower income bracket to see that they have proper housing. I agree 100 per cent with this. Further, I agree with the Member that we must make sure that we do not create, as I have seen in other Islands, the setup of a whole block of identical houses. To me that creates a greater eye sore than to see certain homes that are somewhat torn apart. In each case we must check it out on its merits, and check it from district to district. In the cases where we might find an individual with some property we should assist them to establish a nice home on it.

On Social Services: It is good to see that we have two more young Caymanians who have just returned with their Bachelor Degrees. I am certain that with the work load of that department the additional help is welcome. I am certain that there is much the Department has to plan for the future. I must say thanks to them for the great assistance which was given to my district during hurricane Gilbert. It is my hope that they will continue to assist me in finalising the restoration project. I can think of one or two areas that are still not completed.

In the Budget Address mention was made of the Juvenile Law, with the hope of presenting it to the House at mid-year. It is my hope that all those concerned with the Law and juveniles of these Islands will accept the invitation to review this so that there will be no hold up of the process. My opinion of this matter is that a new Juvenile Law is badly needed because each and every day there seems to be more and more in that area that needs to be dealt with. I assure the Member that he can depend on my support because I see the need and urgency for that Law.

On Agriculture: I would say this subject has always been near and dear to me. It is one which I have always tried to promote in the Cayman Islands. I believe that it was Jacques Lenin who said: "Earth is here so kind. Just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with the harvest." Agriculture in the Cayman Islands takes a little more than tickling the earth to reap the harvest. However, over the years we have had those who have been determined to prove that agriculture can be successful. I would say compared to other Caribbean Islands it is done on a smaller scale, but in most cases our harvest is a superior product. The way I see it the farmers need the Government's assistance in several ways: Technical advice; money at favourable interest rates; the necessary labour force; proper, accessible farm roads to interior farm lands, especially in the Districts of East End and North Side; and last, but not least, a good supply of water.

We have come a long way in agriculture. I can recall in 1980 when I took over the Portfolio, I believe the figures for agricultural supplies for the Department of Agriculture was something like \$15,000. The following year I had that amount doubled because I had instituted a system of importing animal feeds, fertilisers, etcetera, to be sold to the farmers at cost. I have noticed in the Estimates that there are funds which were earmarked for a certain project which I will be making a Motion in Finance Committee to have these funds transferred to another area where I feel they would be much better spent. What I am saying in regards to this is in no way against the present Member because he is new in the Portfolio, but I am very concerned to know that we would be voting funds to put in the hand of an individual from within the Department who I would consider has not been doing what is correct.

I speak of the area of the demonstration farm on Smith Road. I would like to point out my gripe about it. It was sometime last year when I saw what I would consider a waste of

Government funds on that demonstration site. I saw as good a crop of sweet potatoes as has ever been produced in these Islands taken out of the ground and left in piles where the sun totally destroyed them. Thereafter, I presume they were taken to the dump. When I saw this I made it my business to go in there. I looked them over myself. I further made it my business to speak to Mr. Barclay, the agronomist. I questioned him as to why such lovely potatoes were not given to the poor, the Girls' Home, the Old Peoples' Home, the Hospital or someplace, rather than leaving them there, at what I consider Government's expense, to deteriorate. I was told that the potatoes were to be given out to farmers for what is called bits, to be planted out. We have a farmer, like myself, right here in this Chamber who would agree that at no time would you take a 4 or 5 pound sweet potato and give it to a farmer and tell him to use it for planting bits. I have seen this sort of thing done from very small pieces or small potatoes that are taken out of the ground. I considered it a waste.

Presently, I see other funds being spent on an area (which again I do not see the necessity of) - the large quantity of fill being pushed in. I am certain that if the true figures were shown on that plot of land there would be no end to the fill that has been put in over the years. I believe these funds would be better spent if they were directed to the farmers, the Agricultural Society, or the Farmers Market, than to send them back to be spent in the areas I have mentioned. For this reason, as I have pointed out, I will take a firm stand on this matter. If I had been the Member with the responsibility at the time when this great waste was made, I can honestly say that I would have endeavoured in every way to see that his contract was terminated. Not just terminated for a term, but terminated for good.

While on farming, I must pay tribute to the staff of the Farmers Market, and to the many farmers who have come forward and given some of their time at the Market. I have never agreed to the location of the Farmers Market, but I have certainly supported the idea since 1983, when I endeavoured to have original plans printed for a Farmers Market and abattoir. As has been said, I am still not satisfied that the building is the type we should have. I certainly do not agree with the location. I believe that we could have saved ourselves a lot of money had another, more suitable, site been chosen. I need not say the type of land that is around that area because for those who may doubt me, they need only drive by and they can see the amount of fill that had to be put in to level off that area. I know that Government has more suitable land that could have been utilised for this. However, it has been built there and we will have to make the best of it but rightfully, as has been pointed out, I can see in the near future that we are going to be handicapped for space. Already it seems to be too small.

While still on farming may I, as the President of the Cayman Islands Agricultural Society, express our regrets for not being able to host our annual Agricultural Show this year. As everyone knows this was because of an act of God and not of man. Hurricane Gilbert again played a toll. Our pavilion was destroyed and with many crops which were damaged it was almost useless for us to try to put together a show this year. It is the hope of the Board of Directors and members of the society that, with Government's support and with God's help, we will be able to relocate and reconstruct a pavilion so that next year we will be able to put on our 27th Annual Show.

In summary, on farming, may I say that I am urging all farmers throughout the Islands to continue to work and unite. Let us try our best to promote the Farmers Market. Let us try to promote agriculture in the Cayman Islands.

The Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU). I would like to make a few brief remarks. I will start by saying that we must continue to support the MRCU to the fullest, as they continue to control the breeding of mosquitoes in these Islands. I need not go into the importance of controlling mosquitoes. Each and every one of us knows why we have to do that. We should always be mindful of and never forget the hard task of the Late Mr. Giglioli, who shouldered a heavy workload to establish control of mosquitoes to the stage we have today.

I know one Member mentioned the old smoke-can days. Rightfully so, days that I would not like to go back to in my lifetime. I would say this is one of the reasons that I have the greatest of respect for the older folks of these Islands. It was through those hard times that they weathered the storm and, with a lot of hard work, they were able to mold the future of these Islands which we enjoy today.

I am also happy to see a study has been carried out by the Natural Resources Lab on the Islands conch population. It is very encouraging to know that there will be an ongoing study of the fish population. These are very important areas to these Islands, for present and future generations. I would say that we have to do our best to encourage this and make sure that these studies and/or recommendations are carried out when completed.

The Postal Services: I would like to say that I will not support moving the general Post Office from its present location. I consider that site a very outstanding landmark. If the present building is now overcrowded, I believe there is an answer to that. I would suggest that we look in other areas where we could establish a building that could house the offices for the Post Office and the bulk mail. By so doing we would alleviate the space that is needed in the present facility. I would say in the present facility we would need no more than one Senior Officer at any one time, along with those who are taking care of the mail going into the mail boxes. I am sure many would agree with me that in being in the centre of George Town, tourists, especially from the cruise ships, can easily walk to the Post Office. We have many people living in the immediate area of George Town who can still walk to the Post Office easily. There are many things that would have to be taken into consideration if this facility were to be removed from its present location. Are we going to provide a service, or are we going to provide confusion for the people of this district?

The Public Works Department: I would like to say that I am in support of the training programme for the Public Works Department. It is good to know that we have several Caymanians who are qualifying in engineering and architecture. The Public Works Department continues to shoulder a heavy workload, as this is the Department that is responsible for the various jobs throughout the

Government system. I believe that with the Ground Transportation Plan coming on line, the Public Works Department is going to have a much heavier work load. I believe that we would be taking the right steps if the Government would consider looking into the possibility of handing out contracts to local contractors if we are to complete any of our capital projects as outlined in the Budget. I believe that with the close scrutiny of the Department this could be done. In the end we would see that it was good to take such steps.

The staff of the Public Works Department have to be offered thanks with appreciation for their many efforts during the cleanup after Hurricane Gilbert. I saw many of the men from Public Works working around the clock in the various districts. Once again I would say that this brings us back to one thing; the true dedication of our Caymanian people, not only to their jobs, but also to their country as a whole.

I know that there are still several things to be done which took place during the Hurricane. I could mention a few areas in my district where the road was pretty well torn up and needs some attention because it is on the stretch of road that leads to the one hotel that is in the district at this time. I do not think it would be incurring too much cost on Government to ask that the Member give me the support of having the immediate work done in having this road restored. Matters of this magnitude should be attended to as soon as possible because, as I have pointed out, it is on the road that takes a lot of tourists and, of course, we need to try to keep them as happy as possible.

Water Authority: A few days ago I tabled some questions with regard to the water problem in Grand Cayman at this time. I am very concerned for the future. It is my hope that steps will be taken to establish, at various points on the Island, more facilities to produce water. I am not a professional on this but I have spoken to those with knowledge in producing water and, for one reason or another, it was felt that the present system which is used by Caribbean Utilities Company (CUC) was not the right one.

We are blessed with areas on the Island with access to the sea, the deep water. It is my understanding that there are plants which can be hooked directly to the sea. Plants which can produce more than an adequate supply of water for this Island.

I have a further concern over the continuous extraction of water from the Water Reservoir in my district. I have been told that it is constantly monitored, and I appreciate that. It is a known fact that in my district or, I should say, that end of the Island, has been known to have less rainfall than the other areas of the Island. Therefore, it concerns me as to whether there will be sufficient fresh water to replenish the ground supply before it becomes sour and becomes ruined.

I know that we have been told that the supply in Lower Valley is still going well. That is contrary to the information that I have heard from residents living in that area, residents that have used certain wells for many years. I have also heard individuals with farm land and truckers complain. My urgency for putting this matter forward is with the hope that action will be taken before I have the same complaints in my district. I believe that this matter is important enough that action should be taken immediately. Again, I trust that the Member with responsibility who knows my concern, because I have said so before (as a matter of fact, we have been privileged to visit the facility in my district), I have every trust that he will endeavour to take the necessary action to see that this can be dealt with urgently.

I beg to register my concern over the fact that we are discussing a Budget of over \$103 million. The Capital Expenditure is estimated at \$19.4 million. To know that, again, the district of East End has not been honoured with one Capital Project; at least I can say that it has not been identified in the estimates. I feel that when any Member, regardless of what district he may come from, brings a request to the attention of Government, it should be heard. It should be remembered when requests are brought here, I am not bringing them for John McLean, I am bringing them for the district and the people whom I represent. There are many things which I have identified over the past four years. I would like to give credit where credit is due. I have had some work done on a ramp and jetty, the interior road, the by-pass road from John McLean Drive to Church Avenue. All of this is greatly appreciated, not only by myself, but by the people whom I represent.

I am hoping that further considerations will be given to the various projects that I have identified. I would like to take up a little time of this House to go through them again. I would start with one that I consider to be most urgent and most important and only fair to the people of East End because they, too, are expected to pay the same revenues as anyone else in these Islands. That is: the road from Frank Sound to the old village of East End, which needs attention. I know that the Member is aware of this and I feel that when we go to Finance Committee he will try to support me to have the work done there.

May I say that I am in no way expecting all of these projects to be done this year, but I am hoping that at least one or two could be done each year over the next four years. I have asked for the completion of the play field; more interior farm roads; land for a Hurricane shelter and a playing field in Gun Bay. This is very important, Sir. I again asked that an ambulance be bought for the Eastern districts. I have asked for more relief for the poor, for those who qualify. I have asked for improvements and expansion of the Sunrise Cottage for the Elderly. I have had an opportunity to take His Excellency the Governor to visit this facility. Not only myself, but those who work there, had an opportunity to point out the necessity for expansion and improvements at this time. I have asked for a stand-by generator and medical facilities for the Civic Centre. I spoke to the First Elected Member on a rest area by the blow holes for the tourists who frequent the district. I have asked that consideration be given to a full size play field for the district; a ramp and jetty for the Gun Bay area; change rooms at the park recreation area in East End. I am hoping that a blind eye will not be turned again to my requests.

As I mentioned yesterday, going back to 1984, it is my understanding when I submitted a list of requests it was called a shopping list. I am not worried about what it is called - it can be called by any name. The only thing I want to know is that the list is being adhered to and at least some of the items are being filled.

In conclusion, again it is my hope that when we go to Finance

Committee Members will see fit to support at least one Capital Project for my district. I give the House my assurance that these projects are not projects that I have thought up out of the blue, but projects which are necessary for my district. May I say to all Members in conclusion that we should endeavour to put our differences aside, discontinue the personal attacks in this Chamber and work together for the purpose for which we were elected; a better future for the Cayman Islands. Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:

I thank you, Mr. President.

Before going into my speech I would like to say that I have been having problems with an ear infection. It has been very difficult to prepare this speech. Probably more difficult in delivering it. I beg the indulgence of the House if I have some difficulties. Thank you.

I would like to join other Honourable Members of this House in congratulating you Sir, on the very informative and well delivered Throne Speech which you delivered as Governor, Her Majesty's Representative, to this Honourable House on Friday, the 17th of February.

The State opening of the Legislature is a very colourful occasion, and a very important occasion in my mind. It signifies our British Crown Colony Status, and I associate the Throne Speech with this. I am very grateful for the very close association that we have had with our mother country, the United Kingdom, over the many decades and I pray that this will continue forever.

I would also like at this time to congratulate the Honourable First Official Member, the Financial Secretary for the very comprehensive and well delivered Budget Address which he delivered the same day. These two documents are very important documents. They become a part of my reference library. I think they should be a very important part of the history of the Cayman Islands. As I look back over many of the Throne Speeches and Budget Addresses you can see how development has taken place at such a rapid rate. We must be grateful for the fine fiscal management of our country.

The Budget Address is in fact the Second Reading of the Appropriations Bill, 1989, and it clearly shows our people the great benefit that we have received from our stability and the prudent fiscal management over the past decades. The estimated expenditure for the year 1989 amounts to CI \$102,963,813. This is a very large Budget for such a small country, so small a land area and a small population. The fact that we can, today, debate a Budget of this size, a balanced Budget, and that no additional revenue raising measures have had to be incorporated in this Budget, at this time, is a great compliment to this Government and past Governments.

Mr. President, as you stated in your Throne Speech, 1988 was indeed an eventful year for these Islands. The year 1988 was the first time in many decades that the three Islands of this group were all damaged by a hurricane; Grand Cayman having been fortunate in the previous several hurricanes that damaged Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. We must thank almighty God that there was no loss of lives as it was a severe hurricane and that we survived with as little damage as we did. It is estimated that the insured damage exceeded \$16.5 million, I am told.

Also during 1988, we were honoured to have a Royal visit. Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra, visited Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. This was the first time that a member of the Royal family has ever visited the Lesser Islands and I can assure you that it was very deeply appreciated by all the people of those two smaller Islands. It is a day that will always be remembered by the Brackers.

Also during 1988 we faced a General Election. All Honourable Members of this House, and those who retired and those that were not re-elected, either faced an election or sought not to seek re-election. It was a hotly contested election. Methods of electioneering and campaigning, quite foreign to the Cayman Islands, were introduced. I am thankful to say the Election is over. I hope that the wounds have healed and we are here today to move forward, united as a Legislature for the betterment of our country.

In speaking of the General Election, I would like to congratulate the Supervisor of Elections and his entire team for the very able job which they all did and the superb manner in which the Election was carried out.

Our economy continues to grow stronger year by year. The outlook for a continued strong economy is very bright. There have been some fears expressed in the press, and otherwise, of a downturn in tourism. It is my hope that this is an isolated incident and will be proven to have been possibly from the result of the Election in the United States and Hurricane Gilbert, and will only be a very insignificant downturn in the long run. But I caution all people of the Cayman Islands that we depend heavily on tourism and it is imperative on all involved in the hospitality industry to give value for money, be courteous and realise that those people coming here have other destinations in which they can go to. We need them. We must appreciate them and ask them to continue to come.

We also have devalued currencies in nations adjoining us which makes it more attractive from a dollar and cents point of view. The United States, herself, has started campaigns to encourage U.S. citizens to vacation on the mainland, U.S.A. I think this is a contributing factor in keeping a lot of the U.S. citizens on the continental shores.

I am a bit concerned on the rising cost of living here in the Cayman Islands. Inflation is something I fear. I think we have been extremely fortunate over the years that we have been able to control inflation as well as we have here. I note with some concern that the cost of living did rise 6.2 per cent in 1988. This will affect residents and visitors alike as it will force our prices to be even higher. We must do everything we can to try to control our prices on merchandise to our people and to our guests coming in for we do

not want to price ourselves out of the market.

The Cayman Islands, as a whole, must be proud of our per capita income as it has been reported (I sometimes wonder about this rating but nevertheless), it says that we have approached Bermuda and very close to the per capita income of the U.S. It shows a rapid pace in the growth of the economy in the Cayman Islands.

I now go to the Judiciary: I would like to say that I am very proud that we have seen the large back-log of pending criminal trials reduced in the Grand Court and the summary Court of Appeals. They have both been reduced. I note that the civil litigations continue to expand as our economy expands. I guess that will continue.

I am very happy to learn that a pilot scheme to the stenotype system will start where verbatim court reporting will be done in our courts. I think, for years, that this has been needed. I think it will definitely speed up the process where the learned judge does not have to make all these recordings himself. I think it is a move in the right direction and I welcome its introduction when it comes about.

Public Service Commission: This is a branch of our Government which we do not hear very much about. I realise the very important part it plays as it makes recommendations to you as His Excellency, and recruitments, promotions, transfers and other matters concerning the Civil Service. I am happy that they have adopted a policy of attempting Caymanianize the Civil Service wherever possible and as quickly as possible.

I note with interest that four senior posts have recently been filled by Caymanians. They are Chief Environmental Health Officer, Director of Lands and Survey, Hospital Administrator and Superintendent of Insurance.

Cayman Islands Currency Board: Every time I look at the Currency Board Report I realise what a correct decision it was when it was taken that the Cayman Islands should have its own currency. It has been a great advertiser of the Cayman Islands and also a great financial benefit to us. I think that it is one of the most widely used souvenirs of people coming here. I know that when we had the ships arriving in Cayman Brac almost every Master that came wanted a set of coins and bills to take back with him as a souvenir. It is encouraging that the total assets at the end of 1988 was CI \$25 million; up from \$21.1 million in 1987. I notice, too, that we had four numismatic coin programs in 1988 and it included a very popular one, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra's visit of November 1988.

Legal Firms: I have always supported the Law School. The Law School could not have been a success without the legal firms. I think that we should congratulate the legal firms, particularly those which have been keen supporters of the Law School in articling clerks to the Law School. I understand that there are some that do not participate, but for those who do, I certainly wish to congratulate them. I would ask all others to give it serious consideration. They employ over 160 people and contribute about \$6.8 million to the economy. Another important area in which they help is to supply legal aid to the less fortunate through the facilities of our Government.

We could not have the type of off-shore financial centre that we have if we did not have the accounting and legal firms of the stature that we do. These professions are very necessary in a business community such as ours. Their high professional skills contribute a lot to our success. The accounting firms have also encouraged young Caymanians to study in that profession and I congratulate them for their interests. I understand that over 20 students are now studying overseas towards degrees in that field.

The financial sector - Banking and Trust: I think Cayman is known as the Island with the most banks throughout the world, or almost so. I understand that today we have about 527 Bank and Trust Companies licensed in the Cayman Islands from at least 57 countries. This speaks well for our stability and our future looks bright. "We now have licensed 23 of the largest 25 banks going on to 44 of the largest 50. With more and larger bank, the total assets of the Cayman banks at end 1987, which is the latest date for which data is available, rose to US\$250 billion." In my opinion, banking is the main pillar of our economy and we must do everything to preserve it. I know we will be looking at legislation later in this meeting pertaining to Banks and Trust Companies. It is my understanding that over 1,000 persons are employed by Banks and Trust Companies on this Island.

Insurance: Insurance companies continue to grow. We have 29 new Class "B" insurers with captive licenses, making a total of 362 licensed captive insurance companies doing business in the Cayman Islands. We understand the United States presently indicates they will not be extending the Federal Excise Tax (FET) Treaty with some of our competing countries after 1990. Without this treaty it will put us on par with our competitors and it is hoped that this will help to increase our business in the insurance field.

While speaking on insurance, I note with interest that it is the intention to amend the Insurance Law to make Motor Vehicle Third Party Insurance compulsory. I support this. I have seen the results of fatalities in my district where they had only "Act" insurance. The people left behind had to know want because there was no legal recourse because they did not have the financial resources to claim against and of course with Act insurance you could not go against the insurance company.

MR. PRESIDENT: Would that be a convenient moment to break for you?

CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL: Yes.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings suspended for 15 minutes.

HOUSE SUSPENDED AT 11:22 A.M.

HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:45 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Lesser Islands continuing.

Proceedings are resumed. The First Elected Member for the

CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:

Thank you, Mr. President.
When we took the break I had just completed speaking on

insurance.

I go now to Company Registration: During 1988 we had a very good year in Company Registrations; the best since 1977. In 1987, \$7 million was collected, while in 1988 we surpassed that by \$1 million; with total fees collected in 1988 being \$8 million. There were 2,993 new companies were incorporated in 1988. This proves that legislation passed in 1987 in this Honourable House has had positive beneficial effects on company registration.

Agricultural and Industrial Development Board (AIDB): This is a very important Board as it contributes and provides finances to a sector of our country which generally is not able to get funds from commercial lending institutions at rates they can live with. It continues to play a very important part by offering financial assistance to farmers and small businesses at an interest rate well below the current bank rate and for much longer periods. That is one of the most serious problems with borrowing money from the commercial lending institutions. Although the interest rate is high, the time period is the greatest limitation as three years is the normal period commercial banks in the Cayman Islands prefer to lend money for. It is almost impossible to repay it within that period.

The AIDB now also provides loans to vocational and technical fields and also supplements scholarships on a percentage basis for degree courses. It is an area that Government must pay very close attention to as we must help our farmers and our small businesses because it is essential that our Caymanian businessmen be a success. I am particularly sympathetic to our farmers. I fully realise a lot of effort has to go into the raising of crops. Often times they have crop failures and if they are faced with large payments with high interest rates over short periods they just cannot get started. I feel our Government must continue in any way possible to assist our farmers and small Caymanian businessmen and women who wish to enter the business field.

I go now to Tourism: I noted that during 1988 many things took place which had a major effect on tourism in the Cayman Islands. The Royal Palms Hotel was totally destroyed by fire, the Cayman Islander Hotel was closed, the stock market crash in late 1987 continued to have an adverse effect on tourists from North America. We had a blow from Hurricane Gilbert, though not posing too much damage to the hotel industry, the adverse publicity had damaging effects to tourism in North America and Europe. It came across as if we had been almost totally devastated whereas the hotel industry suffered very little damage.

In Cayman Brac we had problems with the Short aircraft. We had frequent interruptions of our scheduled flights to Cayman Brac which inconvenienced the travelling public somewhat. One problem that Cayman Brac has, which is quite contrary to Grand Cayman, is that the heaviest period of tourism on Cayman Brac seems to be the summer months. That is the months when Cayman Airways cuts back their schedule. The records show that our peak period is summer and Grand Cayman's peak is winter. It seems that the two Islands often differ.

I have been trying to think and consider ways and means of improving tourism on the Lesser Islands. Some of the so-called experts have said to me there is very little use of us trying to promote anything other than scuba diving because of our poor quality of beaches. They suggest that we should make efforts to advertise the uniqueness of the Bluff. The high elevation that we have at the eastern end of the Island where possibly a cable car or some other type of transportation, different from the type that is on Grand Cayman and other Caribbean Islands would be an attraction. We should make an effort to provide nature trails, cave exploration, bird watching attractions in addition to scuba diving because, as I said, if the tourists coming to the Island are not satisfied and do not give a good impression to their fellow members of the profession, they will not encourage other people to come. We have a problem in Cayman Brac. I would ask the Honourable Member for Tourism to assist us with this and I ask all the people of the Lesser Islands to try to unite and put our thoughts and finances together to improve tourism in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

I go now to Customs: I would like to congratulate the recently appointed Collector of Customs; I am very pleased that he is a Caymanian. He is one with experience; someone that has come up through the ranks of the Customs Department. I understand that he deserves much congratulations for the way he has taken hold of his Department. It is a very important Department. The year 1988 was a record year for that Department; \$34 million in revenue was collected by the Customs Department. This was \$6.3 million more than in 1987; a 22.9 per cent increase. The figure of \$34 million exceeded the revised estimates for the year 1988 by \$5 million. It was indeed a very big and good year for the Customs Department.

The Customs Department is a well run, reliable and efficient Department. The total cost to run this Department was less than 3.9 cents per dollar of revenue collected. This is a very good ratio. I would like to say to every member of the Customs Department, both in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, thanks for a job well done.

I could not speak of Customs and not single out the task force. I think their job in the interception of illegal drugs attempting to come into these Islands is playing an important part of what progress we are making. I am happy to see that with the aid of the United States Customs, we now have a boat which is fast. I hope this special equipment will help to strengthen that force and will be another tool that will help to control the illegal importation of drugs into our country.

Ship registration is something that is of concern to me having

come from a ship owning family and being involved in the shipping industry all of my life. I have experienced the need for a proper ship registration here in the Cayman Islands. During my active years at sea, as our ships got older we were forced to remove them from the Cayman Islands registry and place them under some other flag of convenience. We could remain with the Cayman Islands flag as long as we could get a Form B, United States Coast Guard load line on them, but when that was impossible to secure because the ship was over 12 years old we then had to go to some other flag of convenience. Primarily, because at that time the Cayman Islands was not a signature, it was a solace convention; the safety of life at sea. I am very happy today that this convention has been extended to our Ships Registry in the Cayman Islands, as has The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of Ships, the International Tonnage Convention, and the Convention of Load Lines, 1966. We now have an active full Marine Survey Department on Grand Cayman Islands which is serving the needs of our shipping industry. I feel that once the crewing arrangement has been ironed out, no doubt, our shipping registry will grow. Our Ship Agency Company represents many of the large ship owners of the world and we have been in contact with many of them who have desire to register ships here because of the stability of our Government and because we now have a proper and complete ship registration.

Having been a Member of this House for the last eight years, I am not going to enter in to a debate on the financial position of our Government. I am satisfied that we have reached our present financial position through sound financial management. For the Cayman Islands to show a total surplus at the end of 1988 of \$12 million plus, must be the envy of every nation in the free world. The CI\$12 million is made up of surplus brought forward at the end of 1987 and \$5 million plus, at the end of 1988. This speaks highly and I compliment our Honourable Financial Secretary, the First Official Member, and the Members of our Government.

Broadcasting. I would like to congratulate Radio Cayman, its director and staff, for the good job they are doing in keeping the three Islands informed of local and international events. Radio Cayman is very necessary in times of national emergencies such as hurricanes approaching and other times of danger.

One concern that I have is that Radio Cayman has had a problem in recent times. In 1988 with their AM broadcast, 1550, which is the frequency that is received by the Lesser Islands. We now have the FM broadcast which we receive very nicely in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman but this is powered by electricity supplied by the Cayman Brac Power and Light Company. As we all know it is necessary for the Power Company to shut down electrical current well in advance of the arrival of a hurricane to prevent damage to property and possible loss of life from electrocution. We experienced this during Hurricane Gilbert. The AM frequency was out. The FM frequency was broadcasting nicely. We were able to keep in contact with Radio Cayman but Power and Light experienced trouble from 7:00 P.M. the night prior to the arrival of the storm, and it went off the air. Therefore, we had no contact with Radio Cayman after that time. I would like to recommend if some method of a portable generator could be provided to supply current to the FM transmission in times of an emergency because the FM frequency seems to be more reliable than the AM broadcast.

I would like to say how much we the people of the Lesser Islands, appreciate Radio Cayman because it is a way in which we can keep abreast of what is going on with our central Government and the affairs on Grand Cayman.

Computer Services is an important service. I support the computerisation of all our Government Departments because as our Government gets bigger and bigger it would be almost impossible to do things the old way. I am happy that computerization is moving ahead in all the Departments as rapidly as it is. I realise that it creates its own cost but I think in the final analysis it will be money well spent. I am encouraged to see that Caymanians are being trained to move up in computerization and that we do have Caymanians that in the not-to-distant future will be able to move into high management positions within the Computer Services.

The Government Information Service is keeping the whole country informed of what is going on here and overseas. Their facts booklets, brochures, annual reports and other information sheets are extremely well prepared. I understand that with new equipment they are now able to prepare them camera ready which will be a considerable saving to our Government. This is a great move forward. I also note that the unit has been increased by one staff member who is also a Caymanian. I am proud of our Information Service and the job they are doing.

The Immigration Department is, in my opinion, one of the most (if not the most) important departments of our Government. It controls legal entry and hopefully prevents illegal entry into our country. This is very important because we are small not only in population, but in land area. We must be very selective of who we allow to remain here. Our Immigration Officers are the first people that meet our visitors and residents returning home as they enter our country. They must be goodwill ambassadors. A tourist or foreigner coming here gets an impression of a Caymanian by the image they receive very often from our Immigration Officers and our airline personnel. I am happy that we are known as friendly people. I hope that this will continue.

I am encouraged that Immigration Headquarters will be expanded. This has been needed for a long time. Particular attention must be paid to provide a more spacious counter area. If you visit the Immigration Department on any day you will see a terrific overcrowding in the counter section. It is not becoming to a country that is moving ahead like we are, that conditions should exist in such a small, crowded, unpleasant atmosphere. I would ask that priority be given to this to move ahead as quickly as the funds are released, and a contractor, or Public Works, can put it in place.

We will be looking at the Caymanian Protection Law, under which our Immigration Laws are embodied as a Select Committee of this whole House. I believe that the time has come when the Cayman Islands should begin to think of an Immigration Law separate and apart from our

Caymanian Protection Law. We need to address two different things.

Laws concerning Immigration are most important if we are to preserve our country. I think we need a definite Immigration Law. Our Caymanian Protection Law must continue to protect our Caymanians, but this needs very, very careful consideration. In the Caymanian Protection Law we must address problems that have existed in this country from way, way back. Caymanians born to Caymanian-born mothers, but born in a foreign country, consider themselves Caymanians. No one in this country knew they were not Caymanians. They were never told that it was necessary to register with the British Embassy or Consul or Officer overseas if your child was born outside the Cayman Islands, only to find out after the British Nationality Act of 1981 that they were not really British Dependent Territory Citizens. It is a serious situation. There can be no question as to who the mother of a child is. I feel that this is something that we must address forcefully in the review of the Caymanian Protection Law. There are many other sections, but this one comes to mind very forcefully as practically every day I hear and receive letters from people who are in this situation and they are really, definitely, by Law not Caymanians although throughout their life they accepted they were Caymanians and they travelled on Caymanian Passports. I am thankful to the Honourable Third Official Member for moving the Motion which is sending the Caymanian Protection Law to this Select Committee.

I look forward to receiving much information from my constituents. It is my intention to have public meetings within the district, with the cooperation of my colleague The Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands, we will be holding meetings in all the areas of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman in order to find out exactly what our constituents want. We will then bring them to the Committee. I look forward to the deliberations within the Select Committee.

I move now to the Police Department. I am one Member of this Legislature that has much confidence in our Royal Cayman Islands Police Force. I respect the job they are doing. I respect the fact they risk their lives each day protecting our welfare. They are like soldiers with one difference; being that their own friends are often their enemies. A soldier usually knows who his enemy is. A policeman's life is not an easy life. We must respect our Police. We have many young people from my district that have joined, and are a credit to the Police Force. I congratulate them on choosing this as a career. I would encourage other young Caymanians, both boys and girls, or young men and women, to join and help us to continue to have a proper Police Force. It is my understanding that presently it is not up to its full complement. There are vacancies because they have not been able to recruit sufficient constables. In every one of our districts we ask for more policemen. The only way this can be achieved is if the force can be brought up to its full complement of men that has been authorised. Again I say that I appreciate our Cayman Islands Police Force. I thank them for the job they are doing, and I ask that they continue to be vigilant in the prevention of crime, control of traffic on our roads and, above all, in apprehending offenders abusing the use of drugs.

The Prison Service. Prisons are always something that I would rather not talk about but I realise that in every society today it is a necessity to have institutions where we can incarcerate offenders of the Law. Our population at Northward continues to grow and it is a very youthful population I am told. I note with interest the visitor's facility at Northward is expected to be prepared and hopefully that will be constructed during this year. It is very necessary because visitors visiting the inmates have very limited facilities and it is not becoming to an institution of this size, to have such a small visiting area.

As other Members have said prior to me, the concern that very few Caymanians have chosen to become Prison Officers, or have been chosen to become Prison Officers, gives me concern. If, however, they would rather not be Prison Officers then I guess we will have to continue to recruit what is available. I feel our Prison is a model Prison; it is modern. I note that security is being improved. That is outside of my scope therefore I shall not discuss that. I do feel that while our prisoners are incarcerated for six or 18 months or two years, or whatever their sentence is, if by some means we could educate them in the better ways of life so when they came back to society they would be better equipped to join society it would be a credit to this Government. I would ask the Member responsible to give this his attention.

Civil Aviation is now an Authority. The Civil Aviation Authority is operating as an independent organisation like the Port Authority. It is manned by a very able Caymanian, Mr. Sheldon Hislop, whom I have the greatest of confidence in. He has been very active in my district as well. Presently there are improvements contemplated for the Gerard Smith International Airport. I think the Civil Aviation Authority is doing a good job. I would like to compliment all of them on the quality of service that Civil Aviation demands and requires in the Cayman Islands. I think it provides safety for all people flying in and out of here and it is of the highest standard.

I would also like to touch very briefly on our Fire Service which is a very essential service to the Airport and also to the domestic fire service. It had to be very active during the dry months with fires. That, too, is headed by a very able Caymanian whom we all know - Mr. Kirkland Nixon. I have had the opportunity on many occasions to congratulate him from the floor of this Honourable House for the job he is doing. I would like at this time to not only congratulate Mr. Nixon, but his entire force - his deputies and all of his officers and men. We are proud of the Fire Service. We are proud of the equipment which they have and the way in which he has built that force into something that is really reliable and dependable and is there when it is needed.

Education: The Cayman Islands should be proud of its Educational system. Sometimes I am extremely concerned when I hear debate in this House about when we complain this is bad and that is bad because I feel we have one of the best educational systems in the Caribbean, maybe in any part of the world. When I was a young man in order to get anything more than a very elementary education, I was forced to leave the Territories and sever my relations with my family for long, long, periods to go overseas to get education that they are now able to get right here in their own districts or, at least, in George Town and Cayman Brac. We must appreciate all who have been responsible for the development in education over the many decades of how far it has come. From the very small Budget that it started out with, to the large sum that is

now included in the 1989 Budget. This money, in my opinion, is an investment in the future of the Cayman Islands. I am very encouraged.

I visited the High School in Cayman Brac not long ago and I was so impressed to see the new computer room now completed. When I was a child, we did not even know what the word computer meant. Today to see the primary schools having computers and the children operating them really makes me realise that the Cayman Islands have become of age in education. I congratulate all the members of the teaching profession, the Members who have held the responsibility for that subject over the years and all who have contributed to making our educational system what it is today.

Health and Social Services: I would like to congratulate the Honourable Member for Health and Social Services for his fast action and sound approach in evaluating his Portfolio needs in seeking solutions to our problems. I would like to publicly state that he has my full support; I think this is a very important area. His approach is the proper approach to let us evaluate our needs then you can find the solution. If you do not know exactly what you need, and where we are, it is impossible to correct them. I was very grateful to this Honourable Member for making it possible to visit Cayman Brac very soon after taking office, with his Principal Secretary, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Dental Officer, the Chief Nursing Officer and others. I shall speak on this further when I go to district administration, as he participated in the opening of the Dental Clinic. I deeply appreciate the fact that this Honourable Member has a very sound approach to the subject and if there is any way that I can help him, I am here to support him.

The Housing Development Corporation: It is my hope that sufficient funds will be raised by the Debenture which was passed on a Motion of this House earlier, to provide the necessary funds for loans for the many Caymanians that are in need of a home. As I said earlier in my speech, funds available from the commercial lending institutions are not available for people in the lower income bracket and, if at all, are for such a short period they cannot afford to pay for a home. They must depend on the National Housing Development Corporation, and without funds that cannot function. We have many young people and old people alike who are not looking for handouts. They want to pay their way but they want to make sure that they are treading on safe ground when they borrow money so that they are able to pay it back. I hope that the Housing Development Corporation will be sufficiently funded so they can have a Portfolio that will be large enough to be viable to continue in the years to come. The payments they receive monthly will generate enough to keep the roll-over so that it will be able to continue to function as a very successful lending institution.

Mr. President, Agriculture is a subject that I am not qualified to speak on. I would like to thank the Honourable Member responsible for Communications, Works and Natural Resources for his visit to my district, both Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Along with him was the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town who, as we all know, is an accomplished farmer. Also in that company was the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer an assistant and the Principal Secretary of his Portfolio. I welcome his visit to our Island and I appreciate the interest being shown. Also I would like to say that over the years the Elected Member for East End both as a Member and a farmer has been of much help to my constituents and I deeply appreciate this. We have a very difficult terrain to farm in Cayman Brac being mostly of rocky, volcanic soil. We are not able to use mechanical ploughing equipment therefore, it is most expensive. We do, however, have to encourage those who want to participate in farming. I appreciate the assistance of the Portfolio in this.

I go now to the Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU). Having been around for quite some time, I know exactly what other Members have said about the smoke pan and other means of controlling mosquitoes prior to the successful operation of MRCU. The name Dr. Giglioli will always ring in our ears, for it was under his able leadership that we achieved what I consider little short of a miracle - the mosquito population has been reduced [greatly] in Grand Cayman. You would have had to be here in the early years to realise what I am talking about; nobody can explain to you how bad they really were. The spraying that is being done now is sufficient to control the mosquito population on all three Islands. It is active on Little Cayman as well as Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman. They deserve a lot of credit and this is money well spent.

A part of that unit is the Natural Research Laboratory. I note the survey they have made of the conch and grouper population. They have also been very active in studying the migratory features of the grouper; whether they remain here or go away, and this is becoming very beneficial. Their efforts to install permanent moorings, Marine Parks, and replenishment zones will help to preserve Grand Cayman for future generations. The Natural Resource Laboratory is a valuable part of our infrastructure and I congratulate the Members for the good job they are doing.

The Planning Department: Many people do not realise what this Department really does and how much work there is to be done. This is a hard working Department and for some reason they seem to be always suffering from a shortage of staff. In addition to the checking of plans for development and building, they also have to work on the Development Plan, the Building Code, and drafting new Planning Regulations for the Developing and Planning Law which have long since become outdated and are in need of review.

As I said, this is a very hard working Department. Under the Planning Department you have an Authority and a Board. The Central Planning Authority, which controls the development and planning aspects in Grand Cayman, and the Development Control Board for the Lesser Islands. I do not know if all the Members are aware, but in Cayman Brac there is no Planning Department, no assistant or anything else. The Development Control Board there must refer their plans, if necessary, to the Department here to depend on their expertise. As a member of the Development and Control Board over the past several years, I am very happy to say they do not hesitate to give us the information we require; they are very cooperative.

I would like to say that Mr. David Arch has done a very good job over the many years that he has been the Chairman. The district Commissioner, Mr. Jim Ryan who is the Chairman of the Development Control Board has acted well. He has many responsibilities in district administration but he

spreads himself out and whatever he does, he does well.

Public Works: We must salute the Public Works Department because it is the Public Works Department that supplies our roads, buildings, designs and architectural work for anything that Government undertakes. They must keep the other Departments working. Whenever you have a need, whether it is air conditioning or electrical or whatever, the person you call is at Public Works Department. Their duties are very numerous. They are active on all three Islands. In addition to that, with the introduction of the Master Ground Transportation Study, as they attempt to implement that, their duties will be even greater. I congratulate Mr. Donnie Ebanks, the Chief Engineer of Public Works, and all who work under him, also Mr. Darryl Grant, the supervisor of Public Works in Cayman Brac.

The Water Authority: With all the water shortages that we have heard about in Grand Cayman in recent months, I wonder how we ever did without the Water Authority; it puzzles me how we existed. Today you cannot get desalinated water, although the Water Authority has a piped system throughout George Town, now approaching Red Bay. It is an important authority. I realise that it has terrific responsibilities but its responsibility is ongoing and I feel that the source of the water is going to have to be better defined. Regardless of how much distribution you have, if you do not have the product to distribute you are not going to be successful.

I am very happy that the introduction of the sewerage project to the West Bay Beach area is operational. This has been long in coming and I thank God we have not had any epidemics or anything break out for the want of it. I hope that as time goes by it can expand to the other densely populated areas in this country because it is a cause of much concern to me.

I am encouraged by a statement in the Budget Address that says; "The Water Authority also intends to investigate the serious water supply problems experienced in Cayman Brac." I would like to add to this statement Little Cayman as well. I am no authority on what is happening to the wells, but wells that have been very potable for many years are today brackish. As the removal of water continues from these wells, the quality of ground water is definitely deteriorating in the Lesser Islands and I imagine it is the same story here in Grand Cayman. These two Islands are going to have to look to desalinated water for a source of safe drinking water; this is something that have to establish as a priority. I realise it is an expenditure. We have a very small population but health and welfare of the people cannot be valued in dollars and cents. It is the responsibility of our Government and in cooperation with the private sector, on these two Islands, we can overcome the problems. I think it will have to be a joint effort between the private sector and the Government.

Our Civil Service is a great organisation. I compliment our civil servants. They are the backbone of our Government. I am happy that we have been able to fulfill the terms of the salary review with the increase with the cost of living being what it is, that a 4 per cent increase has been incorporated in this Budget and will be paid retroactively to January the 1st. It is not my position to say whether this is the right amount or not but at least it is to show the civil servants that we do consider them and we thank them for the job they are doing.

The Drug Advisory Council: I am very proud that this newly appointed Drug Advisory Council is operational again. The Chairman, Mr. Ernest Foster, is a man who, I am sure, will do a good job and all the other members as well. I understand they have weekly meetings. They will do much in coordinating the Island wide efforts in the campaign to control this drug abuse that is now in our Islands. I would also like to take the opportunity at this time to encourage and compliment Cayman Against Drug Abuse (CASA) and the service clubs for their war on drugs and their attack on that great scourge which we have within the Islands. The time we must attack it is now. We cannot wait until tomorrow because tomorrow may be too late.

An area that I think we must address as early as a country can look after it, is a National Health Insurance Programme. I think the time has come where our present Health system is causing too much of a financial burden on our Government. If we do not take steps to provide other sources of revenue, the type of care we get will be beyond the reach of us to pay for. A National Health Insurance, compulsory to all, with Government helping the people that cannot pay the premium, I think, is a step in the right direction. I feel confident that the Honourable Member responsible will be moving in this direction; I hope it will be at an early time.

At this time I would like to speak briefly on Cayman Airways. I think that as we experience the strike of Eastern Airlines, all of us within the Cayman Islands realise the absolutely necessity for this Country to have its own national flag carrier. There is talk the unions who have caused the strike on that major airline could call sympathy strikes on the other unionised carriers. If this became a reality and Cayman Airways was not flying, then we would be isolated from the rest of the world. Because the Government owns its own airline, we are guaranteed that we will continue to have flights in and out of Grand Cayman. I think that we must all take this under serious consideration because so many of us, very ungratefully at times, say disrespectful things about Cayman Airways.

I am very grateful to the Member for Tourism, Aviation and Trade for the approach he is taking for improving air service to the Lesser Islands. We do have a problem and no one in the Cayman Islands knows this better than the Honourable Member; he has been associated with aviation to the Lesser Islands longer than any of us here and he certainly has the intent to correct it. The policy which he has established will, if given time, give us the type of service that we all feel we need if the two smaller Islands are to continue to develop. With his help we hope the institution of jet service will be on a regular basis to Cayman Brac, and substituting the commuter-type aircraft with a small aircraft servicing Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac with daily services. This will eliminate Little Cayman's problems because Little Cayman today suffers more severely when the commuter-type aircraft we operate, the Short 330, is not operational - there is no back up for the Short, therefore there is no service to Little Cayman. We do have a back up for Cayman Brac which is an improvement in service because the 727 is put in to replace the Short. When the Short is not operational Cayman

Brac gets jet service, but Little Cayman gets no service. It is my contention that this is the right approach and we only look forward to an early implementation of this.

I also support the study into the replacement of the jet aircrafts because, as I said earlier, the future of tourism (and our own travels to the outside world) must depend primarily on Cayman Airways. We must keep that a modern up-to-date airline. We must be prepared to meet the expenditures when it is necessary to replace and upgrade the equipment.

I now go to District Administration. The people of my district are very grateful to all who organised the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra to include Cayman Brac in her visit. As you recall, you and your wife, Mrs. Scott, accompanied her on this historic occasion to Cayman Brac. As I said earlier, it was the first visit of a member of the Royal Family to the Lesser Islands. While there, the Royal Highness unveiled a plaque at the Gerard Smith International Airport Terminal. This occasion was marked by another event in the history of our Islands as Captain Charles Kirkconnell, the then Honourable Member responsible for Communications and Works in District Administration, made his last official speech and attended the reception of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra. I would like to express to Captain Charles, as we all affectionately call him, our deep appreciation from all the people of the Lesser Islands for all he did for them in the Cayman Islands during his political career and we now solicit his continued keen interest and support in the future.

1988 has been a busy year for the Lesser Islands. We have enjoyed almost full employment and the future looks good for 1989. Our new airport terminal, the Gerard Smith International Airport, has been completed and is now in operation. The new taxi-way apron, and the fire station, which is capable of not only providing fire service for the airport but also will provide domestic fire service for the entire Island, is also operational. Government has completed a new Dental Clinic and Public Health Office space on the site adjacent to the Faith Hospital. I referred earlier that the Honourable Member for Health visited us and he officially opened the new dental clinic, also the Chief Dental Officer, and the other Members made their remarks at that meeting. We are very grateful for the spacious quarters which we have. It has improved the dental facilities and all the facilities for public health which will do for many, many, years to come.

At this time Mr. President, I would like to thank you in your capacity as His Excellency the Governor of the Cayman Islands, for your frequent visits to our district, which are greatly appreciated by all. We appreciate the keen interest you and Mrs. Scott show in our two small Islands.

We thank you for giving the Honourable Third Official Member responsibility for District Administration. This was necessary due to no Elected Member from the Third Electoral District, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, being nominated to Executive Council. This Honourable Member has visited the Lesser Islands on two official visits since his appointment, and I personally wish to express my very deep, sincere appreciation for the keen interest he is showing in the Lesser Islands. We toured Little Cayman and Cayman Brac and today the Honourable Member has full knowledge of all that is going on in the two Islands.

Considerable road work and resurfacing of roads was done during 1988 on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Work was also done to improve the landing strip on Little Cayman in 1988 and will continue later in 1989. Road work was interrupted by Hurricane Gilbert which caused considerable damage to roads on the South coast of both Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. At this time I would like to pay tribute to our District Commissioner, the Superintendent of Public Works, and the Public Works staff for how quickly they reacted after the devastating blow on the south coast of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman in clearing the roads, making them passable again, especially the road leading to the hotels as it was completely submerged and had to be almost completely rebuilt. They reacted professionally, quickly and with keen interest. This is what I call genuine civil servants.

The private sector in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman were quite active during 1988. The Power and Light Company installed a new generator which almost doubled the capacity. They extended and renewed a considerable amount of transmission lines. Cable and Wireless completed the installation of an underground cable and put direct dialing equipment in service. This has greatly improved communications with the outside world, because we now do not require the use of an operator.

I would again like to use the floor of this Honourable House to appeal to Cable and Wireless to give serious consideration to installing cellular telephone service in the Lesser Islands. This would enable telephones to be used in remote areas of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Little Cayman presently is only connected to Cayman Brac, I understand, by FM radio which offers no privacy whatsoever. You can listen to what is going on the radio. Whereas, if the cellular telephone system was installed they could have them in their boats, cars, and there would be sufficient inducement and it would be a viable investment for Cable and Wireless. I urge Government to assist us in asking Cable and Wireless to provide this service to the Lesser Islands. This service would greatly aid law enforcement because with our limited Police Force on Cayman Brac we are not able to man the Police Station 24 hours a day but a cellular telephone could be installed in our Police cars; they are manned 24 hours a day. Therefore, if you needed to get in touch with the Police, you could contact them in the cars. This would have a great beneficial effect to the Lesser Islands.

While speaking on improvements Mr. President, I would like to mention that the Cayman Brac Power and Light Company, which holds the license to generate electricity in Little Cayman, is preparing a site to construct a power plant on Little Cayman. This will be built in the interior of Little Cayman, north of the village. A road in the rough has been built by the property owner. I would like to suggest that Government take a serious look at the possibility of extending this road to connect with the North Coast Public Road. This would provide cross Island traffic without having to travel the extra distance around the West End of the Island of Little Cayman to get to the North Coast. I do not think it would be that great of an expenditure, but it would certainly improve transportation on that Island.

I note a statement in the Budget Address (on page 30) and I quote; "In Little Cayman the hurricane highlighted the need for residents to consider evacuating that Island for

higher ground available at the Aston Rutty Centre", which is located in Cayman Brac. This statement gives me great concern. If we were positive we would always have sufficient time and notice when a hurricane or other disaster was going to approach us, this advance notice would give us time to organise air evacuation flights by Cayman Airways or small aircraft operators. History tells us that sometimes hurricanes make up very near to our Islands. Long before the eye approaches the area rain, wind and high seas are such that planes cannot land or take off from Little Cayman's grass strip. Certainly, boat evacuation is out due to the high seas and the heavy risk involved. I contend that Government must consider building a shelter on the high ground on Little Cayman and stocking it with the necessary emergency supplies of food, blankets, etcetera, that in the event people get trapped on Little Cayman (I suggest if they can be evacuated they should be and I support that part of the statement) but I say that it has been proven in the past that very often the effects of nature do not allow this evacuation to take place and we must make provisions when this is impossible.

Money is in the estimates to purchase land to relocate the solid waste or garbage dump on Little Cayman. Unfortunately, funds have not been placed in the estimates for a road required to the proposed interior site of the dump. This I shall address in Finance Committee. What I am most concerned with is that no funds have been placed in the estimates to relocate the garbage dump on Cayman Brac. The Honourable Member visited this site on his tour of Cayman Brac and he has first-hand knowledge of the acute problem we have. This too, I will be addressing in Finance Committee.

MR. PRESIDENT:
like to finish or have you more to come?

Could I interrupt one moment? It is now 12:50 P.M. Would you

CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:

Mr. President, I think we should adjourn.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings suspended until 2:15 P.M.

HOUSE SUSPENDED AT 12:51 P.M.

HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:18 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Lesser Islands continuing.

Proceeding are resumed. The First Elected Member for the

CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:

Thank you, Mr. President.

When we took the lunch break I was dealing with District Administration. While speaking on this I would like to say this is the ninth opportunity I have had to debate a Throne Speech and a Budget Address. I would like to express deep appreciation to the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman for the support in the 1980, 1984, and 1988 General Elections. Today all I can say is that I shall represent you to the best of my ability during this term, until 1992, if the Lord spares my life.

I note with interest the statement made by the Honourable Member for Education, when he said that it is his intention to leave the children in primary school the extra year. I welcome this decision and I feel certain I speak for most parents in my district. We all recall that it was an unpleasant issue a few years back. The Honourable Member then decided to make admission to the Middle School in Cayman Brac at the earlier age a decision to be made voluntarily by the parents and we did appreciate this decision. I think it has worked well. I think his decision here in Grand Cayman will also be an improvement in the system.

Before leaving District Administration I would like to remind the Honourable Members of this House that we are separated by more than 60 nautical miles of ocean water from Grand Cayman. We now have considerable construction in progress which offers much employment and repairs caused by Hurricane Gilbert are just about completed, as is the new airport terminal, the fire station, and several phases of development of the Tiara Beach Hotel. They still have their time-share and dive shop under construction. I do have concern that there will be a slowing down in employment during the year. If Government allocations are reduced, we could have an unemployment problem and I would ask that this be kept in mind because with reduced funds available for road construction in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman we have concern that our Public Works Department will be unable to keep their work force employed full time.

The cross-Island road known as Aston Reid Drive, is in very poor condition. It needs realigning, leveling and resurfacing. The amount in the estimates for 1989 is C\$100,000. We had a sum of C\$250,000 in the 1988 Budget but, due to other commitments of our small Public Works equipment and damage to roads caused by Hurricane Gilbert, this work could not be done during 1988. I would ask all Honourable Members for their assurance that if funds in the Budget are spent and the projects not completed, they will support me and District Administration will supplement expenditure votes if required.

We are satisfied that amounts are provided in the estimates for poor relief and also the construction of indigent housing, although they are under different headings this time but we will need help in the low cost housing area.

One project that nothing has been appropriated for, and I feel if we are to cater to tourism needs to be attended to, is rest facilities to be constructed around the Lighthouse site at the extreme eastern end of Cayman Brac. This is a long drive and a tiresome one over the rough terrain. What is need is a shed with some benches and restroom facilities to be constructed there. It is my intention to work with the Honourable Member to see if some temporary arrangements can be made until we can get the permanent structures.

Going back to your Throne Speech Mr. President, I note that you mentioned a proposed Radar Station being constructed in the Islands by the United States government as part of a chain of Radar Stations to be built in the Caribbean to help in the surveillance of drug traffickers. I support this. We do not have the financial resources to construct such a facility. Extremely modern technology is necessary and is very expensive. It takes an industrialized nation like the United States to provide their resources and if we can contribute and provide a location it will, in turn, help us to protect our shores and I would support this project.

As I come towards the end of my speech, I would like at this time to thank you for your superb leadership, during the time that you have been here as President of this House. I would like to thank our Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and all the members of the Legislative Assembly staff for their assistance to me during the past year. They have been most helpful and I certainly appreciate that, and this includes Miss Mary, with her fine refreshments and, of course our, Sarjeant-at-Arms. I would also like to wish a very speedy recovery to our Clerk and to say that I have missed her during this session.

In conclusion, Mr. President I would like to say how grateful I am to Almighty God for his many blessings He has given us since I last debated a Budget address and I pray He will continue to bless and guide the people of the Cayman Islands and give wisdom to all of us who serve them.

I support the Appropriation Bill, 1989. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Natural Resources.

The Honourable Member for Communications, Works and

HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I too wish to congratulate you as Governor for your fine delivery of the Throne Speech which sets out in broad outline the programmes of this Government for 1989, and also to congratulate the First Official Member, the Honourable Financial Secretary, for his fine delivery of the Budget Address.

Before dealing with matters relating to my Portfolio, I would wish to compliment the previous speakers for the very high plane on which they have taken this debate. In particular I wish to congratulate the First Elected Member for Bodden Town in initiating this. He started a very good trend and I noticed that this was followed by each Member of the House. I was getting concerned that we were getting too involved in which Member of the Legislative Assembly had the highest qualifications, but I hope this is now behind us and we can concentrate on what is in the best interest of this House and of the Government as a whole.

I also wish to congratulate the Supervisor of Elections for the superb job he did during our recent General Elections. I would wish to also voice the sentiments of other Members that future Elections will take a much better plane and that we will not have the repetition of some of the levels to which certain candidates sank during these recent elections. That cannot do our country's image any good. However, the elections are now behind us and I trust that we, as Members of this House, will put our hearts and heads together in working in harmony and unity for the betterment of the Cayman Islands.

On the state of our economy, although I agree this country has experienced a visible downturn in our tourism industry, our economic situation is, none the less, still rosy. It is interesting to see the editorials and other comments made by Members regarding the heating of the economy on the one side, and to hear comments made by other of the dangerous situation of a slowdown in the economy. It would appear that we need to be consistent in what we are trying to put across to the public.

In the Tuesday, 7th of March, issue of the *Caymanian Compass* we see an editorial captioned "Too Hot!" While I agree with much of this editorial, my comments here would be as they have ended their editorial; "We cannot have our cake and eat it too!" We have a situation here where the buoyancy of our economy is indeed causing much strain on our infrastructure facilities. When we look around we see that this situation is located mainly in one particular area. If we move across the Island to Bodden Town, North Side, East End, if we go across to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman we see very little economic activity and buoyancy in those areas. The main problems seem to be in George Town and the West Bay peninsula. Perhaps our Government needs to take a new look at our policies with regards to development within the Cayman Islands as a whole.

The previous speaker, The First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands mentioned his concern that there could be a labour problem in those Islands but yet we hear advocates advocating that we should stop development. We know that the Lesser Islands have been subsidised by Grand Cayman over the years. If what the Member has said becomes a reality, then it will be more important to endeavour to maintain our buoyancy within our economy because those Islands will need the support of Grand Cayman. By saying this I am not suggesting that we should allow our economy to run wild or to get out of hand. I am just saying that we cannot in one breath say that we are completely out of control that and we should stop our development, and in another state that there is much fear if we have a downturn in our economy, our whole economy will go to shambles.

We have to be very careful about our economy. We have to be very careful about making suggestions of stopping the growth in our economy. I am one that believes in a planned economy. I am very supportive of our national development plan which will go a long way in planning the growth of the Cayman Islands. One and all should realise that once we run away good business from this country, it may not be that easy to bring it back. Our economy is a very fragile and fickle one. It is hinged on tourism, our financial industry and, to a smaller extent, on Government spending and otherwise. The stability of our economy can be eroded at any point in time, so we need to protect it and guard it, very jealously.

There are several reasons why our tourism industry has had a downturn during the earlier part of our winter season. Reasons such as the problems we experienced from

damages caused by Hurricane Gilbert, Americans vacationing at home (they are being encouraged by their own country to vacation at home), some of them have made their own decisions to do so due to air piracy and other problems that the country has been experiencing in recent times. We can recall the damaging effect the bombing of Pan Am Flight 101 had on the whole civil aviation industry. These are some of the reasons why we are not seeing a lot of the tourists leaving their homelands to come and vacation overseas.

Another reason was the recent U.S. elections. We know that every four years, during U.S. elections, we experience a problem with tourism in the number of people who come to the Cayman Islands for vacation. Perhaps not least important is the cost of our tourism product. To a large extent I share the view that we are pricing ourselves out of the tourism market. In this connection I certainly welcome the Costa Rican delegation that recently visited these Islands. I hope that we will be able to develop a Trade Pact with them that will have the beneficial effect of reducing our costs of living.

As a new House we have the responsibility to ensure that our priorities are properly identified and established. I have selected four basic criteria that I feel that we should examine and address during this particular financial year and perhaps we should extrapolate this into the whole four year period of this House. In view of our present situation we must examine the economic impact of any decision that we embark upon. We need to consider the economic impact in terms of our future development. Our planned development must be evaluated in terms of their long term economic contributions to this country. I will deal with this in more detail further on in my contribution to the Throne and Budget Speeches.

The next area I feel that we need to pay keen attention to in our plans for this country is the area of our socio-cultural contributions and the impact this will have on our country. What is the socio-cultural impact of our future planned development? This is a question we will need to ask ourselves. Will such development maximise the benefit to the greatest number of our people? In viewing this we will need to look very carefully at the physical, economical, and other areas of need for our people. Housing and medical needs, you name it, we will need to examine these areas.

I was pleased to hear the sentiments expressed by the First Elected Member for Bodden Town in his views on the problems that we see creeping into our society in regards to Caymanisation. This seems to be one of our growing and festering problems. I also wish to join that Member by stating we should be very careful in any efforts or moves we make in separating ourselves, or in causing a dichotomy within our society. In 1984, and again in 1988, in my political Manifesto I stated; "We need as a people resident in this country to make an effort to live together." Whether we are born Caymanians or whether we are paper Caymanians we need to make an effort and it needs to be a two way street; to live and work together in this country.

The question of who is a Caymanian seems to be very topical today. I have no problem with the answer to that question because I know who I am. My problem and my question is where will this attitude end? What can we, as a body of representatives do to ease this growing tension? Do we go out there and encourage it or are we trying to pour oil on troubled waters? We see the growing unrest in many other countries around us. I was recently reading the problems Bermuda is experiencing due to the dichotomy in their cultural standards, because of their national interest in becoming separated. They want to draw lines between what is called born Bermudians and paper Bermudians or people who have gained Status in that country. We should not take out any animosities against the people coming to this country. It is for us as representatives in the Government to lay the proper ground work and policies if we are not satisfied with our Immigration and Protection Board system.

If people are brought here, it is because we have allowed them to come to this country. Therefore it is only right we should extend to them the proper courtesies that any country should give to another. I have heard of a number of Caymanians who have become American citizens that are very happy living in that country. To hear for the first time any complaints of allegations as to them being paper Americans. We need to be very careful with this. I am not in any way condoning that this country be over run by any nationality. I am saying the growing trend I see developing in this country could be dangerous to us and to the future stability of these Islands.

In any planned public sector, expansion and development, in addition to the economic and socio-cultural impact, one must also examine the planned public sector expansion development. In this connection, one must consider the political impact. It will therefore be necessary for our Government to work as closely as possible with all Members of this House in gaining the best social and political mixture for this country. The political acceptability and viability of any proposed strategy that may be mooted by the Backbenchers, or by Government, must receive general political acceptance.

I feel that thus far (and I am speaking personally), I have endeavoured, since taking up my position of this Portfolio, to lay a very good foundation to establish good working relationships with all Backbenchers including those referred to as the Opposition Backbenchers. I have made every effort to meet them on their own turf, as it were. I have found my actions have been reciprocated at every level and I am very pleased with this. I believe this is the trend this House and politics will take in the future in this country. I am not here to make life difficult for certain politicians merely because they may have a different political idea or be involved in a different political group. This is not my position in this House. I think in saying that, it would be naive for anybody to think that in politics one does not have one's own side to support. This is what it is all about. We are not in Sunday School, we are politicians. We must work together toward attaining the same common understanding but, above all, we must maintain a stable Government. My political motto in 1984 and again in 1988 was, and remains to be, that stability is the key to our future. This is the reason why I have laid the ground work regarding the areas of instability I see creeping into this country. While I am concerned with economic stability, I am also concerned that this country maintain its political stability.

During the debate on the Throne and Budget Speeches

reference was made to the multiplier effect in relation to the positive and negative impact of our future development. I feel that consideration should be given to the extent that one's initiative can act as a catalyst for many other beneficial actions. In applying the multiplier effect it is important that we not only apply it to the things which are most convenient to us. Conversely while the multiplier effect can have its beneficial side, we should also understand it can have its negative side. One negative side of our multiplier effect is the problem I mentioned earlier; the problem we see creeping into our society that could tear us apart. When one Member or Representative is heard to condone such action it has a rippling negative multiplier effect that can go through this whole society. In our quest to better represent this country the key consideration, in my opinion, must always be long term, sustainable development which would include the total work force of this country, which will include peace, tranquillity, and stability within these Islands.

Plans and programmes must be explicitly designed to produce immediate actions with tangible, and highly visible benefits to the people of these Islands. In this connection I would turn to the question of the pace of our development. I cannot over-emphasise that we have to be extremely careful that we do not give the wrong impression; that we have become so complacent and have reached such a pinnacle in our economic growth that we need no further development. That we are at the point when we can tell potential good investors to go elsewhere. I would wish to re-emphasise that planned development is desirable and acceptable. We need to be very careful of stopping our economic growth and development.

Against this background, I wish to deal firstly with certain matters raised regarding our local economy. But before dealing with specifics, I would like to say that it is a fallacy for us as Caymanians to feel that we can compare ourselves to some of the bigger countries, like the United States of America. I have heard comparisons being made in this House during the debate, but we are relatively insignificant when we compare ourselves with the developed countries. We talk about a very high standard of living; we talk about a high per capita income, but, when we consider the effects of our standard of living in relation to the cost of living, we realise how badly eroded our Cayman Dollar is. One's standard of living can only be measured in relation to the purchasing power of the dollar he spends, and because of our very high cost of living in the Cayman Islands we find that our dollar is very badly eroded. Mention was made that our per capita income is one of the highest in the world. But if we were to take 10 per cent of the higher paid individuals in our national income position, we would find that the balance would not be as impressive as we think between the other 90 per cent.

As stated, our economy is very fickle. It is divided into tourism and finance, the finance comprising of Banking and Trust, Insurance, our Cayman Islands Currency Board, Companies Registration, and so on and so forth. There are other sections which we need to develop. We need to pay as close attention to our Shipping Registration to protect it in every way we can.

Closely associated and aligned with our main sectors of our economy is the invaluable support we receive from transport and the Government sectors. Our whole economy hinges on a very delicate and fickle balance. We need to be considering diversification. I have decided to deal with this subject in some detail because there is so much talk around the Islands as to what direction our economy should take and what we should do. I feel it is time that we seriously look at our economy and make a seasoned and considered decision on the course that we are going to take; what we are going to do to diversify it, and what we are going to do to further develop what we have. Are we prepared to provide the appropriate capital funds to build the necessary infrastructure to maintain and further develop our healthy economy? There has been much talk of our Budget being too big. Yet, I have heard Members of this House get up, complaining that no consideration was given to their district. They are the same Members that will get up in this House and complain that the Budget is too big. Are we going to get up in this House and play politics with figures, knowing quite well...

POINT OF ORDER

MR. JOHN B McLEAN:

Mr. President, on a Point of Order, if the Member will allow me. I was the Member who stood up and asked for several things in my district, but I would not want the public to believe that I was the Member who was knocking the size of the Budget, because I certainly did not. I trust it is not me that the allegations are referring to?

HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:

Mr. President, I was speaking generally. There were several comments made by previous speakers on the size of the Budget, and I am not singling out the Member for East End. But the point is, several Members have complained about the size of the Capital Budget, about the public debt, and at the same time we are hearing that capital work is not planned for this area, there is proposed dredging for the other. Let us be fair with the public. We have a good Budget before us and much time was put into this Budget. If there should be anybody complaining it should be me, because I believe I have one of the Portfolios that has one of the heaviest Capital Budgets and it was cut to the bone. So much so that I almost ran into problems with my good friend, the First Official Member. He rightly reminded me that the Budget had to be cut and I agreed with him. We have a Budget now of a \$102,000,000. From some of the discussion and debate I have heard in this House we could double that and there would still be Members complaining they do not have enough to spend.

As I said, I am viewing the Budget objectively, and I must congratulate any Backbencher for any criticism levelled at the Government Bench which he feels is justified because it is much more comfortable as a Backbencher to stand up and have a wide ranging debate and criticize everything. I have found that since I have been on this side of the House I am not that free. Other than being tied by collective responsibility I have to be very careful how I criticize areas of Government's operation. Sometimes it is really easy as a Backbencher to criticize, but when we consider very carefully and we view the Budget very carefully we know in our hearts there was very little more that Government could have done in the preparation of

the 1989 Budget.

I now wish to comment briefly on remarks made by certain previous speakers in their interpretation of our country's financial position. I will not deal with all the figures on this because I know the Member for Education will do a very comprehensive and detailed analysis of this, so I have left this task to him.

As a professional accountant, I feel that it would be remiss of me if I did not clarify some misstatements and misinformation that was, perhaps, inadvertently given in this House in regards to the interpretation of our financial position and our reserve position, etcetera. I wish to make it quite clear that I do this in deference to the previous speakers, with respect, with professional courtesy and ethics, as I feel one professional should afford to another.

One Member stated that our General Reserve account is unrealistic, or something to that effect. His assumption was based on his view that Government was using borrowings or loans to build up our Reserves. This is not really the case. Our Government, under the able leadership of the Honourable Financial Secretary, continues to observe what is termed generally accepted accounting principles. Government's practice of transferring excess funds from its surpluses to a general reserve is good, prudent, financial accounting practice. This is also consistent with good accounting standards. While I do not want to go into the details of the balance sheet or the financial statement, I thought it only right that I should clarify any misconceptions that Government takes their loans and transfers them directly into reserves just to increase the Reserve Account.

As in other businesses (and Government is perhaps the highest form of business) loans or borrowings are utilised to generate revenue and profits after accounting for all financing costs. The facts are that Government began 1988 with a balanced budget with ordinary revenue of \$71.2 million and loan receipts of \$8.4 million against recurrent expenditure of \$63.9 million together with statutory expenditure of \$3.8 million and Capital expenditure of \$16.4 million. This produced a surplus position at that point of \$400,000. However, the revised position at the end of 1988 was \$12,166,346, which almost doubled the loan receipts of \$8.4 million received during the same year. So the statement made, that the Government is transferring funds from borrowing to reserve, is somewhat confused and I hope that I have helped to clarify any misconceptions that may have existed in this respect.

Just to further elaborate on this, in the Budget Address the Financial Secretary, the First Official Member, also stated that \$2 million was transferred from the 1987 surplus and interest earned during the year was retained in the amount in that account causing the total of \$11.2 million which was the difference between the amount we started the year with and the total we ended up with of \$11.2 million at the end of the year. In addition to that the success story goes on. It is proposed in the 1989 Budget to transfer another \$6 million to the General Reserves increasing it to \$17.2 million. This country is in good shape. It has never been in better shape. This is with due regard and due respect to all others before us.

On the question of our Public Debt: Much was said about our Public Debt, and some of this, no doubt, is justified. I think when we look at the amount of Capital Development and our infrastructure facilities in this country (which is perhaps the envy of the world, of course it is the envy of the Caribbean), then we know that with the type of economy we have - no corporation tax, income tax, no form of direct taxation and no plans to introduce such a form of revenue raising - I think we have done exceptionally well. On the question of the Public Debt, as we noted from the Financial Secretary's Budget Address, our repayments, or debt servicing, for 1989 will be in the region of \$6.2 million which forms only 7.3 per cent of our ordinary recurrent revenue. This is very good indeed; this is commendable. Most countries maintain a much higher debt repayment schedule. An acceptable percentage is around 10 per cent. We are now only 7.3 per cent of our total ordinary recurrent revenue. While preliminary figures indicate that our public debt obligations will be around \$25 million, we should also recognise that the important lever to be considered is our Government's ability to service our Public Debt. I do not believe that there is any doubt at all in the minds of Members of this Honourable House that our Government is indeed quite capable of servicing our Public Debt.

Before moving on to another subject, I would say that it was indeed pleasing to hear mention made of our very healthy per capita income. I hope that this country will continue to maintain its healthy per capita income because I believe that one of the reasons why we have such a stable Government and a relatively stable country is because we have a fairly healthy standard of living in this country. We know with poverty, many times, comes a lot of the evils of society. Conversely we are aware that with progress and development, many times, come some of the other evils such as the use of drugs, drug trafficking, and so on. It is encouraging to view our financial position and to know that we in the Cayman Islands are a very special and unique people. We are the envy of the Caribbean and of the world. We, as a Government, must continue that trend.

Moving on, Mr. President. I will comment briefly on the Legal and Judicial Departments, even though it is not my intention to deal in much detail with the Department of various Government Members. I will briefly comment on a few of these as I move along. In commenting on the Legal and Judicial Departments I, too, wish to recognize the onerous task they have to cope with under existing office accommodations, especially in the Judicial Department. It is certainly a welcome and a most needed improvement to have verbatim court reporting introduced as a pilot scheme, using the latest stenotype system. Hopefully, such a system will commence in the not-too-distant future.

May I also join the other speakers in their congratulations to the Law School graduates. However, I trust that Government and the private sector will allow these graduates the opportunity to attain the very fullest professional potential by offering promotions, not only in the public sector but also in the private sector.

The Registrar General's Department.....

MR. PRESIDENT: I wonder if perhaps we might take the tea break?

HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON: Thank you, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings suspended for 15 minutes.

HOUSE SUSPENDED AT 3:19 P.M.

HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:40 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The Honourable Member for Communication and Works continuing.

HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

When we took the break, I was dealing with the Legal and Judicial Departments. I will now move to the Registrar General's Department. In so doing I would also wish to join other Members in congratulating the Head of this Department, Mr. Woodward Terry, the Registrar General, for the fine job he is doing in this Department. In addition to much experience in the job, Mr. Terry brings a lot of professionalism to bear in his position.

On the question of Ship Registration, I believe it was mentioned earlier that this is a most important arm of Government which, if properly developed, can evolve into a third important sector of our economy. I am very pleased, and happy to acknowledge the positive role our Government in general and, in particular, the Honourable Financial Secretary, the First Official Member, has taken in guiding this section of Government.

Moving along, I wish to re-affirm my pledge to the Members of the Lesser Islands that I will work closely with them in the development of those Islands. As both Members know, I recently made a trip to Cayman Brac (and I think this was acknowledged by the First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands) when I made a point to visit all the areas for which I am responsible in those Islands. In addition, I made a trip to Little Cayman but, unfortunately, the two Members were otherwise occupied and were unable to accompany me. I want to thank them for the assistance which they rendered to me while I was on Cayman Brac and to let them know that even though they may not have an Elected Member of Government on Executive Council, I feel that they will be well represented by the Third Official Member, who is a very capable gentleman indeed. Additionally, I want those Members to know that if there is anything I can do in my official position or otherwise for them, I will be more than happy to do so.

On the question of the Immigration Department, I wish to recognise the invaluable, and sometimes thankless, service which is performed by the various members of staff of that Department and the Caymanian Protection Board. Accordingly, I am very pleased to support the Capital Provision made in this year's Budget for the improvement of their existing office accommodation. In the process of satisfying the physical needs within the Department I feel that consideration should also be given to identifying and encouraging staff with leadership abilities. I speak specifically of a young man in that department, Mr. Orett Connor, who has been doing quite well in his position; not only is he a very experienced and professional individual, he is one of us and he is very easy to get along with. He understands our local immigration problem. I hope every effort will be made by Government to encourage Caymanians employed at that level. From experience I know it can be very frustrating for a young Caymanian who has made an effort to qualify and return to these Islands to serve the Government; very frustrating indeed, when one finds themselves locked into a position with no immediate prospects of advancement. I hope, generally speaking, that an effort will be made to identify those Caymanians who are worthy of advancement and further recognition, and that this will be done without delay.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the present members of the Caymanian Protection Board on their recent appointment, and while so doing, thank past members for their contributions over past years. The new Board certainly has its work cut out for them. I am happy that there seems to be renewed enthusiasm in this Board and I feel, with the new leadership, the Board will certainly move from strength to strength. As a Government, I hope that we will be prepared to work with them wherever possible. I therefore welcome proposals to improve or revise our Protection Law.

Moving to the Housing and Development Corporation. I am pleased that the recently launched 7.5 per cent Debenture Issue has received such positive acceptance from the private sector. I agree that this will help our people in securing sufficient funds to build their own homes. There is indeed a scarcity of affordable homes on the market. Anything this Government can do to assist our people I feel we should do without delay. I agree with other Members of this House that we should not encourage the development of an area which could be stigmatised as the poor people's area. But, with that in mind, I hope this will not form an excuse for this Government to address the very serious problem of low cost housing in this country. I feel that we will work with hands and hearts together in the development of a proper housing system for the people of this country. As I have said in previous debates in this House, we are fortunate to have someone of your calibre, Mr. President who has had a tremendous amount of experience in housing, and one who is willing to assist us in this respect, where necessary.

One of the factors of the increase and high cost of housing is due to the high cost of labour in this country and high interest rates on mortgages. It is becoming more and more difficult for our people to buy, or sometimes even rent, a place to live in. This trend of high cost is not going to fade away over night. As a matter of fact, it is expected to continue into this year and, perhaps, the years to come. This increase will no doubt be influenced by many factors. The economy we referred to, as cost push inflation, demand

pull inflation, but one of the problems that will increase our costs is the very matter we have before us today; that is increased spending. While the increased spending is necessary, it will have the ultimate effect of increasing our inflation through what is known as the cost/push element of inflation. This is something that we cannot avoid, if we are going to spend, if we are going to increase our public spending then we can expect that our inflation will increase.

I was talking to a member of the Chamber of Commerce from the Costa Rican delegation yesterday and one of the reasons for their double digit inflation was due mainly to increased public spending. This is fact, it is not fiction. While we are improving on our infrastructure facilities, we are providing more labour in the country and we can expect that it will have a direct bearing on our inflationary spiral.

I am sure that there are a number of varying views on economics because it is difficult, sometimes, to put a face on it. That is why it was once said that the best economist is a one handed one, because they are always on the one hand this and on the other hand, that. I do not think there are any factual statements one can make on this, but this is usually the general trend.

I will now turn my attention to the Portfolio of Communications, Works and Natural Resources. Before doing this, I wish to state that I am very disappointed that one of our key officers was transferred from the department, but this was no doubt necessary. I certainly wish for Mrs. Francine Roach the very best; my loss was the gain of the Tourism Department. I welcome her replacement, Dr. Astley McLaughlin, who is also a fine individual and who is fitting in well into the Portfolio.

Mention was made on the question of the Technical Advisory Committee, the fact that it was recently formed. This Committee is a very important one; one which I feel is necessary at this point in time as there is really no such body to advise on the development of town planning, generally. As you are aware, this Committee has received the blessing of the Executive Council in its appointment; we hope it will be filling a major void. It will advise the Portfolio on the physical aspects of development of central George Town, and its recommendations will be submitted to Executive Council for further consideration as reports are received. The Technical Advisory Committee is comprised of technically qualified individuals who are locally resident. It will also give ideas on design and advise on technical development problems.

I am pleased that we were able to select some of the key people in their own technical field. Mr. Arek Joseph has kindly consented to Chair this most important Committee with the following individuals as the members of this Committee: Mr. Bill Bissell, Mr. Henry Propper, Mr. Conrad Rutkowski, Mr. Rupert Ackerman, Mr. John Doak, Mr. Billy Reed, Mr. Bobby Bodden, and Mr. Charles Adams, who are all from the private sector. Representing Government we have our own Chief Engineer, Mr. Donnie Ebanks; Mr. Peter Riley, from the Public Works Department; Mrs. Christine Ballard, the acting Director of Planning; Mr. Kearney Gomez, the Principal Secretary for the Portfolio of Communications, Works and Natural Resources; Mr. Errol Bush, the Director of Ports; Miss Carmen Demazo, from the Planning Department and Mr. Joel Walton, the representative from Finance. In addition we are very fortunate to have as our secretary consultant, Mrs. Dace Ground.

I have decided to comment on this briefly because it is my opinion that this is perhaps one of the most important Committees within my Portfolio. This Committee will be divided into three sub-committees, namely, the design group, the transportation group and the public facilities group. From time to time other Government officials will be co-opted for subcommittees and also for the main technical advisory committees when deemed necessary. Much thought went into the selection of this Committee and deciding on the terms of reference for this Committee. Considerations such as the background of the Cayman Islands, our growth rate, the capital of the Cayman Islands, the situation, what we offer to the financial industry and the tourism industry. These were some of the considerations given in determining the terms of reference for this Committee. We regarded the fact that it is the main commercial centre. It is the centre for our financial industry and it provides the facilities for our cargo and cruise ship operations. These were just some of the considerations given. The main thing was that George Town, as the Capital of the Cayman Islands, was badly in need of a comprehensive planning statement and this was sadly lacking. Even though I know there are Members of this House that would wish to change the Capital to some other district, this will never happen. I know that consideration has been given to transferring it to West Bay, but we cannot allow that to happen.

Although there have been several efforts of planning for the area, there have never been any coordinated efforts that were finalised or adopted. Government is about to make several major capital improvements in this country and, in particular, George Town. Mention was made of plans for building a post office, for car parking facilities and so on. I feel that this Committee will be able to advise Government of the proper layout and proper planning of our Capital, George Town, so that we will not find ourselves in the position where we are building haphazardly all over the place, without any direction at all. Instead our future development for the Capital, and otherwise, will take a very orderly direction. The purpose of the study being undertaken by the Technical Advisory Committee will be to identify and assess problems; to review any previous studies which may have been done; to develop a concept plan for the future of George Town and the outlying suburban areas; to make a coordinated and integrated effort to piece these plans together and to then make recommendations to Government in this respect.

The product of this study will be a concept plan for George Town with particular emphasis on Government facilities. The plan should include recommendations on these main areas. The new Post Office is considered a priority item in this study. The cruise ship landings are another area that Government cannot continue to ignore. In every area of the Caribbean today more and more attention is being placed on developing facilities for our tourists. One of our main industries is our Tourism industry. It is believed by some that it might be the leading industry today. I do not believe that the Financial Secretary would share this view, as some feel the financial industry may be leading. Regardless of this, we recognize that our economy is divided into two sector of which tourism is a major sector. If we are going to continue the development of our tourism

sector, we must become competitive. The only way to increase our edge in the market is if we provide the necessary facilities for the trade. One such provision, one such needed facility, is a proper cruise ship landing and facilities. This is one of the areas that will be addressed by the newly formed Technical Advisory Committee.

Another area the Technical Advisory Committee will be advising on is the Courts facilities. They are complaining about their cramped conditions. What do we do? Do we try to build on to the existing facility or do we consider additional facilities.

I need not dilate on the problem of traffic congestion, the problem with traffic flow in George Town and the West Bay Road. I understand that this is extending now into the Eastern districts. This is a problem that we cannot continue to ignore. This problem will be fully addressed by the newly formed Technical Advisory Committee. It may not be a bad idea if at some stage we decide to pedestrianise part of George Town; free from traffic flows in that particular area, this will only be possible with proper planning. Proper parking facilities will have to be arranged prior to any pedestrianisation of our town. Public Parks. These are some of the things that are being addressed by this Committee. An integrated design concept to improve the general appearance and character of the Capital. Why such a Committee was not formed long ago, I cannot say. But I do not think that anybody would disagree with me that this is a most needed exercise.

I wish to comment briefly on another area of my Portfolio, the Building Codes. In this respect it is hoped to bring the Building Code into Law as soon as possible. It is planned, however, to continue to use the guidelines prepared by the Chief Building Control Officer for single family residences. I think that it is neither desirable nor practical for us to have a different standard for the Lesser Islands than what we will implement in Grand Cayman. I know that talk has been around the place that we should perhaps have a different set of codes for the Lesser Islands. While I could not agree with that, I could certainly support that the moratorium on penalties under the code should be extended for those Islands so that they will come into effect within a more distant time than would apply to Grand Cayman. I do not think it would be wise for us to have one set of standards for Grand Cayman and a different one for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I feel the same set of standards should apply to all major buildings regardless of whether they are built here in Grand Cayman, or in the Lesser Islands. With regards to single family homes or units, we will continue to use the Building Plan that has been prepared by the Chief Building Control Officer, so there should be no hardship for the small builders, either here in Grand Cayman or in the Lesser Islands. They will still be given all the assistance possible during the initial stages of implementing the Building Code.

Arrangements are already in the pipeline for the review of the Traffic Law. As a matter of fact, I am happy to say that we have already held our first meeting (yesterday). This will be done under the able chairmanship of a legal individual who will be able to fully assess the legal ramifications of that Law. It will be done in conjunction with the Police Department. It is hoped that in the near future necessary revised Legislation on traffic will be brought to this House in the form of a Bill.

On the Master Ground Transportation Plan, Government is planning to spend some \$6 million from local revenue on the immediate action phase of the Master Ground Transportation Plan during this financial year. There is no question as to the need for immediate action in order to ease traffic congestion on our roads. In this respect, due regard has been taken of the comments made by previous speakers regarding the inconvenience caused by the needed work being done on the roads in George Town and along the West Bay Road. Just to comment briefly, this is a situation that I mentioned during Question Time in this House that can hardly be avoided but, just to assure the Member, every effort is being made to do the permanent reinstatement on the roads around George Town and along the West Bay Road as quickly as possible as a result of the sewage and water works that is being carried out in these areas. Every effort will also be made to ensure that the contractors responsible comply religiously with the terms of their contracts with this Government. While any inconvenience caused to the public of Grand Cayman with the road work is regretted, I feel that the public will appreciate this is the price for the pace of development this Island is going through today.

Commenting further on the Master Ground Transportation Plan: this will be done in several phases. The immediate action plan is the first phase to be done and then we will consider the first and second phases of the system. This will call for some amount of revenue being made available whether through loans or through increased revenue is a matter that will have to be considered carefully by the Members of this House. Something will have to be done to ease the traffic congestion that is being experienced in this Island. We hear a lot of complaints about this problem. I just hope that when we have to approach the public and let them know of our plans to raise the necessary revenue, they will equally understand that this has to be done in order for us to provide the necessary roads and other infrastructure facilities.

Moving on to Agriculture: Much has been said about the subject and the constructive views expressed are all taken and will, indeed, be acted on. We are fortunate to have two individuals in this House who are very experienced farmers. One of them, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, has given me his full undertaking that he will work very closely with me on the subject of agriculture. During my recent trip to the Lesser Islands, it was my pleasure to have this Member accompany me and he was able to assess the situation there. We will be working very closely in addressing the problem of agriculture in the Cayman Islands.

I feel it is only fair to say that I believe my predecessor in this position tried his best to develop agriculture. I am not saying that more could not have been done, but Rome was not built in a day. I believe there is a lot of major development in Grand Cayman today that should be credited to him. He was responsible for many of the developments we have: the sewerage works, water works, farmer's market, I could go on. Unfortunately, it is not often we hear the nice things that have been done and I can share the views of the Members who expressed concern about agriculture; that much more needs to be done. At the same time we need to recognise, and give credit also where it is due.

It is a good thing that we have the Member for East End as the

President of our Agricultural Society. I am glad to say the Member for East End and I have a very good working relationship and I feel that our combined efforts can only prove beneficial to the Cayman Islands and the development of not only agriculture, but other farming areas within the Cayman Islands. I would hope that all Honourable Members of this House will not only pay lip service to agriculture, but we will see it as an important sector of our country and that we will do all in our power to support this very important industry.

I had the pleasurable opportunity to visit some of the bigger farms in Grand Cayman since I have taken over this Portfolio. I was very pleased, indeed, to see what is possible with agriculture; having visited the farm of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town. It shows that much can be done. I felt proud when I visited the display brought in by the Costa Rican delegation and saw no produce there that surpassed what I saw on the Farm of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town. (With all those flowers, Sir, I am sure I will get even more support from him).

I agree that agriculture has not developed to the extent of other sectors of the economy, although much is being done. In 1988 alone, some \$1.4 million was provided for marketing and related facilities. I am disappointed that in order to balance the Budget, the abattoir was again deleted because I see this as a most important facility. I believe that if we are going to gain the respect that we will need from our supermarkets, we will have to convince them the meats we are delivering to them has been properly and hygienically tested. This cannot be done through a slaughter house, through an antiquated system of just putting up a slaughter house. It must be done under proper hygienic conditions of a properly equipped abattoir.

Unfortunately, agriculture in this country was badly hit by Hurricane Gilbert. As a result, many farmers suffered, and suffered badly. This Hurricane resulted in total losses of some \$2 million. It should be noted that interest free loans in the amount of \$294,000 was made available to aid farmers. However, this is a relatively small amount when we consider the total damage that was done.

Also of concern is the problem being experienced by farmers in having their properties properly insured. They are having no end of problems in being able to obtain the insurance they need on their businesses. When they are quoted a rate, it is so exorbitant they cannot even consider it. We need to seriously look into this problem, and I believe the assurance has already been given by the Honourable First Official Member that he will be looking into this problem.

On the question of the Agriculture and Industry Development Bank (AIDB) much has been said about this. I will not attempt to cover this. My contribution on the AIDB is that I feel they have done a fairly good job in most areas. I believe that more consideration should be given to the farming industry. I have had several complaints from farmers, smaller farmers, that felt they are not getting the sort of financial assistance they deserve. This is an area we will also be examining very closely. In examining the situation in Cayman Brac, it was the general feeling that the area of farming should be explored even more closely is dairy farming. It is believed that Cayman Brac is conducive to that form of farming. This is an area where the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer, together with the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, and the Agricultural Society, and I, will be considering very closely in the formulation of our Agricultural Development Plan. Thus far, we have not had a proper agricultural Plan for the Cayman Islands and I am happy to say that I have commissioned such a Plan and very soon I hope to have this fully formulated.

Before moving from agriculture, I wish to state the disappointment that we were not able to host the Annual Agriculture Show this year. We realise that this was impossible due to the ravages of Hurricane Gilbert. We hope that our next Agriculture Show will be in the new premises on the new property in Lower Valley where the Agricultural Society hopes to erect their new Pavilion. I hope the views made by previous speakers regarding reallocating available funds to assist with that building will be reaffirmed by the Finance Committee when we meet shortly.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:

Mr. President, nothing now remains but for me to move the adjournment of this Honourable House until 10:00 tomorrow morning.

THE PRESIDENT: The question is that this Honourable House do now adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.
I shall put the question. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

AYES.

MR. PRESIDENT:
tomorrow morning at 10.00.

The Ayes have it. The House is accordingly adjourned until

AT 4:30 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. THURSDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1989.

**THURSDAY
9TH MARCH, 1989
10:10 A.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT: Prayers by the Honourable Second Official Member.

PRAYERS

HON. RICHARD W. GROUND: Let us Pray.
Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived:
We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings of the Assembly are resumed. The continuation of the debate on the Throne Speech and the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Honourable Elected Member for Communication and Works continuing.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH
AND SECOND READING ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989.**

HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON: Thank you, Mr. President.
At the adjournment yesterday, one of the Members spoke to me and wondered whether I would clarify a point I had raised regarding the inflationary spiral in the Cayman Islands and how this is interrelated with the increased Capital Spending proposed in the 1989 Budget. In order to do this I refer to a portion of the Budget Address which highlights the point I was referring to. This is on page 56 of the Budget Address dealing with salary increases. It reads:

"Government has over the past eight years operated on a Consumer Price Index formula which triggers a salary award to civil servants, i.e. whenever the index reaches five per cent in any single year, the award to civil servants will be four per cent.

The Index at December 1988 shows an increase of 6.2 per cent, and therefore an award of four per cent totalling \$1,275,000 is inserted in the 1989 Budget."

While I do not intend to project myself as a Milton Freedman or an authority on economics, I would nonetheless wish to clarify, in my opinion, the situation that can occur in circumstances such as this. An award of 4 per cent in actual fact suggests that civil servants are being compensated for the erosion in their salaries caused by inflation and, in fact, they are worse off now by approximately 2 per cent this year than they were at the beginning of last year. This is because inflation has eroded their salaries by 6.2 per cent but the award to compensate for that is 4 per cent.

In relation to the quantum increase in salaries, civil servants are receiving more money, but in real terms they are worse off because the real purchasing power of their dollar has been eroded by inflation due to the increase in the cost of living. It does not matter what one calls this situation; whether it is called inflation or increase in the cost of living index, it is still the same situation. This increase in inflation has reduced the purchasing power of the money available, not only to Government civil servants, but, to all employees in the public and private sector alike. In this connection, while I have not seen specific mention made of

this in the Budget Address, I hope that some consideration will also be made towards pensioners in the Finance Committee. If this is not mentioned during debate, I will be requesting that some consideration be given when we meet in Finance Committee.

Continuing on the question of inflation, which was recorded at 6.2 per cent in 1988, my prediction is, that this trend may continue into next year and perhaps over an extrapolated period. My opinion is based on the situation we have before us - we may be looking at 10 per cent at this time next year. I will give you the basis for my opinion.

This opinion is based on not only the increased cost of living generated by the private sector, but it is a basic economic fact that heavy Government spending can have the effect of increasing the cost of living thus exacerbating the inflationary spiral. Government's increased spending forms a part of total domestic demand which fuels a greater demand for goods and services. Basically, too few dollars chasing too few goods equals inflation.

Government, in situations where we have a situation of inflation, would normally regulate this through a monetary authority. We are not that fortunate or developed in the Cayman Islands. The United States, the U.K. and other developed countries control their inflation through a monetary authority usually by flooding the economy with more dollars. What we have available to us is that we should exercise very strict, prudent, fiscal policies and measures. We need to prioritise our expenditure and watch our spending very carefully.

Yesterday I also mentioned that economics not being a factual science, one can at best (at most times) only make a considered judgment based on the trends developing in the economy. This year we are looking at an increase in the cost of living of 6.2 per cent. Next year, if the trend continues, it could be 10 per cent. This House could again be asked to supplement the cost of living increase to civil servants and to others by a similar amount. I feel that it is incumbent upon us as a House, particularly from the Finance Department's point of view, that we implement very strict fiscal policies in order to keep the inflationary spiral under control and to regulate the situation.

We have heard talk of the heating up of the economy. The point is that Government is as much to be blamed for the heating of the economy as the private sector. We should not just blame the big developers such as the Hyatt, Treasure Island, Radisson and others, it is an interrelated situation where the infrastructure facilities must keep pace with the private sector development. In order for this to be brought under control, it must be properly regulated. Yesterday during my debate, I said that our major problem with the effect of overheating was being manifested in various areas of our Island, but particularly was this true in the George Town and West Bay Beach Road Development area.

My question today is, what are we doing to encourage development outside George Town and the West Bay peninsula area into areas like Bodden Town, East End, North Side and other areas of Grand Cayman? Are we prepared to offer sufficient incentives to investors, or are we prepared to implement the necessary policies that would in some way discourage further development on the West Bay Beach area and encourage the development into the suburban or outlying areas of the Island? Are we prepared to offer sufficient incentives to encourage development to go to the Lesser Islands?

I have often said that perhaps we should consider a reduced cost to Banks, "B" banks, insurance companies, the ordinary companies forming here. We should consider a reduced cost for those people to establish themselves in the Lesser Islands. Particularly in Cayman Brac. Of course this would have to be very closely monitored to ensure that no companies or banks are transferred from Grand Cayman just to take advantage of this reduced cost. If we have 5,000 companies in Cayman Brac, and a number of "B" banks there, it would have the effect of generating more business in Cayman Brac, thus improving the economic standards of that Island. At present, we subsidise the Lesser Islands. This is one of the reasons why we have to be extremely careful not to stop our development in Grand Cayman. As I said yesterday, planned development is desirable but in the situation where we are subsidising the Lesser Islands, it would be a mistake for us to move too rashly in this respect.

I would like to expand on this a bit (I mention this in passing), I say this in the recognition of the motto I live by, which is taken from Pope Pious: "A little learning is a dangerous thing." I am not going to try to get into areas I feel are beyond me, but I feel quite comfortable with this particular subject.

There are basically two types of inflation: one is called the wage/push or, cost/push, inflation and the second area is called demand/pull inflation. We have a combination of both in the Cayman Islands. Mainly the wage/push inflation is because of the demand for labour, in the Cayman Islands. We have an over-employment situation, thus it comes back to the basic theory of supply and demand; where your demand exceeds your supply and the costs go up. This is what is happening with the inflation here. We have a shortage of labour. That is the wage/push.

On the demand/pull we have a situation where most of our goods and services, in particular our goods, have to be imported at very high cost. This is why I said yesterday, that I welcomed the Costa Rican trade delegation that visited here and I welcome any future expansion that we can do within our agriculture and other developments. Solutions will come from the diversification of our sources of imports. If we bring in cheaper imports from Costa Rican, and other, areas we can create the ultimate effect of reducing our costs, thus reducing our demand/pull inflation. I trust I have clarified that particular point. If there are any further questions on that, I will be more than happy to sit and discuss it with any Member who may still not understand what I was trying to say.

I would like to further comment on the question which I raised regarding our Public Debt position before moving back to my Portfolio subjects. Our Public Debt has to be measured on our country's ability to service, or manage, that debt. Our debt to GDP ratio has stabilised and it is at

the point now where it is falling. This is a good sign. Our per capita debt in 1985 was around \$900. We had a bad trend there because in 1987 it went to about a \$1,000. Measured against our per capita income which was about \$12,000 in 1985, and it has increased to almost \$14,000 in 1987 which more than compensates for the erosion we may have suffered in the increase in our per capita debt. There should be no question that we are financially capable of dealing with our public debt. As I said yesterday, we are at a position where our servicing costs are now only 7.3 per cent of our ordinary local revenue. The accepted level is something like an average 10 per cent by most countries.

At the adjournment yesterday, I was dealing with Agriculture. I had reached the point where I endorsed the Agricultural Society's plan to build a pavilion in Lower Valley. I support a statement made by the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town who suggested that some of the agriculture allocations could be reallocated to assist in the building of this pavilion. I stated that I would give my support to this in Finance Committee when we meet shortly after this debate.

The synopsis on our Department of Agriculture would suggest that we basically provide the following services to the farming community, households, and the general public of the Cayman Islands.

The first service is advising and extension services. An example of this is making new information and the latest technological advances available to farmers. Secondly, we provide technical services in crop and livestock husbandry. This has been stepped-up recently in respect to the agricultural situation in the Islands. Also a part of the services rendered is the Veterinary medicine and surgery we provide, and the sales of agricultural equipment and supplies through the Department. In addition, the Department undertakes research and development in order to promote crop and livestock improvement in the Cayman Islands. It assists with marketing facilities in the Farmers Market. It engages in plant and animal quarantine activities. It also controls and monitors the quality of veterinary practice in the Cayman Islands. The Department maintains a stray dog/cat control programme, and a humane animal shelter.

In listening to some of the debates here one would feel that the Agricultural Department is doing very little. I am suggesting there is much room for improvement, but the Department is carrying out a very valuable service at present. I believe the Members who spoke negatively about the department would also appreciate this fact.

In the future the department proposes a draft Agricultural Plan for development over the next 10 years. We will be inviting Members who are directly involved with farming activities on the Island to lend their expertise in the formulation of this Plan. While I have no objection to any Member standing up in this House and criticising any Department for which I have responsibility, I would suggest that in the interest of the Cayman Islands and, in particular, in the interest of this House, if they have better ways of doing things I would more than welcome to hear them out. I believe in constructive criticism. This is what it is all about. If we have criticisms, let's put them in a positive way.

In the future, we will have continued support for the Farmers Market. I take the point made yesterday that the Farmers Market is fast outgrowing its utility and usefulness. With demand comes this situation. It is not only happening in the Farmers Market but it is happening all over the place. The same situation is happening with our Water Authority, which I will deal with later on. Before we had a Water Authority people got along without it. Now we are producing hundreds of thousands of gallons a day, and we are being criticised that we do not have enough. We will increase, but I think we need to understand that with the demand and the increase in population and the increased needs of our infrastructure, we will need to increase our supplies along the way.

The Ten Year Development Plan for Agriculture envisages more funding toward extension services to the farmers, a varietal trial with non-traditional crops within the Cayman Islands. A beef feed lot operation for demonstration and experimental purposes will be attempted at Lower Valley. I trust this type of experimental operation will receive the full support of all Members. While I can take the point that the demonstration farm may not have worked as well as they could, I also feel, and I will be looking into this to see what policy suggestions have ever been forthcoming from the Agricultural Society and other areas in this respect. We need to work together.

We also envisage from the Plan a state-of-the-art facility for beef slaughter to bring meat products up to the U.S.D.A Certified Standards. Yesterday I suggested it would be a step backwards for us to spend a lot of capital money providing mere slaughter houses in each of the districts. I will, of course, be led by the majority decision of this House in this respect. But I believe the answer is for us to establish a proper abattoir. I would like to reemphasise that point.

We envisage the Ten Year Development Plan to have closer linkages with the Agriculture and Industry Development Bank (AIDB) in respect to the availability of agricultural credit and the monitoring of projects undertaken with such loans. We will not only request AIDB to make the loans, but we want our Agriculture Department to monitor the development, or the uses, of these loans to ensure that the productivity is there. We have had the sad experience of some of our agriculturists, farmers, getting AIDB loans, receiving advice from areas such as Crop King, and otherwise, to find that that advice was sadly lacking. We feel it is unfair to farmers in this country to be expected, or told by the technical advisors, that they will reach a certain yield and they are falling to less than 50 per cent of that yield. Yet, they are expected to meet their repayment demand that was based on that form of projection. We will have to monitor this very, very closely indeed.

The Plan also envisages other linkages with Tourism, Environmental Health and Education.

I wish to move on to another Department under my Portfolio, Lands and Survey. The year 1988 was very historic for the Lands and Survey Department in that the total Stamp Duty collected exceeded the 1987 figure of \$9 million, by \$3 million, bringing the total to \$12 million. We hope to

see this trend continue into 1989 but, there again, we cannot have our cake and eat it too. If we are going to stop development it will also mean we are going to be restricting land sales and cutting back on the source of revenue also.

The completion of the Land Registry Data Base System will hopefully be accomplished during 1989. This Data Base system will significantly improve the services rendered through this Department. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the hard working staff of this Department for the invaluable job they have been doing under existing odds, shortages of staff, etcetera. I feel quite comfortable that, even though we may be threatened with resignations at high level, I have a very capable Principle Secretary who will ensure that everything is kept in order until we can recruit the necessary personnel.

Planning Department. We had much criticism recently for increasing the number of our membership by three in the Planning Department. It does not take too much imagination to criticise, especially when one is not fully conversant with the facts. The fact of the situation is that the work load in the Department and, indeed, in the Central Planning Authority (CPA) has increased significantly over the years. As in the case of the Lands and Survey Department, it is gratifying to note that 1988 was also the busiest year in the history of the Planning Department. As of the 30 November 1988, the CPA had already approved 441 projects with a total value of approximately \$106 million. This continuing rate, or pressure, has placed much greater responsibility on the Department and the CPA, thus far, is coping quite well with this increased responsibility. There is much responsibility there.

We have recently lost the Director of Planning and we want to wish him the very best on his future endeavours. We are pleased to have a very capable individual who is now filling that position in an acting capacity. This Department is most important to the development of this Country. I see the Technical Advisory Committee, which has been recently appointed, being an invaluable arm of the Planning Department. I hope that, eventually, this Technical Advisory Committee will evolve into a town planning unit of the Planning Department.

I will now move on to another Department within my Portfolio. Of necessity, my comments on my Department will probably be a little longer than some of the other Members, but I think it is appreciated that I do in fact have six departments plus other Authorities so this is necessary.

As observed by you, Sir, on the 12th April, 1889, our General Post Office was first established in these Islands. It is only fitting that a special stamp issue should be released to commemorate the centenary of our Postal System which is being observed in April of this year.

While short term plans will be undertaken to cope with the ever increasing demands for Post Office Boxes and other services, capital provisions have been made in the Budget for the commencement of construction of a new General Post Office which should provide adequate space for future development. On this particular point (and this is in reference to a part of the Budget Address) while it is true that many meetings were held with Mr. Conrad Rutkowski of Rutkowski, Baxter and Partners, I am reliably informed that the Public Works Department was never properly consulted in this matter.

Further, having received conflicting reports as to whether or not a multi-story car park should be located at the planned Post Office behind the Library building, I have decided to obtain the technical advice from the recently formed Technical Advisory Committee regarding the most appropriate site for the Post Office and Car Park. As stated earlier, this exercise will be carried out as a top priority and the first reports from the Technical Advisory Committee should be available by the end of May. I note the remarks made by previous speakers in what they feel would probably be an improvement to our present system. These remarks are fully noted and appreciated. It is not a simple answer and when we are planning our new Post Office, we cannot plan for one or two years, we must plan over a period of satisfying our demands over a five, 10, 15 or 20 year period.

In respect to the comments made on the Budget Address, in regards to the progress that has been made to the General Post Office, I believe that the time is well past when Governments should allow any private sector organisation or firms or individuals to dictate development policy to this country.

Further, I feel that any future developments of our Capital should not be carried out in an ad hoc manner, but carefully carried out by our plans for the particular area of the Cayman Islands. Otherwise, we can run the risk and danger of destroying the aesthetics of our Capital and generally exacerbating the current problems we are now experiencing with congestion in George Town.

I wish to mention that Mr. Rutkowski as a Member of the Technical Advisory Committee, will advise Government on the Post Office and where it should be located and how. In three months I hope to be in the position to advise Government on the recommendations of that Committee, including Mr. Rutkowski's.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Miss Cynthia Sterling and the dedicated staff of our Post Office system for the very good work which they have been doing including the services rendered on all three Islands.

The Public Works Department: Despite the criticisms (and some, no doubt, are valid) which have been leveled at the Public Works Department, the heavy responsibilities of this department should nonetheless be obvious to all of us. Apart from the responsibilities for the development and maintenance of the infrastructure of this department, it provides a number of other services to several departments of Government. Its training programme is now well established in preparing young Caymanians to take over important positions in that department.

The department is to be commended for the part it played in assisting with repairs, etcetera, not only to public buildings during the aftermath of Hurricane Gilbert, but also to the number of homes for needy individuals. So often the only comments we hear in respect to this other departments

are negative comments. We hardly take the time to recognise and acknowledge the good work some of these departments do. I feel that compliments and congratulations are in order to this department for the invaluable work they did during the recent disaster we had with Hurricane Gilbert.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Donnie Ebanks, the Chief Engineer, and his dedicated staff for the work they are doing. I am the first to agree that much needs to be done in improving the department, but, as I mentioned, this is in the pipeline and it will take time. We are talking about one of the biggest departments of Government and these needed improvements will not occur overnight.

Much time has been spent by the Chief Engineer of Public Works Department and his Master Ground Transportation Plan Committee in formulating proper guidelines for the planned development of our road system. The Master Ground Transportation Plan study has taken a considerable amount of time thus far, but this was necessary because we are dealing with a very complex issue which will call for very heavy capital expenditure and will have some socioeconomic ramifications and impact. In this respect, I am specifically thinking of the impact it will have on businesses and homes when some of these individuals will be told that a particular road may have to go right through the middle of their homes. Every endeavour will be made to compensate those individuals as fully as possible, but this situation where we will need the support of all Members of this Honourable House in explaining to individuals the necessity to have this road system put in place. The importance of this exercise cannot be overemphasised. Many meetings and public consultations have been held and all reports highlight the urgency of the phase implementation of this plan.

As alluded to yesterday, the necessary capital expenditure to provide the Master Ground Transportation System will have to be serviced from revenue and, accordingly, the support of the general public will, at some stage, have to be solicited. Support in the way of possibly increased revenue, maybe on cars, and so on and so forth. (I am not here to discuss that, because I know if the subject of increased revenue comes to the House we will have a lot of debate on it).

Much costly work has already gone into this project and will continue to be done before we have completed all phases of the Master Ground Transportation System. In the interim we are carrying out certain work which needs to be done immediately. These will include the traffic lights plan within George Town, to ease the congestion problem and to improve the traffic flow. Work is underway to provide traffic lights at three busy junctions in George Town. For the first time in Grand Cayman, they will incorporate a mechanism which will vary the phasing of the lights according to the volume of traffic approaching the junction. This is very necessary because along some of our roads systems, we are having a problem with our signalisation, especially on weekends. I have gotten a lot of complaints about the blinking red and amber lights in front of the Eastern Avenue-West Bay Road junction. Much of the preparatory work has already been done and it is anticipated that they will all come into operation on Monday, the 10th of April, this year.

The three junctions to have new traffic lights are: Eastern Avenue, Shedden Road, Crewe Road and North Sound Road junction, at the Flower's Block Factory. The second one is the North Church Street, Eastern Avenue, West Bay Road junction at the 4 Tee's Service Station. The Third one is Crewe Road, North Sound Way, Thomas Russell Way junction at the former Andrea's Restaurant corner. These are very, very busy intersections and we hope the new signalisation will greatly improve the traffic flow in these areas.

One only has to drive on the West Bay Road at peak hours of the morning, mid-day and the evening, or even coming from the eastern districts around George Town to see the congested situation that is developing in this country. At each junction, the main lights will be carried on booms extending from a main mast which will also carry 400 Watt High Pressure Sodium Lights to illuminate the junction. This illumination will be controlled automatically to come on at dusk and remain until daylight returns. For additional visibility for by motorists, there will be repeater lights mounted onto the pedestal at the side of approach roads at the point where vehicles must stop for a red light.

For those Members of this Honourable House, or indeed members of the public, who may feel that efforts are not being undertaken to improve the situation, I hope this information will enlighten them and that they will be fully aware and cognisant of the major effort that our Government through the Public Works Department is taking to improve the traffic situation.

The traffic actuated mechanism at each junction will be a loop of cable sunk below the road surface in the traffic lane on the main approaches. The vehicle entering the magnetic field set up by the loop will cause a signal to be sent the light controllers so that the phasing of the light is varied according to traffic volume.

At the 4 Tee's junction, in the Eastern Avenue/West Bay junction, a further improvement will be the provision made possible by Government's acquisition of adjoining land of a left turn lane allowing a go signal at all times for south-bound traffic entering Eastern Avenue from West Bay Road. This will greatly improve the traffic situation. It is also expected this will greatly reduce the traffic buildup which occurs on the West Bay Road. Especially during the morning rush hour. Turning lanes will also be provided at the other junctions. Drivers will need to pay attention to signs instructing them to get into the correct lane for turning at the junction ahead.

At the Block Factory, which is the Eastern Avenue/Shedden Road/North Sound junction, in the interest of easing the busy traffic flow there, it has been necessary to make North Sound Road a one way street at the junction of Crewe Road. In other words, the one way street will lead from Eastern Avenue, Shedden Road, Crewe Road going into North Sound and will not allow traffic from North Sound back into that busy intersection. The two other sets of traffic lights already in use in Grand Cayman; the Shedden Road, /Fort Street junction with Harbour Drive, these will also be converted to traffic actuated controls by the installation of traffic counting loops under the road surface.

I wish to deal briefly with another Department of my Portfolio;

Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU). In respect to this department the report from the Moat Marine Laboratory of Florida has been submitted and it shows us there should be no cause for concern regarding spraying. However, while the absence, so far, of potential public health impact from the mosquito spraying programme has been confirmed, I have requested that the MRCU carry out further and more detailed reports and investigations to insure there is, in fact, no cause for alarm. The MRCU Moat Marine Laboratory project found no detectable pesticide residue in cistern drinking water. There has been some concern expressed in this respect. I would like to lay any public concern to rest in that there has not been detected any pesticide residue in our drinking water; they also found no detectable pesticide residue in swamps. They found small levels of pyrethroids, one of the two pesticides used, in the wax cuticles of leaves in live mangrove plants. No evidence of dibrom was found during the project. There is concern about pyrethroids in the mangrove leaves since it is believed that mosquitoes rest on mangroves leaves and will build up a resistance to the pesticides. That, in fact, has occurred. Mosquito larvae are no longer affected by pyrethroids. It should be noted that also rising from the Moat Marine project the spraying program now rotates between dibrom and pyrethroids. Regardless of any criticisms that may be leveled about mosquito spraying programmes and the type of pesticides used, we should recognise it is very difficult to find replacement pesticides. Work will continue on assessing the positive and negative effects of our marine conservation system and monitoring in these related activities is continuing.

The Water Authority: Much debate has been held in regards to this Authority and a number of questions were asked during Question Time in this House recently. The first phases of the West Bay Beach Sewage Project and George Town Water Supply Project have been completed. The West Bay Sewage Project is generally working well, though the salt water inundation caused by Hurricane Gilbert has caused some amount of damage to the equilibrium of the treatment plant. This is receiving immediate attention. I wish to thank the First Official Member, The Honourable Financial Secretary, for his prompt action in approving the order for a mechanical aeration mechanism be put in immediately, because we did have some complaints of the odour situation by the pumping station on the West Bay Road across from Treasure Island Hotel.

In view of recent projections which indicate that the present capacity of the Water Company will be adequate to meet demands only until the end of next year 1990, the Water Authority is now investigating the possibility of expanding the water supply system. Suggestions have been made during debate in this House that perhaps a location somewhere in Spotts, or Pedro, should be considered. There is much to be said in favour of that suggestion.

The situation regarding the supply of potable water for the Cayman Islands is a matter that will be directly addressed by the Water Development Committee which will include representation not only from the Water Authority, but from the Water Company. In this connection, I am now in the process of seeking someone who may be able to replace me as the Chairman of the Water Authority as I feel that position puts me in a bit of a spot where I could have a conflict of interest being the Member responsible for Water and Sewage in these Islands - particularly in view of the fact that water is now supplied not only by the Water Authority but also by the Water Company.

I would like to be placed in a position where there is no question of a conflict of interest on my part. I have already discussed this matter with Members of Executive Council and I am now looking for a suitable person that I can recommend to Executive Council as a replacement for the Chairmanship of the Water Authority. I would like to be placed in a position where I can look at reports from both the Water Company and the Water Authority and then assess and determine the needs and the recommended solutions to these needs in the Cayman Islands without being biased.

It may be of interest to the Members of this House and to the listening public, to know that the public water supply on Grand Cayman Island is currently provided by three agencies; The Water Company (has the highest capacity of some 685,000 U.S. gallons per day), The Water Authority (through their well field in East End and Lower Valley, is providing some 125,000 U.S. gallons per day; 35,000 gallons of that through the Lower Valley lens and 90,000 gallons through the eastern lens. The point raised by the Member for East End is well taken. With this type of daily extraction from the lens in East End, there may be some area for concern. As I said to the Member during Question Time, this is being monitored on a daily and weekly basis. The other agency for providing public water in Grand Cayman is through the Central Desal Company, which has a capacity of some 540,000 U.S. gallons per day, even though, at present, the daily production has been reduced to some 400,000 U.S. gallons per day.

When we add this all up we see that we are producing almost 1.5 million U.S. gallons per day of potable water in the Cayman Islands. Ten years ago this was unheard of, but this is necessary to cope with our growing development and demand. Even at this level, there is still a shortage of water in this country and I trust that, when the proposal is made for increasing our water supply, I will, indeed, get the support of all Members of this Honourable House.

There are three hand pumps on Cayman Brac installed by the Water Authority and I understand that a fourth one is now on the way. This is mainly for emergency and cattle watering purposes. The point made by the Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands is well taken; perhaps efforts should now be made to pipe this water down from the top of the Bluff into the district.

The First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands has also suggested the Water Authority should seriously look at the possibility of setting up a plant in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Needless to say, much of this development, if placed in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman at this point in time, would have to be heavily subsidised through Grand Cayman. In this respect, I have suggested to the Members from the Lesser Islands that perhaps they should investigate whether the main sources of distribution or customers in the Lesser Islands, the hotels, would be prepared to purchase water from the Water Authority or the Water Company, whichever facility is put there, in order to make this as financially feasible and viable as possible.

In this connection, if development continues in both the West

Bay and George Town areas the requirement for an additional water supply is in the not-too-distant future. Since three parties are involved, an integrated approach is required to meet future needs. This will be addressed by the Water Development Committee. Government intends to implement a policy, as mentioned earlier, to ensure a safe and reliable water supply to each district of Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac at a reasonable price.

All this will have to depend on the demand and the available funds to provide these services. This policy will involve water from desalination, ground water, and from the public and private sector. In this respect, the efforts of both the Water Company and the Water Authority in providing potable water in Grand Cayman is to be complimented and commended.

In addition, one must recognise the invaluable work that the Water Authority has carried out, not only in George Town, but, indeed, in Cayman Brac on the Bluff. Initially it was felt the demand for water in George Town would not be as great as it has turned out to be. Now we are being requested to expand the system not only within the immediate George Town area, but also into the suburban area surrounding the George Town electoral district.

I need not expand on the necessity for a comprehensive Water Development Plan. This is a need and should be formulated without delay in order for us to provide an adequate supply of water to other areas of the Cayman Islands. While we may have suffered some set back with the provision of water in George Town through the Central Desal System, that Company is nonetheless to be commended for their efforts in supplying the water Authority with water for the residents of the district of George Town.

I feel that it would be remiss of me as the Member responsible for Water and Sewage, if I did not mention the Cayman Water Company who holds the franchise for the Seven Mile Beach area. They have done, and continue to do, a tremendous job in carrying out their franchise responsibilities.

Mention was made that, perhaps, the Water Authority should only be a regulatory body. I hope that all Honourable Members will not jump to hasty conclusions regarding the Water Authority and its function; but that this will be very carefully studied. In a very fickle economy, such as we have, we should be, as a Government, encouraging another source, or arm, of revenue for this country.

The Water Authority and the sewage system are a good potential source of revenue for this country and we should not throw them out the door. We need to very carefully examine the potential of the Water Authority and the sewage operation in this country before we decide we are going to privatise it. It is easy to state that our infrastructure facilities and utilities should be privatised, but when we look at the profit element today of the utilities that were once owned by Government, for example Caribbean Utilities which is now in private hands, I wonder whether we made the right decision at the time. I am not going to criticise this, because I am also the Member responsible for Caribbean Utilities Company. I am making the point that we need to be very careful about privatising all of our utilities.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 11:25 A.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:53 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. The Honourable Member for Communications, Works and Natural Resources continuing.

HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

At the break I had reached the point of dealing with the Port Authority which is also a responsibility of my Portfolio. Due to the late receipt of materials forwarded to the Honourable Financial Secretary, the First Official Member was unfortunately unable to include in his Budget Address any comments on the Port Authority. However, I am pleased that mention was made of this important organisation in your Throne Speech.

In November 1988, work commenced on a 6,500 square foot office building at the Port, and completion is anticipated in August 1989. The new building will have sufficient space to support the growth of the Authority for the next 10 years and beyond. The construction cost of this facility is \$802,000. During 1988 the Port Authority installed a computer accounting system and statistical unit within the Department. This system went on-line on the 1st of January this year.

This year the Authority will purchase and develop land in the Industrial Park area of George Town to be used as a cargo distribution centre. The benefits of this development will be far reaching, in that it will greatly reduce the space constraint presently experienced at the Port site on Harbour Drive. It will provide enough storage area to take the Port into the 21st century. It is also envisaged that this development will have a favourable effect on traffic congestion at the water front. Financing for the cargo distribution centre is being provided by Canadian Imperial Bank Of Commerce (CIBC) as well as by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The loans are guaranteed by this Government, however, the loans will be serviced through the Port Authority. The audited accounts of the Authority show a very healthy financial picture. Cayman Brac's facility is financed by the Grand Cayman Branch and it is hoped that increased development in the Sister Islands will ultimately result in financial independence for this port.

Cargo put through Grand Cayman during 1988 increased by some 17 per cent over 1987. It is expected that this trend will continue into 1989. While cargo in Cayman Brac increased in 1988 by some 87 per cent over 1987, that facility continues to be financed by the Grand Cayman operation.

The number of cruise ship passengers during 1988 was some 313,001 passing through the port. Over 300,000, and this is causing a tremendous strain on the infrastructure which leads me, again, to mention in this House that urgent attention will have to be given to improving the cruise ship facilities in this country.

The volume of goods passing through the Port Authority in 1988 was almost 18,000 Tons; a lot of activity. Unfortunately, because of this demand and the heavy work load and space constraints on the dock, it will not be possible for the Port Authority to provide consolidated services to some of the individuals in the private sector. As Chairman of the Port Authority, I have been informed that there are other individuals who will be very happy to provide consolidation services if the individual doing so presently is unable to continue.

Consolidated services are concerned mainly with less than container-load goods, where a number of individuals will consign their goods, in one container, to an individual here in Grand Cayman. While this is not economical for the Port Authority, the main reason why we had to discontinue this service effective the end of April of this year, is because we do not have the manpower or space to do this. I have met with the Honourable Member for Tourism, under whose Portfolio Trade falls, and he generally agrees that once the service can be provided; otherwise we have very little choice in this matter.

Having covered most of my Departments, I would like to generally comment on a few other matters that are directly related to the responsibility of my Portfolio. One such matter, is the mining of marl in the Cayman Islands. We are now in the process of examining new Planning Regulations, which we trust will also address this matter. In the meantime, I am in the process of formulating a policy statement to control the mining of marl in Grand Cayman. One only has to drive, or walk around Grand Cayman (George Town and West Bay in particular) to see the damaging effects that have been caused through land mining of marl. In their efforts to supply marl, developers have destroyed beautiful areas which, in turn, left swamps in order to fill swamps. Even though it is a sensitive issue, we are going to be left with very little alternative but to consider mining of marl from the sea bottom. I know this is a sensitive issue, but if we are not going to mine on land, then we have very little other choice.

I am now in the process of having a proper study carried out, through Deams & Moore, on the possible negative impact of mining of the sea bottom. I do not think extended mining of the sea bottom will be necessary as an immediate measure because we have already granted a license to Caymarl, Mr. J. Bodden, to mine up to 2 million cubic yards of marl. Out of this 2 million Cubic yards, he should be in a position to sell approximately 1,150,000 cubic yards as he will only need 850,000 cubic yards for his own development.

I feel Government should pay very close interest in this and cannot leave the question of the supply of marl for the Cayman Islands in the hands of a private developer. We must also take a keen interest in what is happening because it would be a very dangerous situation if the private developer was not able to supply the marl demand for this country and we are found to be short of marl as was the recent situation in Grand Cayman.

We recognise the views of conservationists and others. To a large extent, I am a conservationist at heart, but I am also a pragmatist; I am a practical individual. We are talking now of a major capital development for this country with our Master Ground Transportation System which will call for a tremendous amount of fill. If we do not find it locally, we will have to have it shipped in.

I wish to record my congratulations to two other sections of the private sector that fall under my Portfolio - Cable and Wireless, and Caribbean Utilities Company (CUC) - for the tremendous amount of work they did during disastrous Hurricane Gilbert and generally for the invaluable service they provide to this country. I am aware that both companies have planned to expand their facilities in the near future; I also know that CUC would be most interested in talking to the shareholder of Cayman Power and Light, if they will set up a meeting with them.

I feel that we are in a very good financial position. We are fortunate to have a very good Administrator at the head of our financial Department, in the person of the First Official Member, the Honourable Financial Secretary. We are very fortunate to have you in Government, leading our country. I thank you for the assurance you have given us that we will continue on a good course for this country.

I also wish to record my grateful thanks to the staff of the Legislative Assembly for the efficient and friendly service rendered to us, including our own favorite Miss Mary. I do not think there is any restaurant on this Island that can prepare chicken legs the way she does. I just hope the merchants or restaurant owners do not hear me, Mr. President, and take her away! I also take this opportunity to express my best wishes for the speedy recovery of Mrs. Myrie, our Clerk.

I feel that we have a good Government. I feel that we have a very astute and efficient Opposition in the person of our Backbenchers, both in Government and Opposition Backbenchers. I feel that any good Government should have opposition. I certainly enjoyed the time I spent on the Backbench. As I said, as the Member now responsible with collective responsibilities, it is not quite as easy to have a wide ranging debate because as a Backbencher, you can criticise one and all. I feel over the next four years we are going to get some very constructive work done in this Assembly. Much of the credit for this has to be given to your very firm, but understanding and kind, leadership in this House. Again, I wish to give the assurance to one and all, to all Members of this Honourable House, that I will give my full cooperation to them. May I, again, thank you for your fine Throne Speech and the Honourable Financial Secretary, the First Official Member for his very informative Budget Address. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Honourable Second Official Member.

HON. RICHARD W. GROUND:

Thank you, Mr. President.

During the course of this Budget debate various Members have commented on legal matters. I would like to, very briefly, reply to the specific points that have been made. In doing so I hope I will not detain the House for very long.

To begin with, I would like to say some words, in passing, about the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. One Member, in speaking, expressed surprise when he had seen in the paper that the U.S. was in no hurry to ratify the treaty. That was not my reading of what the newspaper report said. If it did, it would not be correct to say that was the attitude of the United States. The United States administration, at all levels, is very keen that the Treaty be implemented and ratified as soon as possible. As I think was made plain in the newspaper report, that ratification has been stalled for some time now by political maneuvering in the U.S. Senate and, particularly, the maneuvering of one individual. I think it would be quite wrong to take that as a representation of the attitude, particularly, of the U.S. Government or of the U.S. people.

The United States Attorney General, Mr. Dick Thornberg, was asked in a recent interview, published in the *National Journal*, in February, how important he considered the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties? He replied that he would expect they would be resubmitted for ratification, and his hope was that they would be approved, because they give us an opportunity in this increasingly international environment to obtain evidence in cooperation in intelligence from other countries. Now that hope of the Attorney General is one that I can say, from my own knowledge, is shared by the members of the administration lower down, whom we met when we went to Washington recently and, in particular, members of the Justice Department, among whom was Mr. Mark Richard, who has now been appointed as Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

The whole matter was dealt with rather nicely and amusingly in the *Caymanian Compass* newspaper by a cartoon (which I am sure Honourable Members would have seen) which has a picture of Uncle Sam at the altar with Cayman as a Bride saying, 'is it yes or is it no, Sam?' In the background there is one person saying, 'I object.'

I think it is worth noting that, notwithstanding the fact that the Treaty has not been ratified or implemented, Cayman has nonetheless reaped an immense benefit from it, in terms of improvement of our image overseas; our image to investors, and also in terms of improvement in cooperation with the United States Justice Department.

The other matters I am now going to deal with are all related to legal administration. They are fairly disjointed and I hope Members will forgive me if I leap from one to the other.

The question of Professional Indemnity Insurance, and the difficulties being experienced by the professions, and particularly, the legal profession, in obtaining insurance coverage in respect to North American risks, was raised by the Third Elected Member for George Town. Certainly, I can recognise that this is a problem and a difficulty.

Some time ago I invited representations from the professions, both from the Law Society and the Caymanian Bar Association. I have not yet seen a worked-up document from them. This is not something that legislators can embark upon, on their own speed. I think if a profession, or the professions generally, are experiencing difficulties, it is for them to get together and work up detailed proposals that can then be put to Government for Government's consideration.

It is worth noting that any proposal to limit the liability of any profession, in particular the Legal profession, in respect to North American risks, is controversial and if not handled properly is potentially damaging to our saleability and viability in the United States market. I think it is something that has to be handled with great tact and all its possible ramifications studied.

Certainly, my correspondence with the Law Society shows that they fully appreciate the delicacy of this issue. I had that correspondence with them, in the context of a proposed Bill for a Law to replace the Legal Practitioners Law that was mooted last year. At that stage I was very pleased to see the Law Society recognised that this issue was not an issue that should be dealt with in the context of that Bill; but was a separate and distinct issue. Both in my dealings with the Law Society at that time but also in his speech, the Third Elected Member for George Town raised the question of United Kingdom Legislation that might assist in limiting the liability. I am certainly willing to have that re-explained to me.

My current view looking at it, is the legislation in its present form is not going to address this problem. That legislation excludes awards of multiple damages from enforcement by the U.K. Courts and, if it was extended here, from enforcement by the Cayman Courts. Multiple damages are what happens when a Court assesses the appropriate damages for a given set of circumstances, and then says the costs, either because of a rule of Law or because of the behaviour of one of the parties, is going to triple or double those damages. It is not something that we do under our Law very often, and one can see, readily, why it should be excluded when such damages are awarded in foreign jurisdictions.

Unhappily, the problem as I see it relates not to multiple damages but simply to very large awards of damages, indeed, randomly large awards of damages, awarded particularly in Jury Trials in the United States. I mention that, not to pour cold water on that specific suggestion, but just to make it plain this is a complex area that is going to need detailed consideration and where, in the end, the remedy that Cayman elects upon (if it is able to find one) may be one that is specific to Cayman.

I should now like to go on and just briefly address the question of the Law School and, particularly, of Article Clerks. It was very heartening to hear, from many Members, their support of the Law School being expressed so forcibly. It is heartening to me and it must be particularly heartening to the staff of the Law School, particularly the Director of Legal Studies, David James, to hear this. It is with some regret I now know that he will not be renewing his contract at the end of this session, so we are looking for a new Director of Legal Studies. I might take this opportunity to pay personal tribute to him for the immense efforts that he has put into the development of the Law School during the period of two contracts, four years, while he has been at

its helm. In particular, he has brought an innovative approach to finding other material, other things, the Law School can do, other than directly teaching the Attorney-at-Law course; part-time teaching of other professional courses, which involve no greater strain on the teaching staff, but a greater utilisation of them. He deserves every credit for that.

The question of Article Clerks is something which is not easy to resolve. There are still Article Clerks at the Law School who have not found places in Articles. If every Law Firm in Cayman, every Law Firm that had more than two people in it, were to take two Article Clerks that would only account for 18. There are 21 at the Law School at the moment. Government has taken up two and we hope, in the future, to take up Article Clerks. There is always going to be a risk of a shortfall, particularly if the size of Law School classes should increase in the future and the solution to this is not easy to see. The best I can say at this stage is to encourage members of the profession to take as many Article Clerks as they can. That would of course depend on the size of the Law Firm concerned.

In saying that, I should pay tribute and recognise the Law Firms that do presently take Article Clerks and in many cases go out of their way and strain themselves by taking Article Clerks and by paying time and attention to their education. It certainly is a credit to the profession and the fact that some people are still having difficulties should not, in my submission to this House, be held against the profession.

One Member noted that Article Clerks should not expect to be paid a great deal of money. I think he said they should be prepared to work at reduced pay. Of course I thoroughly endorse that. They are students and what they contribute to a Law Firm is not the same as a qualified person will contribute. Moreover, much of their time is taken up in study or in attending the Law School.

At the moment, the Legal Advisory Council has a policy that Article Clerks should be paid a minimum of \$800 per month. That policy is intended to ensure they are paid a living wage, without showering too much largesse upon them. It is certainly open to Law Firms to pay more and, in exceptional cases, the Legal Advisory Council will consider reducing that amount. The reason for requiring a minimum is to ensure that potential Article Clerks, from whatever background, will be able to undertake a course of legal studies and support themselves during it. Just because someone comes from a poor, or indigent, background where they could not otherwise support themselves for five years while they undertake their Articles and their legal training, it should not debar them from the profession if they are otherwise capable of qualifying.

One other point that one Member made in speaking, which is a point that I welcome, is that the time may come in the future when Article Clerks, in qualifying, might look to take up employment in Departments of Government other than the Legal Department. He cited Planning, Lands and Survey, the Labour Office and so on. There is a wide area both in the private sector and in Government where legal training can be of immense value without necessarily involving practice as a lawyer. I would certainly encourage potential lawyers to at least bear that in mind. Particularly as over the years, the Law School will be qualifying more and more Caymanian Graduates.

I find that graduates in our department, when they do qualify, want to get out and get into the Courts straight away, and if I were to tell them they are going to have to go and spend two years in the Lands and Survey Department, I would probably have a mutiny on my hands. That aside, I think it has to be recognised that there is a rich and rewarding sector of legal practice and of a career in law that does not involve going to court and does not involve litigation. I am just taking this opportunity now to stress this, in the hope that some potential lawyers listening will hear and put out of their mind a Marshall Hall type of career and look at a career in a quieter, but in many ways, more intellectually stimulating walk of the Law.

I would like to turn to a subject which has evoked comment, sometimes critical comment, from a variety of Members, and that is the Courts, particularly the Magistrate's Courts. One Member described the Magistrate's Courts as being badly overworked and wondered if that may not account for some of the problems that have been noted in the press recently. I have consulted with the Judiciary on this. The Magistrate's Courts are hard worked and there is certainly plenty of work there for the two Magistrates we presently have in post. The view of the Judges, and it is a view that I myself share, is that there is not at present work for a third Magistrate. A third Magistrate would, in fact, incur great expense. It would not just be the cost of the new Magistrate but the cost of a Court Room, the cost of an Usher (which is a point I will come back to in just a moment), and the cost of a Prosecutor to stand up before that Court. Before expanding the Judiciary in that direction any further, there would have to be a clearly shown need and I think in approaching this problem one does have to bear in mind the cost question. Nevertheless, I do not think that is, at this stage, an imminent and essential need.

By way of some statistics which the Courts have given me, the demand on the Magistrate's Court seems now to have substantially levelled out after a drastic rise in the earlier part of this decade. In 1986, when the rise was already peaking, there were 3,689 criminal cases in the Magistrate's Court. That includes road traffic and everything. In 1987 that had increased to nearly 4,300, and in 1988 it went up to nearly 4,500. That is a flattening curve. The signs are now, particularly from the Police Statistics, that that curve has flattened out. The hope is that the Court will continue to cope, for the time being. It nevertheless remains the fact that anybody attending either of these Courts, particularly in the morning, is going to see that they are busy and is going to come away with an impression of great business and great toing and froing. It is certain the Magistrate's Courts are operating under some pressure.

That leads me on to the criticisms (or, at least, reservations) that have been expressed by some Members about the conduct of the Court. One Member went so far as to say (and it was reported in the newspaper yesterday (which is why I have picked it out), that what obtains in the Courts right now is not in the best interest of the country or justice. He went on to speak of democracy and the best traditions of justice.

I would be sorry if because of the occasional court report where

a Magistrate's decision is overturned on a procedural irregularity, or the occasional report where it appears the Magistrate had made a mistake, that, from that, Members would extrapolate or build up a scenario that things are greatly awry in the Magistrate's Courts. In my submission, they are not. Of course the Magistrates, as they are administering Criminal Justice, very much at the blunt end, are going to make decisions that are not popular. It is not a job where popularity is necessarily a qualification, unlike in the United States where one has elected Judges. In particular the function of the Grand Court, when it sits on appeal from the Magistrate's Court, is to correct errors and inconsistencies.

One Member in particular spoke about the inconsistency in sentencing coming from the Magistrate's Court. In the nature of things, there are going to be sentences which appear inconsistent. It is, in the first place, human nature to be inconsistent on occasion, that will be exacerbated by the pressure of work. There will be cases where apparent inconsistencies are not really inconsistencies because the evidence given before the Court explains the variation, and that evidence may not be understood by people who are not present in Court. Someone seeing the bare statistics may think there was an inconsistency, while someone who has sat in Court and heard the submissions to the Judge would understand it. Despite that observation, there will be inconsistencies. The function of the Grand Court of Appeal is to catch those, pick them up, and correct them. It is the Grand Court of Appeal that is the bulwark of justice in this jurisdiction. In my submission to this House, it performs that job well. In performing that job it occasionally makes judgments that overturn the Magistrate and those judgments occasionally get picked up in the newspapers. I would urge upon Members and the public, not to attach undue importance to those judgments when set against that enormous statistic, which I quoted a moment ago, of 4,490 cases in the Summary Court last year and the same anticipated this year.

I want to move from that point about the Magistrate's Court to a subsidiary, and really quite minor point, that one Member...

POINT OF ELUCIDATION

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

Mr. President, just on a point of order (34(b)), a matter of elucidation.

MR. PRESIDENT:

It is not a point of order if it is an elucidation you seek. Go ahead. I am making the point that it is not a point of order.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

Under Standing Orders 34(b), I just want to make the point clear that I was not dealing with the Grand Court. We understand the Grand Court procedure and that is why we stayed away from it. We dealt with the fiasco at the Summary level. That is the level where I claimed democracy and justice are not being worked properly.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Thank you for giving way.

HON. RICHARD W. GROUND:

The point I was making, which perhaps, the Member missed, was that in his address he had referred to an article in the newspaper, and I had taken that article and, perhaps, wrongly of the Member, assumed that he was referring to a report in the newspaper of a Grand Court judgment in appeal from the Magistrates' Court.

MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:

I do not know if I am getting you clear or if you are getting me clear, we were not dealing with the Grand Court. I want to make that clear!

MR. PRESIDENT:

I think this is developing into a debate within a debate. I believe that both Members have made themselves clear. The Honourable Second Official Member has explained what he was speaking to, and it appears to me he was speaking to the sort of point you were raising. That is the happening in the Lower Court which he explains is dealt with on appeal to the Higher Court. I think that is fair.

HON. RICHARD W. GROUND:

Mr. President, I am now going to move on from that point and deal with subsidiary points about the administration of the Courts. One Member commented on what he described as undue police presence in the Courts and wondered if civilian marshals could not be employed. In fact, civilian marshals, or Ushers, are employed in each of the Courts; both the Grand Court and the Summary Court. There is now a full establishment of five marshals or Ushers; one as senior Usher and four other Ushers. Provision for them appears in the Budget Estimates this year, that is, one for each Court, and they attend to the calling of witnesses and the administration of matters in the Court supplanting, or taking over, from a function that the Police used to, but no longer, perform. There will be occasions when one of those people are on leave, when it may be necessary to have a Police Officer perform that function. The general rule now, in both Summary and Grand Court, is that there is a civilian Usher.

Turning from the Courts to my own department, the Legal Department. I am grateful to Members for their expressions of support for the necessary recruiting that we need at the moment. Particularly for the recruiting of another senior member of staff. I said at Question Time that we are presently engaged in a recruiting process. We have filled two of the three vacancies, we are currently looking for a third. I am indeed, looking for someone of some seniority and have been interviewing and looking at some candidates from the region. However, it does remain true, and continues to remain true, that in particularly difficult cases we will need to go outside the jurisdiction. We will not be able to have every form of expertise in House no

matter whom we recruit.

In the United Kingdom, all prosecution work is farmed out to Barristers. That is not possible here, nor would I want to see it here. But, there will be cases where we will have to go outside and overseas. The jurisdiction like Cayman throws up the occasional very difficult case. In particular, complicated fraud cases. These are difficult for the specialist. We do not do them enough to build up a reservoir of in-house expertise. There are no courses which anyone offers in how to prosecute these matters. So it is difficult for us to have people on staff who are going to deal with them. Nevertheless, prosecution, particularly of fraud matters, remains, in my submission to this House, absolutely vital. Cayman depends on a lot if its income upon the financial sector and the financial sector depends for its probity upon the certainty, that if it should get loose and, in particular, defraud overseas investors, that he will be prosecuted and prosecuted vigorously, and to the full extent of our Police and Prosecution powers. That, in my submission, is a vital contribution of the Legal Department and the prosecuting services to the commercial health of the Cayman Islands and it is certainly something that I will continue to pursue with vigor.

Before leaving the Legal Department, and on a happier note, I would like to thank the Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands for his comments concerning the retiring Legal Draftsman, Mr. Wilkinson. He has been in the Department longer than I have. We are all indebted to his skills and the Legislation this House has past over the years is testimony to those skills. His going is sad, it does open up an opportunity, and we do hope to train a young Caymanian to take his position, though there will be a time while there is both a Caymanian and an overseas person in post, the Caymanian understudying that person. I do hope this will enable us to localise that post.

The question of Legal Aid was touched on and dealt with. Again it is, first of all, right for me to recognise the contribution made by the private sector lawyers. It is a very real contribution which deserves to be fully recognised.

Until 1986, if they took a legal aid case they were remunerated \$30 per day, which was simply not economic for them, but was a great imposition upon those members of the profession who came forward to do legal aid work. It has now been increased to \$100 per day. It is still an imposition on members of the profession and it would be wrong to pretend otherwise. I certainly remain grateful, and the administration of justice on the Island is indebted to those professionals who do come forward and do legal aid at that reduced rate. Nevertheless, in doing it, they are also recognising the great benefits that the profession has drawn from the Islands. It is very much a two way street. It is something that I think is healthy. I hope it will continue on that reciprocal basis into the future.

I should stress that legal aid is available for most serious criminal cases. They are listed in the Poor Persons Legal Aid Law. It is also available in all civil cases in the Grand Court, provided that the person applying for it can show they do not have the money to pay for that litigation. In other words, they cannot afford it and a means test is carried out to evaluate that. I say that because one Member, in speaking, seemed to be under the assumption that legal aid was not available in civil cases. It is available, although the means test is applied rigorously. To give Members a picture of how it works out, the figures for criminal cases in 1987 were 48 legal aid cases and in 1988, 55 cases. In 1989 there have been 14 criminal legal aid cases to date. The civil cases requiring legal aid in 1987 were 47; in 1988 there were 26 civil cases; and in 1989, to date, there were eight legal aid cases. The Clerk of the Court tells me that civil cases tend to be related to matrimonial matters, custody of children and so on, which is as it should be. Custody of children is particularly a case where legal aid should be given in cases where it is necessary.

Any extension of those figures, any broadening of the categories of legal aid, or the test by which it is granted, is likely to impose a burden upon the profession to where a time will come when they will no longer be able to undertake legal aid work at the reduced rates. Were there to be a revision of this, it must be recognised that some alternative to putting the burden on the profession would have to be canvassed and that is likely to result in expense, possibly great expense, to Government. My hope is that the profession doing legal aid work at the reduced rate is doing so in recognition of the benefit that the rights of audience has conferred upon the profession will continue as it is.

Mr. President, if I could trespass on the House, I have about five minutes more. I hope I can finish before the luncheon break.

Various comments have been made about the publication of controversial bills; publishing them in time so that comments can be made upon them and, of course, I note these comments. Certainly in the past with particularly difficult legislation we have gone to lengths to try to give notice of them. In particular the Labour Law was put out first of all as a Draft Bill. I mention the Legal Practitioners Law that is still out there as a Draft Bill. It should also be remembered that some bills are developed only after intense consultation with the people that are likely to be affected, and the Banks Bill which comes before the House now has been under a process of consultation for an extended period; in excess of two years.

I was disturbed that one Member suggested that law firms had hinted to him that they refrained from being too critical on legislation, as they had lawyers on work permits. That Member (I am pleased to say) said that he felt those comments that had been made to him were unfounded. I can certainly say to this House and assure the House that I have not seen any evidence of anything like that, and I do not believe that it happens. I have certainly found the law firms vociferous through its professional bodies in their criticisms of legislation that they do not like, and I have also found their comments helpful and constructive on occasion.

An example is that the Caymanian Bar Association has put in comments on the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill, which is currently before the House. I do not anticipate the Committee stage on that, but I can say that the comments they put in were carefully thought out and well presented. It is a model of the consultation one would expect. Having said that, they are not all comments that

one can accept, but certainly it is as good and classic example of the sort of consultation that one looks for.

I honestly do not believe that law firms are concerned that work permits could be at prejudice, or at risk, if they put in critical comments on legislation. There is no longer any requirement that Executive Council have any say whatsoever in the licensing of Legal practitioners. That was once part of the Laws of the Cayman Islands. It was abolished in 1986. With that abolition there is, frankly, no way that Executive Council could have a say so as to affect the granting of work permits in such circumstances.

The only existing requirement is that the Caymanian Protection Board consult with the Attorney General before granting a work permit for a legal practitioner. I can say that when the Caymanian Protection Board consults me, I only address myself to the question of whether the person on whose behalf the application is being made, is suitably qualified and also to the question of balance among size of legal firms. The Caymanian Protection Board and I are mandated to do that by directives and I would not go beyond that. It is also worth pointing out that the Caymanian Protection Board now has, as its Head, a member of the legal profession. I cannot think of any better guarantee of the integrity and the independence of the Caymanian Protection Board from such pressure than having such a member there.

I am going to finish very quickly on an upbeat note. I was very grateful for the kind comments from the Third Elected Member for George Town on the Law Report Project. It is something of which we are proud. It is also something which, I think, greatly enhances the reputation of the Cayman Islands. If we can have bound sets of reports from our Courts which we can show to practitioners overseas and, also, on occasion, to show to prosecutors from the United States, to explain what our Confidentiality Law is and how the practice of enforced consents has been treated by our Courts. To have them well bound, well presented, will certainly be a great asset and advantage in doing that.

I have also put into this years' Budget, a provision for a revision of our Statutory Laws. This was not mentioned by any Member, so I mention it now. It is, in my submission, an important, indeed, a vital task. By revision, I simply mean an amalgamation so that all those Laws that have been repeatedly amended over the years can be reprinted, each Law in a coherent and comprehensive form, to save the difficulty experienced by practitioners nowadays, chasing loose amendments all over the shop. I put in a provision of \$100,000. The quotes we got for printing such a revision in the United Kingdom was C\$217,000 for 250 sets. That is simply enormous. We hope that we will be able to find a more economic way of doing that. We are looking, in particular, at the Computer Department and modern typesetting techniques; in particular, the ability to produce camera ready artwork and I hope we can severely cut back from that. I mention those figures so Members can see the provision we put forward to begin the project is a modest one. It is also going to take the work of a draftsman or consultant full time, for a considerable period to effect it.

On that note, I am going to close. I am going to make one other comment, then I will release Members for lunch. That comment is a topic which all Members have touched on, it would be wrong if I did not mention it briefly. It is the question of drugs and the abuse of drugs, and their impact on the Islands from the point of view of the Legal Administration we are seeing this from every angle.

It imposes a strain upon the prosecutors and the judiciary to deal with the increased number of drug cases. Nevertheless, I think that we have built up over the years an expertise in dealing with these cases. Particularly, in my Department, I feel that is true. Certainly, I can pledge to this House, that we will continue to put every effort and all the expertise and spare no expense or effort in prosecuting cases vigorously and fairly, before the Courts and do our best to bring this monster under control.

Mr. President, thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceeding are suspended for until 2:15.

AT 12:52 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:17 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Honourable Third Official Member.

Proceedings are resumed. Continuation of the debate. The

HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:

Mr. President, I rise to make my non-political contribution to the debate on the Throne Speech as well as the second reading the Appropriations Bill, 1989.

I would like to be associated with the accolades and congratulations extended to His Excellency, the Governor and to my colleague the Honourable First Official Member for the style, content and delivery of both major Speeches.

Following the General Election last November when the assignments to Members of the Executive Council were issued, the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs received a menu consisting of 25 subjects to be administered by my own Portfolio office, assisted by four sections, six Government Departments, and four Boards and Committees. In the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Budget of this year, the Portfolio is accountable for a total public expenditure of \$22.3 million, which represents in excess of 20 per cent of the national Budget.

This Budget is comprised of \$17.6 million of recurrent expenditure, \$4.4 million of Capital Expenditure and \$3 million in new services. Added to the Portfolio following the General Election were Computer Services, Personnel and Management Services, Civil Service Discipline, and District Administration.

Perhaps I could begin with a comment on District Administration. I am enjoying my new responsibility for District Administration and have, so far, made two visits to

that constituency. I appreciate the relationship I have developed with the Elected Representatives for the Lesser Islands, as well as the working relationship with the District Commissioner and his staff. It adds a new dimension and variation to the routine and I can honestly say that I enjoy that added responsibility.

I would like to assure Members that District Administration receives more than its fair share of expenditure. Particularly on the Capital side of the Budget. I did one or two little arithmetic sums, myself, and I discovered that on a per capita basis the population of the Lesser Islands enjoys a Budget equivalent to \$2,300 per person, which is three times larger than the equivalent per capita expenditure in Grand Cayman. Persons in those Islands ought to, therefore, be very grateful that they are enjoying such a high level of public expenditure. I think it is also fair for me to say that I believe those Islands enjoy, generally, a quality of life second to none in the Caribbean and they are indeed valuable assets in the Caymanian tourism context.

If I could make a few comments on the Civil Service in general, and if I could begin by looking at the composition of the service. The public service of these Islands, Sir, currently employs 1,535 Civil Servants of whom 985 are Caymanian and 550 expatriate. Of the total number employed 914, or 60 per cent, are on pensionable terms; 437, or 28 per cent, are employed on contractual agreements; and 184, or 12 per cent, are employed on temporary terms.

At the end of 1988, 259 employees were from the Caribbean area, 193 from the United Kingdom and 98 from other countries. The rate of growth of Caymanianisation has been a steady but consistent one. For example, whereas we now have 60 per cent of the Civil Service employed on pensionable terms, that percentage is 20 per cent higher than it was eight years ago. In 1980, only 41 per cent of the Civil Service were employed on pensionable terms. Another example of Caymanianisation is that out of 37 Government Departments, 22, or 60 per cent, are now headed by Caymanians.

The Government is committed to a deliberate policy of Caymanianisation and this is expressed in Government's training policies in the Civil Service, both in the Public Service Commission mandate as well as the Education Council, as well as in all other institutions of public learning.

Perhaps I should express my view, Sir, as I did on a previous occasion, of the relationship between the manner in which the Public sector is regulated by the Public Service Commission, vis-a-vis how the private sector is regulated by the Caymanian Protection Board.

The Public Service Commission attempts to follow, generally, the same principals and commitments toward Caymanianisation as does the Caymanian Protection Board. In that regard the Public Service Commission is very conscious of the need to have due regard to the policies and directives issued to the Caymanian Protection Board from time to time. To date, the Service has been Caymanianised to the extent of 65 per cent, and this percentage changes daily. The latest figures are that, of the 1,535 employees, 985 are Caymanians and that represents 65 per cent Caymanian employment. The remaining 35 per cent are non-Caymanians. Of the Heads of Departments, as I have mentioned, 22 are headed by Caymanians.

It was suggested during the debate, Sir, that the Public Service should be the role model for Caymanianisation, and with that there is general agreement. The goal is to Caymanianise as quickly as possible with due regard to efficiency.

Perhaps on that note, Sir, I could share a little bit of humour with the House by reading a joke which is written about the Personnel Officer of a certain airport. Of course, you will appreciate that this is not in the Cayman Islands.

"The Personnel Officer at a certain airport has a sure fire method of putting recruits into the most appropriate sections of the airport. He puts each recruit on his own for 15 minutes in a room equipped with only a chair, a newspaper and a television set. After 15 minutes the Personnel Officer goes into the room to make the job assessment. If the candidate is standing at the window looking up at the sky, he is assigned to airfield operations. If he is scribbling on the walls, he is given a clerical job. If he is dismantling the inside of the television set, he is assigned to engineering. If he does not look up at all when the Personnel Officer enters the room, he is made a security guard. If he is standing on the chair shouting and waving his arms, he is made a shop steward, and if he cannot be found at all, he is made a duty officer."

I know, Sir, that it is often said that one does not require much brain, skill or acumen to be a Civil Servant. However, that is not the role model that one would hope to emulate in this country. We are committed to a standard of efficiency based on our commitment to render the highest quality of public service in these Islands, and those standards cannot be compromised.

Perhaps I should just read for the benefit of this Honourable House, a little of the policy relating to training. This policy is reflected in the General Orders which is the document governing the terms and conditions of public officers. It begins with a statement of intent, and it reads:

"Manpower is Government's largest investment. It is a major resource within Government. In order to develop this resource the Government is committed to creating a learning environment, wherein staff can not only acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to perform well in the duties of their current offices but also afford the opportunity to prepare officers for advancement within the public service.

The objectives of training within the service are to:

1. Promote learning, develop the mind and broaden cultural and scientific horizons and to develop the disciplines of study of any subject for the furtherance of public policy;
2. Improve systematically the ability of officers to perform the duties of their posts at a higher standard of efficiency on first appointment, during probation and to prepare them for higher responsibilities during the course of their careers;
3. Provide for localization of the Service as rapidly as is consistent with the maintenance of appropriate standards of efficiency and expertise;
4. Create a learning environment which essentially includes management, understudy of an experienced officer where skills and knowledge can be acquired;
5. Create a sound analysis of tasks and needs."

I put that on record, Sir, because it is important for everyone to understand that the Government has a programme, it has a policy, and it is consistently and faithfully implementing that policy.

The second point I would like to make about the Civil Service is that some officers working in the public service (and this was commented upon during the debate) are made to believe that junior officers are intimidated, and fear does exist in the minds of some junior officers resulting in a lack of freedom of expression, participation, etcetera. I would just like to clear that point up by reading the General Orders relating to the public officer and his dealings with the media. We heard for example, how in Canada, civil servants are encouraged to (and do) actively participate in written expressions in the media. This is what the policy is in respect of the Cayman Islands. General Orders Chapter 9, General Order No. 11 says:

"No Officer, whether he is on duty or leave of absence shall:

- (1) Act as editor of any newspaper, magazine, periodical or news-sheet or take part directly or indirectly with the management thereof; or
- (2) Contribute to, whether anonymously or otherwise, or publish in any newspaper, magazine periodical, news sheet or otherwise, or publish or cause to be published in any such publication in any manner, in the Islands, or elsewhere, anything which may reasonably be regarded as of a political or public administrative nature; or
- (3) Allow himself to be interviewed on questions of public policy or on any matter of a political or administrative nature or on any matters affecting the administration or the security of any state or territory; or
- (4) Speak in public or broadcast in any way on matters which may reasonably be regarded as of a political or administrative nature;

Provided that:

- (a) the provisions of this Order shall not apply to an officer acting in pursuance of his official duties and with the prior permission of the Governor; and
- (b) that statements for publication of factual and technical information may be made by Principal Secretaries, Heads of Departments and other senior officers with the prior permission of the Governor."

Now, that may sound a little like the joke which was read earlier in the proceedings by the Honourable Member for Health, about how things are expressed in legal terms, but my understanding of that is that the guidelines are laid down for Officers to express themselves. Certainly in the case of Heads of Department, Principal Secretaries, and other Senior Officers, indeed, it is their responsibility in the discharge of their duties to ensure that public policies are ventilated appropriately and that proper news releases are issued on a timely basis and questions are answered properly. Therefore, the concerns and fears of being intimidated by any form, or prohibition of public expression, is not a very valid fear.

Another Member, Sir, suggested that we should get a little more creative and aggressive in our recruiting campaign. He went as far as to suggest that perhaps we should send job circulars around the private sector with a view of trying to attract some Caymanians from there.

I believe, Sir, that a number of creative measures have been tested and tried over the years. However, I do not think that particular idea (of a circular going around the private sector) is one of those creative ideas. If we think it will work, I will be the first one to try it. However, one must bear in mind that there is a degree of reciprocity and if the Public sector has the privilege of sending job circulars around

the private sector, then certainly the private sector is very likely going to demand the right to do the same in the reverse. Which brings us right back to square one and leaves me to say that both sectors, Public and private, are competing for the same commodity; we are competing for the most suitable and qualified Caymanians to fill as many jobs as possible. We know the scenario where demand exceeds supply and what happens thereafter. We are in a heavily contested competition for the most competent officers to take up jobs in this country.

One final comment on the Civil Service, Sir, relates to the cost of housing accommodation to the Government. In answering a parliamentary question last week, it was revealed that the cost of housing accommodations in 1988 amounted to approximately \$2.3 million, against which recoveries, by way of salary deductions, from contracted officers representing up to 50 per cent of the rent (the contribution that they are required to make towards the rental cost), amounted to \$1.1 million in deductions - leaving a net total expenditure to the Government of approximately \$1.2 million.

In answer to a supplementary question on that, Sir, I indicated that the expenditure was spread out over an average of just over 200 landlords.

The only point I would like to make about this, Sir, is that the vast majority of the landlords in this context are local companies, Caymanian controlled companies, and Caymanian entrepreneurs, who invest in housing and apartment accommodations, and, indeed, the funds for rental accommodation does stay within the local economy. So we are not contributing to an outside agent who is repatriating the profits. It is indeed Caymanians who are benefiting.

If I could say a few words now, Sir, on the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force. Most people understand the constitutional position of the Police and its unique relationship with his Excellency the Governor and of its administrative links to my Portfolio. There should be no reason to doubt that we have a Police Force which has come a long way in a short length of time and is maturing quite nicely. In that regard, we have 52 per cent of the Force at the moment comprised of young persons, men and women, of 30 years of age or less.

Therefore, the point made by the First Elected Member for West Bay, of having young Officers dealing with their school mates, is quite a valid one. This is what makes the work of a serving Officer, serving a law enforcement responsibility in his or her own community, a very challenging and interesting task. The people you are policing are often times your relatives, friends and schoolmates. The point I am trying to make is that you have a young Police Force, 52 per cent under the age of 30 years old, and they will acquire more experience as the years go by. They will improve and they are committed to improving.

The Annual Police Report reflected how many internal promotions took place during 1988. It also reflected how many promotional examinations were sat and passed. It shows how localisation is taking effect as and when the Officers become suitably experienced to take on the more responsible positions in the management.

A reference was made to the ratio of Police to the population. I believe an interesting comparison with New York City was drawn. I am not able to rationalise the ratio of Police Officers to population in New York City, but in these Islands we now have a population ratio of one Police Officer to every 120 persons in the population.

The same Member asked the question of how large is the Police Force intended to grow. The answer to that is no larger than is absolutely necessary. However, we have to accept that with the increase in commercial crime and drug crimes the pressure on enforcement is going to increase.

We have heard suggestions that we should strengthen the Marine section of the force. We know that in the Draft Estimates on the new services there are provisions to strengthen the commercial crime branch and other branches. We know, for example, that with the intended coming into effect of the Mutual Assistance Treaty, an additional burden is going to be placed on the Force and, of course, a Bill before the House now, the Misuse of Drugs Law, will also bring about a new dimension of responsibility for the investigation of assets of convicted drug dealers. These sophisticated developments bring with them more demands of more specialised expertise and a greater number of officers to deal with these matters.

If I could therefore, turn to have a word about Police recruitment. Police recruitment is carried out on an ongoing basis and is conducted by a training division established within the Force. I only have statistics gathered for the past five years, but the statistics reveal that during the past five years, the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force conducted eight recruit training courses. They have trained a total of 85 Officers, six of whom dropped out during the course of the training. Of those trained, 57 are Caymanian and 28 are non-Caymanian.

Most interestingly, is the statistics relating to the number of applications received and the number of applications rejected. The total number of applications received during the past five years amounted to just under 1,500; 1,400 of which were rejected, either by examination or at the interview stage.

One may ask the question, therefore, why such a high drop out rate? To which I think the answer must be, that if we are to maintain minimum standards, then we must anticipate there will be some percentage of rejections. Later on, when I make the comparisons and give the similar statistics in the case of the Prison Service, one will see that there is a degree of consistency of high rejection rates there as well. The point is that recruitment and training is done on an in-house basis on an ongoing basis and so are retraining efforts, repeat courses for serving Officers.

Two Members made reference to, what was perceived by them to be, the low morale of the Police. To that I can only refer Members to Paragraph 41 of the Annual Police Report found on Page 8 of the 1988 Report, which indicates the Wastage in the Force: "During 1988, 11 officers left the Force during the year, as follows: Resigned, 5; Dismissed, 0; Contract ended, 3; Transferred out, 1; Contract terminated, 2." In a Force of just under 200, that rate of wastage does not seem to suggest to me that the morale is

necessarily low, because we all know how easy it is for Caymanians to walk out of one job and into another. Therefore, where morale tends to get low, movements tend to be sporadic.

We also heard reference to alleged Police abuse of powers and police brutality. Again, I would like to draw Member's attention to the Police Annual Report in which we will see the number of disciplinary charges that were dealt with during the year: During 1988, 20 officers were subject to disciplinary proceedings. Results of 27 charges against these officers were as follows: Fined, 8; Reprimanded, 12; Not proceeded with, 2; Case pending, 4; Verbal caution, 1."

I am told that the most common disciplinary proceedings amongst this lot were not for incidents of Police brutality and abuse of powers, but for offences such as reporting late for duty, or being disrespectful to a senior officer.

There are no cases on record, with one exception that was before the Magistrate's Court recently in which the Magistrate made a comment that persons who try to escape from the police must expect the police to use some degree of force in effecting a recapture, possibly, it may be incidents of that nature that Members were referring to. It is only natural that in the carrying out of their duties Police Officers may have to resort to a degree of force in order to make sure their duties are carried out. That is not deliberate, nor is it their desire or first choice.

It was suggested that consideration might be given to setting up a Police Commission to advise on the recruiting, selecting, appointments, promotions and discipline of Officers within the Police Force. I do not have any experience in dealing with Police Commissions myself, but I am reliably informed that the experience elsewhere is that Police Commissions generally are responsible for appointments and matters above the ranks of the junior Officers and deals primarily with Gazetted Officers; Officers with the rank of Inspector and above.

Secondly, the functions of Police Commissions is somewhat similar to the function of our Public Service Commission, in that it is only advisory.

Finally, the third point on the Police Commission concept is that, in any disciplined organisation, the ultimate question of hiring and firing has to be in the hands of the person in command of that disciplinary organisation.

It was mentioned that we should, perhaps (in referring to drugs someone used the expression that we should) be going for the pushers. In that respect, I would like to refer Members again the Police Annual Report, at paragraph 71, in which Members will see that during 1988, 50 cases involving pushers were dealt with and received convictions. It is safe to say that the facts reveal that the Police are, indeed, going for the pushers.

Perhaps I should make one comment on the relationship and role between the responsibilities of the Police in interdiction activities vis-a-vis the role of Customs. It is internationally arranged that the control of illegal importation into any country is first, and foremost, the responsibility of the Customs service. Therefore, one has to respect that it is the Customs service that carries out the function of examination of imported matters and controlling imports into the country with a view to detecting whether, included in the imports, there are any prohibited products.

Of course, all Law enforcement agencies are obliged to cooperate with the Police in trying to interdict and bring to justice as many cases as possible. The Customs and Police therefore, have a liaison role to support each other in a joint effort to interdict, apprehend, and bring to justice all violators of breaches under any of our Laws.

It was suggested on the topic of drugs that we might consider the use of tracker dogs, and I am happy to say that particular suggestion is, in fact, currently being acted upon. Another suggestion was the possibility of encouraging the introduction in communities of neighbourhood watches. Again, I have no experience in these matters, but I am also reliably informed that these are largely citizen groups who obtain Police assistance in training in the art of detection and surveillance work with a view of watching their own particular neighbourhood and reporting to the Police on suspicious activities that may lead to the interdiction and apprehension of criminal offenders. I am told that in most places neighbourhood watches are generally deployed as a means of deterring burglaries. Whether or not this would work in the Caymanian context is left to be seen, but if there are groups in the community that would wish to undertake some of these ideas, there is no reason why they could not approach the Police.

Indeed, let me say here that the Commissioner of Police is currently undertaking a review of what the public expects of the Police, not only in the Capital district, but in the outlying districts as well. Based on that, Members in the districts or communities will have an opportunity, very shortly, to make their wishes and desires known to the Commissioner of Police so that these ideas can be further explored and developed.

One comment only on the topic of the proposed U.S. Radar Installation: That matter is still at the preliminary and exploratory stages. Until such time as further progress has been made, it is not appropriate to elaborate. However, I can assure Honourable Members that much care and caution has been exercised to date, and will continue to be exercised in dealing with this sensitive matter as we understand the significance of our relationships with our neighbours and our responsibilities of neutrality in international matters. The fears and concerns expressed by various Members of the House are noted and are similar, indeed, to those of the Executive Council.

Now, Sir, the Prisons: May I first offer the same range of statistics in the case of the Prisons as I did for the Police in relation to recruitment and training, and say that over the past five years 62 Officers have completed training in the Prison Service; one Officer dropped out during training; eight recruit training courses have been held, and 221 applications have been rejected; the majority for non-compliance with minimum academic standards and a small minority just did not show up for interviews.

One interesting point arises out of this area. Out of the 221 applications rejected, 31 applications were in respect of persons less than 21 years of age, only three of whom were Caymanians. Honourable Members will recall that the question was asked early in this sitting about reviewing the lowering of entry age into the Prison Service, with a view of trying to attract a larger number of Caymanians. If only three Caymanians applied, that in itself does not say very much, because the advertisement would have discouraged Caymanians under the age of 21 from applying, so I am not using this to say that there were not younger Caymanians who would have otherwise applied. But I make the point that 31 out of the 221 applications were from persons under the age of 21 years of age and only three of those were Caymanians. The matter of lowering the minimum entry age in the Prison Service is under review and will be further considered.

One of the highlights of the Prisoner Rehabilitative efforts was the recent production of a play, 'The Fall and Rise of Johnny B. Good.' Written and performed by inmates of Northward and the public had an opportunity recently of seeing that performed publicly. I believe that it is true to say that experience was a healthy one, not only for the community who enjoyed the production, but for the inmates who were very eager and anxious to perform. Of course, there was a strong moral message in the tone of the production, one can only hope that will lead to better and more effective rehabilitative programmes.

The next subject I would like to touch on is the big issue of the Immigration Service and the Caymanian Protection Board. I would like to be as brief as possible on this, on this occasion, for the simple reason that the matter is up for review by a Select Committee of the whole House, and I would not wish to take too much time of the House in going into matters that might be regarded as anticipating the work of the Select Committee. However, I would like to make a few comments in response to points raised by previous speakers.

The first point on Immigration related to the payment of overtime, as the speaker referred to it, as some sort of inducement to Officers as a means of preventing corruption. Now, we know that we have a few cases of official corruption in this country, but, the use of overtime payment as a means of reducing that occurrence is not, to my mind, a very sensible solution. Overtime is paid when it is absolutely necessary. It is paid to deliver a service that is needed. Indeed, we are trying to find ways and means of instituting shift systems in these major Departments with a view to keeping overtime payment down to a minimum.

It was also suggested that (and I am getting into the area that might be somewhat anticipatory of the work of the Select Committee, but I have one comment to make on this), it was suggested that we might consider, for example, replacing the Caymanian Protection Board with paid professional employees. My only comment about that, at this stage, is that one can appreciate the role of a paid professional as opposed to a voluntary tribunal, but, given the current atmosphere of the shortage of labour and the need to import large quantities of it, to supplement the labour market, one can understand that the role of a paid professional in these types of situations has to be very carefully analysed. Because too much power placed in the hands of too few people creates the wrong climate for the wrong things. The Caymanian Protection Board is comprised of 11 Caymanians and, I believe, I can go as far as to say that they are all born Caymanians, if you like. This group of persons is charged with enormous responsibilities which they have in the past and continue to discharge very diligently and they need, in fact, the support and encouragement of the community. The task is a difficult one and often times a bit of encouragement helps. The Caymanian Protection Board is beginning to be a bit more open and is beginning to issue press releases and statements. It is hoped that this will bring about a degree of communication that will be healthy and helpful and persons will understand that jobs that are as difficult and as unpopular, as these sometimes are, have to be done by somebody.

On the question of undue delay in processing appeals against decisions of the Caymanian Protection Board, which appeals are administrative in nature and dealt with by the Governor in Council, I am the first to publicly concede that the current volume of appeals in the pipeline, and the current method of handling those appeals makes them over bureaucratic with the result that long delays are almost unavoidable. However, I am happy to say that matter is also under review and it is hoped that we will be able to speed up that process in the very near future.

Speaking, generally, on the question of work permits and what the First Elected Member for Bodden Town referred to as the revolution of rising expectations, I came across a little quotation written by someone that I admire quite a bit in the journalistic world. I would like to share it with the House, if I may. It is an editorial clipping written by a renown Jamaican journalist, Morris Cargill, and published in the 1987 edition of the book entitled, *A selection of Morris Cargill Writings in the Jamaican Gleaner from 1952 to 1985*. This was a Jamaican experience back in 1966 (23 years ago), and I only share it with the House because it may have some degree of relevance on the matter of work permits and the philosophy behind work permits. I quote:

"The work permit system is wrong because it dangles peoples from the end of a string. It aggregates the constitutional rights of commonwealth citizens and keeps out the best of the experts we need for the reason that a really good man is not going to accept a really good job on a year to year basis. It creates a class of people who exist at the whim of a politician."

I offer that in the context of this revolution of rising expectation, because I know and understand the feeling of the community and its expectation of its politicians when it comes to fulfilling their every wish and desire. I also know from experience, how those wishes and desires get translated into political agendas. It is not for me to comment on the political wisdom of it. I simply offer it because if it was the Jamaican experience written by one journalist 23 years ago, it is something that one might wish to think about.

I would like to turn next to make a few comments on three areas of my Portfolio, one of which did not get mentioned in either of the major speeches. That one first deals with the

subject of television. My simple comment is that the subject of national television for these Islands is likely to be under review in the very near future because it is stimulated by private sector interest in providing a form of a national television service for the Islands and if it is found feasible, and legal, the Government will be considering the matter.

On the area of search and rescue: There are a group of senior public officers who assist me in the discharge of my responsibilities for search and rescue. I would like to take time out to thank them for the hard work that they are often required to do on weekend and evenings when search and rescue activities are necessary.

On the relationships with the London Office, I would like to make one comment. Last year, the London office was responsible for filling 42 of our vacant posts. They assisted in making the arrangements for conducting interviews of 231 candidates, resulting in an estimated savings to this Government of the equivalent of 146,000 Pounds Sterling, based on Crown agents charges for similar services. The London office taking recruitment alone as a basis for its existence, can more than justify its existence on those economic grounds, not to mention the other valuable services the London office provides.

On liquor licenses, I would just like to comment that I too often get the impression that the community in its concern for the growing number of liquor licenses in the Islands, are minded to think, that the more licenses that exist, the amount of consumption will increase. I do not know why that should be the case, because if one applies that logic to other commodities such as food stuff, for example, the more food outlets that are developed on the Island does not necessarily result in the population consuming more food. The same applies in the case of liquor. Liquor is an item that has to be regulated, but it is not an item that the number of outlets dictates the level of consumption. Perhaps the number of outlets is just an indication of the growth of competition in the industry and indeed, from where I sit, the competition is getting quite fierce.

On the openness of Government and the relationship with the media, I am happy to say that my Portfolio has an excellent working relationship with the media. Parker Stewart has written: "Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in its self". Therefore, an open and uncensored media is a healthy and necessary ingredient in our democracy. We must, at all times, do whatever we can do to preserve that with the respect and integrity that it demands. Lyndon Johnson, former President of the United States, had this to say about growth and relationships. He said: "We are in the midst of a great transition from narrow nationalism to international partnerships.". These Islands, in my view Sir, are now well positioned to take their rightful place in the international partnership of tourism, finance, real estate and all its related activities.

Finally, I would just like to pay tribute to my staff in the Portfolio who work exceedingly hard, are very dedicated, often working on public holidays, ceremonial parades and they never grumble or complain, for which I am very grateful. I take the opportunity on behalf of myself and the Portfolio to extend our condolences to the family of the Late Ed Bush, an announcer at Radio Cayman who passed away unexpectedly yesterday morning.

I thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are suspended for 15 minutes.

AT 3:20 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:49 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT:
Tourism.

Proceedings are resumed. The Honourable Member for

HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:

Mr. President, I join all other Honourable Members in thanking you as Governor of the Cayman Islands for your fair and forward looking Throne Speech, and to the Honourable Financial Secretary for his factual and well balanced Budget Address which were both delivered to this Honourable House on Friday 17 February.

Attention has been directed to some favourable facts, as well as some worrying conditions and serious challenges which exist in our country. Conditions and challenges must be frankly and fairly faced, because doing so is absolutely essential to the economic well-being and continuing stability of these Islands that we all call home. Sometimes we are prone to be short sighted and complain bitterly about the problems we have, until we visit another man's land. It is then brought home forcibly to us just how fortunate and blessed we are in these Cayman Islands.

In these two most informative Addresses, I would say that our course has been correctly and carefully charted for the next year. I do believe that the projected results will be realised, provided that the formula that has brought us success in the past, is followed in the future. The formula which dictates that political stability is maintained, that efficient services of international standards and recognition continues to be provided, and thirdly, Government's sensible and sound policies are continued.

I am pleased to have been a part of the 1984 to 1988 Government. A Government which not only understood and practiced a cautious spending policy but one which was able to keep in place the climate that encourages and attracts foreign investments and economic development which, in turn, allows and enables expansions of local trade and businesses. A Government which found ways and means of financing projects from which our country stands to benefit and which I have gone a long way to improving the quality of life in these Islands.

I pay tribute to Captain Charles Kirkconnell and Mr. Vassell Johnson, former Executive Council Members who were part of the Elected Government for the past four years, but

who choose not to stand in the November General Elections. This very high standard of performance stands as irrefutable evidence of a Government and its country with their priorities in order. The evidence of progress and prosperity which are all around us, specifically over the past four years, and the strong financial position of our country today is a reality that even the staunchest critic is forced to admit, even if grudgingly.

Here, I would like to interject that I am likewise pleased to be a Member of the new Legislative Assembly and part of the newly elected Government which has been given a clear mandate by the people, for the continuation of good government with similar sound policies. I am indeed grateful to the people in George Town for electing me to serve another term of office. I also thank my colleagues for electing me as a Member of Executive Council. I look forward to working with the two new Elected Executive Council Members and all Members of this House and Official Executive Council Members over the next four years. I will continue to do my best and I take the responsibilities assigned to me seriously.

It is only natural to expect, that with a new Legislative Assembly, there will be a settling in period; there will naturally be differences of views and opinions, but in exercising our right to differ, I trust that we will not forget why we are here. That our debates will be conducted at a high level and that at the end of the day, what is best for our country will be accomplished. I am encouraged and impressed, at least initially, with a number of areas we all seem to agree on. I believe that we will have another four productive years for the Cayman Islands.

I have mentioned the progress and prosperity of our country today, not in a boastful manner - I, like many more, do realise that we have paid and must pay a price for progress. A fact we must all accept is that there are many outside forces beyond our control which to a great extent dictate what happens to us here in the Cayman Islands. This must never be forgotten. But, even after taking this fact into consideration, I sincerely believe that if we continue to handle our affairs in an orderly and sensible manner, that, with God's help, we can continue to enjoy the benefits of a progressive developing country. Our outlook can continue to be favourable even though, admittedly, there are some clouds on the horizon which we cannot afford to ignore.

Now, in examining the 1989 Budget, one does not have to be a qualified accountant to see the present favourable financial position of our country. A surplus of \$7,039,088 was brought forward on 1 January, 1988. Revised estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year produced a surplus of, \$5,127,258, making a total accumulated balance of, \$12,166,346 to 31 December 1988. From this amount, \$6 million is being transferred to the countries General Reserves, which now stand at \$17.2 million. This then leaves a balance of \$6,166,346 with which to start off the new year, 1989. These facts have enabled Government to present a balanced Budget of \$103 million without introducing any new form of revenue earning measures; a big Budget which would have been totally impossible and unheard of even just four years ago.

I know that the Third Elected Member for George Town has expressed some concern about the National Debt. I am not an accountant, so I will leave this for the banker in our group, The Honourable Member for Education, to deal with it thoroughly. Governments strong financial position enables it to service its debt loans. I understand that it takes only 5.5 per cent of ordinary recurrent revenue which, it is my understanding, is an acceptable level.

Additionally, our Financial Secretary is a qualified economist, and the holder and guardian of the purse strings of this country. I do not believe that he would allow any Government to exceed what the financial resources of our country can support.

The revenue earning results of Government during 1988 was the highest in history. All the various Government Departments must be highly commended for a job well done in coping with the volume of work which produced those excellent results. Duty collections exceeded original estimates by \$9.7 million for a total of \$34.2 million. Tax Collection were \$1.5 million above estimates, licenses by \$421,844, sales by \$6.2 million and fees by \$3.0 million.

We have many outstanding and dedicated civil servants of which this country can be proud. I would like to hear special mention of the Customs Department, as other Members have also done. I have always believed that this department has done a tremendous job of collecting 43 per cent of the Country's total direct revenue. Mrs. Marcia Bodden, the former Collector of Customs who retired last year always did a commendable job in this Department. I am pleased to see the high level of efficiency and performance continuing under the direction of the new Collector of Customs, Mr. Carlon Powery, and his hard working staff; not only in the area of revenue collections, but in drug interdiction as well. I believe that this is exemplary and can be followed by many other departments in Government.

It is true that this big Budget may be considered as inflationary. Much has been said about inflation recently. My position is that to a point inflation is also another import, a spiral or vicious cycle which a small country like Cayman finds itself drawn into without a great deal of control. However, having said, and accepted, that in our free enterprise system, which I support and uphold, inflation must be voluntarily controlled to the extent possible. A reasonable and astute business community can certainly contribute much to this. Obviously profit margins must be reached in order for businesses to survive, but there is such a thing as exorbitance. To echo the words of wisdom used in the Throne Speech, whereby all businesses were encouraged to be vigilant about overcharging and I quote:

"It is short sighted to make unduly large profits at the expense of medium and longer term prospects; this will not only damage the business community, it will damage our whole economy."

Words well spoken to which we, who conduct businesses in these Islands should take note and guard against. This applies as well to the high cost of labour in our country today. If we do not exercise more conscionable

control, if our conscience is not truly our guide in pricing and charging, then we are only fueling the fires of inflation - the evil that affects us all and the very thing which we are all complaining about.

As I have said, the 1989 Budget is a big Budget, some 17.5 per cent above the Budget of 1988. As I see it, this too is the direct result of the increased cost of conducting Government business. The hard facts are, if more and more demands are made on Government to increase and improve the services to a developing and demanding society, Government must dig deeper and deeper to find the funds to meet the ever increasing costs from which Government itself is not immune.

Let us look closely at the large amounts in this Budget. \$75.2 million, or 73 per cent, represents Government's recurrent expenditure. An unavoidable expense which has to be met if the machinery of Government is to continue to run and provide the services required of it. The balance is distributed between statutory of \$6.1 million, Capital \$19.4 million and new services of over \$2 million for the sum total of approximately \$103 million.

Substantial increases in expenditure are in the areas of Education, Medical Health Services, Communications and Works, Tourism and expenses which are varied. Many range from the implementation of Phase One of the Master Ground Transportation Plan, to improve our traffic problems, which is something that can no longer be ignored. I think traffic congestion is affecting the lives of all Caymanians and can adversely effect tourism as well.

Support grants for house repairs for indigent persons, provision for lunches and uniforms for the less fortunate, street lighting (and here I would hope that in this year it will be possible to put a light on every pole from Crewe Road up to Pease Bay). I think that is a very dangerous section of our road that is heavily travelled, and I believe it should be as well lit as the West Bay Road.

There is maintenance on roads and schools, completion of sidewalks on the West Bay Road. A visitors' reception area for Northward Prison, badly needed Immigration offices and here, Sir, I often wonder how our Immigration Department and Caymanian Protection Board have been able to cope with the volume of work created by our growth and expansion over the past several years. This is an expenditure which can no longer be postponed - all these expenses, right down to new insecticides for Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU). Neither can we neglect this Department because, we are concerned about tourism at this meeting and in many areas this is a popular topic in our country at the present time, but without the MRCU we would never have had the tourism development that we have seen in these Islands.

This large Budget is intended to meet the needs and necessities of its people in a developing country. Funds are being provided for some projects which are being brought forward and generally being spent on improving the quality of life for all who live in these Islands. In addition I quote the words used in the preface to the Budget: "The Cayman Islands are committed to maintaining the highest international standard in commerce and industry."

To do this costs lots of money. The expenditure is fully justified after a long drawn out exercise of carefully considering each expenditure and cutting the expenses or projects where possible. From time to time comments are made with regard to the rate of growth experienced in the Cayman Islands. Quite often the assertion is made that we are moving ahead too fast - which may be true. I am an advocator of, and a great believer in planned development and I support the view that the right rate of growth for Cayman must be established and followed. In fact, it is my own personal view that we are reaching the stage where moratoriums should be placed on certain types of development.

In fact, I might as well state here that it is my intention to bring an amending bill to this House in May, to amend the Hotels Aid Law, to remove the duty concession on Hotels in the 7 Mile Beach area leaving, of course, the 2.5 per cent on other parts of our Islands. That is not only the Island of Grand Cayman but Cayman Brac and Little Cayman as well. A previous speaker spoke of trying to encourage development away from the 7 Mile Beach area which is already overcrowded and this, I believe, is a step in the right direction.

Each year at Budget time when I see how much money Government is expected to find for projects and the heavy expenses that Government is obliged to meet, I cannot help but ask myself, "where will Government find all the funds expected of it if Government's revenue earning capability does not produce what is projected?" In other words, just like all other businesses Government's expenses are high and increasing annually. Any move to regulate, control, tamper or trim our development and economic growth, the eventual effect of Government's revenue earnings must figure prominently in that decision. The fact that a price must be paid for action taken at any stage in our development cannot be avoided, so we must decide which course to take. But bear in mind that what will help some will hinder others, and action that will cure some evils will create others. Nevertheless, I believe that the answer lies in the populace understanding and accepting any measures taken, and informing them of the results that can be expected. The belief that one can have his cake and it eat it too, is only a belief - it does not happen in reality. We will, indeed, have to put our money where our mouths are at some stage by accepting the reality of our situation. This is the crux of the matter as I see it.

Anything that affects a person's earning power is a delicate subject, and is often difficult to convince a person that by putting up with some degree of inconvenience today, that he can provide a better quality of life tomorrow. This will require much time and deep thought and, to my mind, an educational process is necessary.

I will now turn to the subject of my Portfolio, dealing mainly with Tourism and Aviation. I will have to ask the Chair and the House to bear with me as I deal with this subject with what is, for me, a lengthy and full response, as I am not normally given to long speeches. Some of what I have to say may be termed as repetitious, but I also believe that repetition creates emphasis and I really need to emphasise some points on this subject to get my message across so that we will have a well balanced and true picture of the

tourism situation in the Cayman Islands.

It is not always in the best interest of our country to drag everything that comes to mind to the floor of this Honourable House for open discussion. I now find myself obliged to give a full response in the case of tourism. The concern over pricing is not new. It has been around for some time and this has been advanced as fair before.

Today, I am very seriously concerned, that heralding it from the house tops can create an impression that can give our Islands bad publicity, can help to cause the very dip that we are concerned about, to deepen. Furthermore, it can make the situation more difficult for us even through next year. The manner in which we approach this matter can have a physiological effect on potential visitors who will perceive that we are more expensive than we really are and end up going elsewhere.

I believe that the battle, in fact, that we now have (at least a big portion of it) to fight is perception, and it will cost us more money than we can afford to launch a campaign to change that image once we get it and it sticks. It must be realised by all interests in this business that good tourist destinations are not cheap, and Cayman is a good vacation destination. We have a good image and reputation, so far, in the marketplace and we need to be careful that in spite of our good intentions we do not do more harm than good.

In considering some of the points that were made and as one Member remarked afterwards, I think it was the Member for Health, said in his contribution, "It is contradictory that some Members from the independent opposition say that we must target mainly the upscale visitors but in the same breath, yet they say, we are too expensive."

Many comments have been made by various Members on tourism, and I am able to accept constructive and fair comment in the right spirit. But it is a matter that the record must reflect the facts and, therefore, I must state them for their sake and for the benefit of the listening public. I will do this in a factual and fair fashion, for I have never intentionally misrepresented any matter, at any time, and certainly will not do so now.

Many things can adversely affect tourism - currency exchange rates, climate, crime, perception. In thinking of the downturn in January, first of all we had the concern last August. The information I received from our people in the fields who are dealing with the market on a day to day basis, was that there was certain price resistance. Then we had Hurricane Gilbert. The Superbowl was also held in Miami in January, and many would-be visitors could not get transportation to Miami for their connections onto the Cayman Islands. This year, 1989, Easter is early and just more recently, we had the Eastern Airlines strike. All of these are strikes against the performance we can expect out of tourism during 1989.

It is an accepted and well established fact, that tourism in one of the main pillars of our economy. Its importance to our country can never be overemphasised. Approximately 1,500 of our own people depend directly on this industry for a livelihood. It is a fact that the tourist dollar reaches almost every sector of our economy. We all benefit either directly or indirectly from tourism. Its contribution to our economy in foreign exchange is approximately U.S.\$140 million per annum, a large sum on which we are becoming more and more dependent.

It is only natural to expect that whenever there is a dip or a slowdown in this very vital business that it sends a shock wave through our economy. I am not complaining about this. I understand the concerns that are being expressed. There is no denying that there is a trend developing which we must closely monitor and endeavour to curb.

Our increase in air arrivals last year was only 4.6 per cent, and not 10 per cent as originally projected, even though cruise ship arrivals for 1988 were up by 16 per cent. The recent slowdown experienced in January this year (which can continue) has caused a genuine concern to be expressed by Members of this House as well as a wide cross-section of our community, especially all tourism related businesses. I sincerely share that concern, because whatever adversely affects the economic well being of our people must be a concern to all of us. Even more so to me, as the Member responsible for this subject.

While these are all accepted facts, it has been said and remains true that tourism is a fickle and fragile business. This has been repeated from every forum by past and present Members and past and present Financial Secretaries, especially at Budget time. While the tourism results shortly after Hurricane Gilbert and again in January are unfortunate, I trust that these experiences, apart from sparking alarm, will serve to remind all of us that tourism is not to be taken for granted. It is today a highly competitive business that we just can not afford to be complacent about.

As I said, I believe that while there is an unwelcomed trend developing and forecasts are that 1989 will be a difficult year, it should be pointed out that we are so far only dealing with results confined to a very short period of time. Of course, I must make it clear that neither I nor anyone else can guarantee that this trend will not continue further. A wide variety and far reaching view of reasons have come from different corners as to why there is a declining trend in tourist air arrivals. Especially in our main market, the United States of America.

Before dealing with reasons for this, let me state that just as I have always attributed the success of tourism to excellent team work between Government and the private sector, I likewise believe that we all share the responsibility for any adverse affect on its success. No single reason can be made responsible, as with any other business, there is always a combination of factors - factors over some of which we exercise little control. Where I do believe our real responsibility lies is in the correction of those factors and improvements in ingredients that we do control and which all go to make our total tourism product.

Our Department of Tourism has the job to market and sell the Cayman Islands as a tourist destination once they have convinced the consumer to choose the Cayman Islands for a vacation. The quality of our tourism product is determined by the airlines, Immigration, Customs, Taxi drivers,

hotels or condominiums, restaurants and our own Caymanian people who I believe are still our best asset. These various sectors will determine whether or not that visitor leaves Cayman a happy tourist who will tell his friends about us and return for a visit. This is as I see it.

The reasons given by myself and others for the dip in tourism so far centres mainly around competition and cost. These are all real contributing factors, established by thorough research of existing market conditions and surveys conducted by members of our own tourism team. My information is not based on rumour, it coincides very closely with that given the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, and the report on tourism carried by the *Caymanian Compass* days after I had informed the House of details on the downturn of tourism during Question Time. Let me expand a bit on this area as to the further reasons.

It is a fact that competition is heating up and will continue for the foreseeable future. Many Caribbean destinations have doubled their advertising budgets. Some are heavily subsidising airlines and even hotels in order to attract a larger number to their countries by offering ridiculously priced package tours, because foreign exchange is so badly needed. The island of Cuba is renewing its efforts already in some areas and attempting to make a comeback in tourism. Statistics prove that Caribbean tourism has slowed to almost one half of its previous growth trend. Only modest growth is forecast through 1992. The market place is becoming increasingly segmented. More choices than ever before are now available to the vacationer. As mentioned, cruise ship tours are now popular and booming. In the United States of America, which is the main source of our supply, advertising budgets for the top 20 States exceeded a quarter of a billion dollars in 1988.

Turning to the local scene as to further reasons: The lack of availability of hotel rooms, especially needed at peak periods, the loss of the Royal Palms Hotel last summer, the closing of the Islander Hotel and a number of rooms which were taken off the market for a period of time last year by the Hyatt and Beach Club have adversely affected tourist arrivals. Plus, of course, the after effects of Hurricane Gilbert.

It is also a fact that a vacation in Cayman can be costly, depending on where you stay and where you eat. I would agree price figures somewhat into our present problems. I know, too, through our sales course in August of last year, that some price resistance was being met in the market place, especially in the case of hotel packages. This fact is being borne out by the fact that our condominiums are still receiving good business while some hotel business is down.

MR. PRESIDENT: Could I interrupt you for one moment? We are just on 4:30. Would you like to finish your section, or resume tomorrow?

HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN: I can continue tomorrow, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I move the adjournment of this Honourable House until 10:00 tomorrow morning.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the House do stand adjourned until 10:00 tomorrow morning. I shall put the question. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

AYES.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Ayes have it. Accordingly, the House is adjourned until 10.00 tomorrow morning.

AT 4:32 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1989.

