

**FRIDAY,  
23RD FEBRUARY, 1990  
10:06 A.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
External Affairs.

Prayer by the Honourable Third Official Member for Internal and

**PRAYERS**

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:**

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.

Papers and Reports. The Honourable First Official Member.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS**

**GOVERNMENT MINUTES ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE'S REPORT  
ON THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1988**

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:**

Mr. President, I beg to lay on the table of this Honourable House the Government Minutes on the Government Accounts Committee Report on the accounts of the Cayman Islands Government for the year ended 31st December, 1988.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

So ordered.

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:**

Mr. President, in accordance with the requirements of section 74 (7) of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders (Revised), the Government Minutes is hereby presented.

The Minutes (as Honourable Members are aware), constitute the Government's response to the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Government of the Cayman Islands for the Year Ended 31st December, 1988. As in previous Minutes, the statements provided in response to the Public Accounts Committee's recommendations or comments should be regarded as expressing the views of the various Controlling Officers/Heads of Departments. These Officers were provided with a copy of the Public Accounts Report together with a copy of the Report of the Auditor General with the paragraphs referring to their Departments highlighted in a covering memorandum from the Department of Finance and Development. All Officers were asked to respond by a specified date to the recommendations or comments made by the Public Accounts Committee in their Report by indicating in writing their proposed follow up action. They were further advised that their replies would be incorporated as part of the Government Minutes and should be written in such a manner as they would wish to have their replies included, with minimum modifications.

Where it was seen that the corrective action suggested by the Controlling Officer was not specifically addressing the recommendation or comment by the Public Accounts Committee, modifications were made with the consent of the Controlling Officers. For the sake of clarity and to facilitate ease of reference the format adopted in these Minutes follow that used in the Public Accounts Report in regards to paragraph sequencing.

## (8) CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 8.1 PARAGRAPH 2 - NEW FORMAT

The Government is appreciative of the new format, style and comprehensive nature of the Auditor General's Report and will continue to give him and his officers full support in their work.

### 8.2 PARAGRAPHS 2 - 3

(i) The Government has been pleased to be able to improve the format of the financial statements and will continue to encourage the Accountant General and his staff to further improve the accountability of the Government to the Legislative Assembly and to the people of these Islands. In addition, the Accountant General gives his assurance that he will continue to liaise closely with the Auditor General in order to further improve the format and presentation of the Government's Financial Statements.

In accordance with the policy of improved accountability, copies of the Accountant General's Report and the Accounts of the Government have been sent to a number of organizations and made available to the public. In addition, the Government is reviewing the timetable of procedures leading up to the publication of the Government accounts as it feels that earlier publication would also further the policy.

(ii) The Government notes the concern of the Committee with regard to the use of Advance Accounts. However, the assumption that Advance Accounts are used as a means of charging expenditure where there is no budget provision is not accepted. In general, Advance Accounts comprise loans to individuals, such as students, and civil servants; and overseas medical, official travel and hurricane relief assistance. In addition, they are used to record unallocated stores and amounts owing from external agencies for payments made on their behalf.

(iii) Where amounts have been charged to Advance Accounts pending approval of supplementary estimates by Finance Committee, every effort is made to clear these within the year of account. This is not always possible due to the confidentiality of some items of expenditure.

It is Government policy to defer some Capital Expenditure from one year to another pending receipt of loan funds where this is unavoidable and would cause unnecessary fluctuations in the Government's stated financial position.

(iv) The Government shares the concern of the Committee over the effect of adverse exchange rate fluctuations which are beyond the control of the Government. It is recognized that the Caribbean Development Bank has served the Islands well in the past. However, the Government has been raising loan finance from additional sources for a number of years and will continue to seek the best terms available bearing in mind the difficulty of forecasting foreign exchange rates. The Government informs Committee that in the future when Legislative consent is requested by resolution, it will be worded to give the Financial Secretary greater flexibility in choosing the source of financing.

### 8.3 PARAGRAPH 4 - LOSSES ETC.

(i) The Government is satisfied that all losses, write-offs etc. were properly accounted for during the year and will continue to seek proper authorisation for these in the future. It is gratifying to note the Committee's commendation of the honesty and integrity of the Service.

### 8.4 EXCESS EXPENDITURE - PARAGRAPHS 5 - 15

(i) The Government accepts that allocation of annual pay awards to a single vote head weakens financial control and accordingly has taken steps to ensure that all further awards are allocated to departmental votes.

(ii) The Government is satisfied that despite the fact that there was overspending under various Heads of Expenditures during the year ending 31st December, 1988, the budgetary control procedures worked well, after taking into account the introduction of new procedures during 1987. It is gratifying to note that the Committee was satisfied that the excess expenditures were reasonable and justified. In its continuing effort to deal with this occasional irregularity, the Government will once again advise Controlling Officers of their obligations and the consequences of failing to comply with Financial and Stores Regulations.

However, the Accountant General under the guidance of the Financial Secretary will continue to examine methods for improving financial and budgetary control.

## 8.5 EXPENDITURE CONTROL - PARAGRAPHS 16 - 17

The Government shares the view of the Committee that proper control and accounting of public monies is of paramount importance, and, to this end, has increased the Treasury staff complement by two qualified officers to liaise on financial and accounting procedures with departmental staff. The Accountant General, has also held discussions with all Heads of Departments on their financial duties and responsibilities. In addition, the Government has introduced a course of instruction at the Community College leading to an accounting qualification and has released 40 accounting staff for day-time study.

## SPENDING PATTERNS

## PARAGRAPHS 18 - 21

6(i) While the evidence presented to the Committee confirms that some opportunistic spending does occur in the latter part of the Financial Year, the Government wishes to share with the Committee its grave concern over such occurrences and to assure the Committee that every attempt will be made to discourage such future spending. Notwithstanding the above, the Government wishes to inform the Committee that the 1988 Financial Statements show a number of underspent votes for many departments. In addition, budget submissions are made in July, a considerable time before year end, the approved estimate being based on an estimated outturn figure for the previous year. It is also not Government's policy to simply repeat votes without proper scrutiny and explanation from the Head of Department.

Government welcomes the analysis of the Auditor General which will influence its future activities in this area.

6(ii) The Government is satisfied that in the Public Finance and Audit Law together with Financial and Stores Regulations, it has a most comprehensive frame work for public accountability and financial control. It is also satisfied that the continuing efforts of the Finance and Treasury Departments' officers to secure that control are leading to consistently higher standards.

6(iii) The Government is pleased that the Committee agrees with the Finance Department that better budgeting would be helpful in the planning and control of expenditure. Government accepts the view of the Committee that the linking of plans, programs and policies more closely to the budget system is beneficial. The Government is pleased that the Committee was interested in the production of Mission Statements and functional goals, which have been produced for all departments and should form a good basis for future development of services. It is the intention of the Government to seek to compile the Mission Statements of all departments in one document which will in due course be made available to Members of the House. In addition, all Mission Statements will in the future be tied in with the budgeting process as a means of gauging how well this requested budget reflects on the aims and goals expressed in the Mission Statements. The Government is examining ways in which budgetary procedures can be improved and is particularly anxious to constitute a proper system for examination, appraisal and programming of Government's Capital Expenditure.

6(iv) The Government accepts the suggestion that the requirement for better training in budget management and control in the Service exists and wishes to assure the Committee that imminent revisions be considered for the budgetary procedures will include such necessary training.

## REVENUE

## 7 ARREARS OF REVENUE (PARAGRAPHS 27 - 29)

7(i) The Government shares the grave concern of the Committee with regard to amounts owed by the Ramada Treasure Island Resort and the delays in handing over to the Government the Tourism Accommodation Taxes collected by them. Government accepts the Committee's recommendation and informs the Committee that:

- (a) The decision to refer the collection of outstanding tax to the Attorney General's Chambers for legal action was taken prior to the Committee's recommendation.
- (b) The Department of Tourism will institute more inspections of the records held by the various properties in the Islands, with a view to better controlling the collection of tax.
- (c) It is also proposed, in consultation with the Accountant General, to implement new accounting and monitoring systems to better account for

all tourist accommodation taxes.

- 7(ii) (a) It is Government policy to press for payment of overdue amounts as soon as possible. There are, however, some occasions when individual debts owed by less wealthy citizens have to be the subject of individual consideration.
- (b) The Government is satisfied that property managers understand their liability under the law to pay over taxes collected - indeed they suffer a 20% surcharge for failure to do so. However, the Department of Tourism has been making even greater efforts to ensure timely payment of taxes due during 1989. In addition, a computerised billing system has been introduced.

7(iii) HEALTH SERVICES

Government notes the comments of the Committee in regards to the Health Services and wishes to inform the Committee that while every precaution to enable the Portfolio to recoup funds is taken, a substantial portion of the fees which have proven to be uncollectable have been spent on Caymanians for overseas medical attention due to catastrophic illness or injury. The Government shares the concern of the Committee over this matter and assures the Committee that a collection officer is on duty at the hospital from 8:30 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. at night and that the necessary systems are in place to deal with the collection of revenue from any patient during these hours.

It has been recognised for some time that the charges and billing system at the hospital is cumbersome and needs streamlining. A review of the system is being undertaken as part of the health plan's interim projects, following which recommendations for improvement will be made.

The hospital management has reviewed the situation and concluded that the above arrangement is sufficient, as the number of patients seen between 11:00 P.M. and 8:30 A.M. are not significant enough to warrant a cashier for these extra hours at night and early morning. During these hours when the business office is closed, most patients seen are emergency cases and there are procedures in place to cope with the billing involved.

7(iv) The Government is concerned that the present arrangements at the hospital may be seen to be subsidizing private practitioners who use the facilities there. As hospital charges are paid directly by patients, and not through a third party, it is fair to say that private patients are being subsidized because under the present system private patients are not charged on a per item basis. The flat fee presently being charged is need of revision so that patients are charged at cost. As part of the charges and billing review, it is expected that this will be addressed within the very near future.

7(v) Government accepts the Committee's suggestion that an annual review of the rates, fees and prescription charges for hospital services takes place to reflect the full cost of the services provided. Such a review has been undertaken and completed in 1990, since it was felt that the fees should not be arbitrarily revised until a proper costing was carried out.

7(vii) The Government accepts and shares the concern of the Committee over the discarding of some \$45,000.00 worth of drugs due to the expiry of the shelf life and informs the Committee that Pharmacy ordering system was revised in 1989 to allow for ordering on a 6-monthly basis, and to discourage more costly emergency ordering.

7(viii) The Government is most pleased to acknowledge that following the deliberation of the Committee, which was at length, the Committee concluded that under the present system there is no easy remedy to the issue of outstanding fees at the hospital.

7(ix) Government accepts the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that the feasibility of a national health insurance scheme be investigated. Such investigation has been ongoing.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX

7(x) Government acknowledges the Committee's observations with regard to Motor Vehicle Taxes and assures the Committee that steps are being taken to have the arrears of all Motor Vehicle Taxes entered in the Arrears of Revenue Schedule in its future Annual Accounts. This, however, presents a difficult administrative problem which is proving quite cumbersome to solve.

7(xi) Government wishes to inform the Committee that with regards to unlicensed vehicles, the main problem is not so much that unlicensed vehicles are being used on the roads, but more that registered owners are failing to advise the Licensing Department when a vehicle is taken

off the road, either temporarily but for a prolonged period, or permanently and scrapped.

7(xii) The Government appreciates the unanimous support of the Committee to the continuation of periodic road checks to help deal with the difficulty faced in collecting the Motor Vehicle Licence fees. It has been proven that traffic patrols and periodic road checks have been successful in detecting unlicensed vehicles. This will continue; the task, however, is complicated by the lack of proper names and postal addresses of vehicle owners which would enable routine enquiries on a specified date to be made.

7(xiii) The recommendation of the Committee that consideration be given to revising the Traffic Law is fully accepted by the Government. There is no doubt in the mind of Royal Cayman Islands Police personnel that a great part of the difficulty associated with the enforcement and collection of some vehicle license fees can be attributed to the present law, which is unworkable in some areas. As a result, few people understand the Law, which in essence requires payment of an annual license fee for a vehicle (which may be paid quarterly), unless the registration is suspended or terminated by handing in the plates, coupons and log books.

The Traffic Law Revision Committee is presently considering the law relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles. Changes to the existing Traffic Law are being recommended to remove some of the unworkable provisions and to improve others. It is hoped that the recommendations to the Traffic Law Revision Committee will be incorporated in a bill to amend the Traffic Law and brought before this honourable House in the very near future.

#### CUSTOMS DUTY

##### PARAGRAPHS 30 - 43

7(xiv) The Government acknowledges the kind sentiments expressed by the Committee in regards to the Customs Department. The Government agrees that in normal circumstances, it should be possible to complete the collection of Customs Duty on goods within 21 working days of their arrival in the Cayman Islands and all efforts will be made to ensure that this is done in the future.

7(xv) The Government accepts the view of the Committee that arrangements from obtaining bonds or deposits for large importers have improved. Government accepts the recommendation of the Committee that importers providing bonds should be informed that duty will be required to be paid as soon as possible after arrival of the goods. This area will continue to receive close scrutiny from Custom Officials, but Honourable Members should be aware that the ways in which Customs Department personnel can exert pressure to achieve the above are limited by statute. Customs authorities have no legal power to detain a subsequent importation by the same trader, the only resort being to withdraw the facility altogether, by cancelling or revoking any bond in operation or refunding any deposit. The result of such action would be an escalation of the congestion at the dock or airport warehouse. Honourable Members should also note that there are presently no facilities to safely detain perishable cargo.

7(xvi) Government wishes to confirm to the Committee that Importers or Agents who request deliveries under bond or deposit of duty already follow the legal procedures to obtain this facility.

7(xvii) Government concurs with the views of the Committee in regards to the inspection of imported goods, as it is appreciated by the Customs Department that all imports are subject to physical inspection on arrival. As large a portion of a cargo as possible is physically inspected.

7(xviii) The Government accepts the Committee's findings that the Task Force is a key element in the Customs Departments efforts. Government gives its undertaking to continue its full support for this key area of the Customs Department.

#### MAN POWER CONTROL

##### (8) PARAGRAPH 44 - 64

The Governments shares the concern of the Public Accounts Committee about the lack of effective manpower control. However, staffing constraints limit the ability of the Personnel Department to respond to this recognised need.

The specialist nature of personnel work seems not to have been recognised or under estimated for a long time and the Personnel Department has not been provided with the highly skilled staff necessary to undertake the most specialized personnel functions. Given the necessary

financial support, the Government's aim will be to develop the Personnel Department to enable it to take a more positive role in providing the Civil Service with expert advice, services and functional guidance directed at improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the service, by ensuring the most effective and economical utilization of Governments most valuable resource.

#### REVIEW OF ESTABLISHED POSTS

The Government recognises the responsibility of the Principal Secretary, Personnel for carrying out periodic reviews of individual departments and providing advice on departmental structures, complements and grades of post.

The Government agrees that urgent attention should be given to a system of regular staff inspection. With this in mind, a small team of professional specialists, including a staff inspector, will be recruited to form the nucleus of a Management Services Unit. In the absence of trained Caymanian personnel specialists, it will be necessary to recruit professional staff from overseas. However, Caymanians will be actively encouraged to join the unit as understudies, and one college student has already been so earmarked.

8(ii) The Government shares the concern of the Committee over the number of established posts in the Service and the substantial portion of recurring expenses associated with those posts. The Government is aware that as more and more demands are made on Government for new services that the result will be an increase in staff complement. The Government is, however, mindful of its duty to the people of this country to ensure that services are provided as cost-effectively as possible. To this end, the Government accepts the view of the Committee in regards to justification regarding existing staff levels during the budget process. Where there is a request for an increase in staff complement, such requests will only be honoured following justification by the Head of the Department and after consultation with, an approval by, the Principal Secretary Personnel.

#### POST DESCRIPTIONS

A sample of post descriptions from various departments suggests that there is a need for managers and supervisors to be trained in the preparation of this fundamental management tool.

A personnel specialist will hold training courses in this aspect of personnel management and assist Heads of Departments in preparing full post descriptions for each established post. Regular review and up-dating of post descriptions will be required.

#### BUDGETARY PROCESS FOR MANPOWER RESOURCES

The Management Services Unit will review the procedures, structure and number and grades of staff of individual departments. The findings of these reviews will be available to assist the Budget Committee in determining manpower needs.

The Principal Secretary, for Personnel Department will be pleased to provide further assistance to the Budget Committee, if requested.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW POSTS

The Government agrees that requests for "New Services" should be justified. The creation of the Management Service Unit will enable applications for new or regraded posts to be scrutinized by a Management Services Officer who will carry out job evaluations and staff inspections as necessary and ascertain if the requests are justified.

#### OVERTIME

The Principal Secretary, Personnel does not have ready access to claims for overtime the control of which is a responsibility of Heads of Departments, subject to compliance with the appropriate provision of the General Orders; the only other determinant is the budgetary provision.

The Government holds the view that overtime claims should be evaluated in relation to the nature of the work carried out, and to the insufficiency of the Caymanian labour force. Another prime consideration must be the possible adverse affect on the performance and general health and well-being of individual officers who are required to put in long, arduous hours on duty.

A Management Services review will address the economics of overtime, and advise on the number of additional staff necessary to reduce significantly the existing over time levels.

Meanwhile, the Principal Secretary, Personnel will examine overtime claims in consultation

with the relevant Heads of Department and will consider implementation of a maximum work week. Heads of Department will also be encouraged to request the Public Service Commission to renew its efforts to fill vacant posts.

## LAND EXCHANGES

### PARAGRAPHS 65 - 72

The Government is concerned about the observations made in the report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of land exchanges.

It is a known fact that large real estate developers do place considerable strain on infrastructure of these islands. This is especially evident along the Seven Mile Beach corridor.

There is currently no legislation which provides for major developers to contribute towards infrastructural development. The Planning Department is presently looking into ways to strengthen existing legislation and to remove inadequacies in the Development and Planning Laws so as to improve the control of development.

The Government does not accept the view of the Public Accounts Committee that the Government did not receive good value for money in the land exchanges they examined. Government considers that negotiations conducted with both Save Haven and Cayman Islands Yacht Club were to the highest of professional standards, and were in keeping with the principles of obtaining good value. We wish to assure the Committee that the Government's valuers determined values taking into account the principles of value, including those most widely used; value in a market situation; value in exchange; and current market value.

Government regrets that it did not make available to the Auditor General all these valuations and all the contractual papers and agreements related to these complex exchanges. We have now provided him with a complete set of documents relating to these exchanges of land.

It is a recognised fact that developed land demands a higher market value than mangrove swamp. However, it should also be noted that current market values can only be obtained for landed property if that value is affixed at a specific time. That is to say, current market value should not be inflated due to the fact that it is proposed to construct a hotel at a later date. This is against the principles of valuation. It should be noted that stamp duty is assessed on market value as well. Government is confident that it obtained good value in both land exchanges. For, in addition to the 78,844 square feet of public open space, in the case of the Cayman Islands Yacht Club, a sum of US \$130,000.00 was provided to acquire a school site elsewhere. It should be noted that the public open space for this development will be transferred to Government fully developed with a launching ramp, landscaping and jetty. Thus the total value of what Government is obtaining will be in excess of US \$900,000.00. The valuation of the new Community College site was carried out before development commenced, as Planning Approval was contingent upon this provision. Instructions were given to the Lands Officer by the Central Planning Authority to negotiate a settlement at a specific time, when current market value was assessed.

In the case of Save Haven, it should be noted that in addition to the public open space containing an area of approximately 17 acres, 60 acres of land had to be provided as an alternative school site and to compensate for the removal of a portion of storm belt. Also, it should be noted that Government has an agreement with Safe Haven to fill and bulkhead ten acres of Crown land adjacent to their development free of cost. The value of this work is estimated to be in excess of \$1,000,000.00. Furthermore, it should be noted that the Safe Haven development project is entirely on Crown leased land, with the Head Lease specifically stating what developments are permitted, excluding schools. Therefore, it is the Government's contention that compensation has been more than adequate.

The Government wishes to state categorically that at all times, in all land transactions, be they purchases, exchanges or leases, the officers responsible abide by professional principles of valuation and practice the most modern methods of evaluation in existence today. The Estate Management section of Government was established almost ten (10) years ago to provide Government with professional valuations, assist in land purchases, exchanges, leases, stamp duty assessment and any other land transfer matters. It is staffed by highly trained professional valuers with extensive valuation experience. Valuations carried out by this section have been subjected to intense scrutiny in Courts of Law on many occasions, and have saved the Government considerable amounts. The Government has every confidence in the professionalism of its Lands Officers. However, we appreciate the Committee's concern that Government must be clearly seen to have obtained good value in negotiating such complex land exchanges. Brief guidelines governing the procedures to be followed and the authorities to be obtained for future land exchanges will be established. It is worthy to note however that few, if any, similarly large developments, from which

the Government may benefit from land exchanges, are currently expected.

Government acknowledges the interest in which the Committee has taken in marl mining and advises approval in principle was given by Executive Council in June, 1989 for an environmental study concerning the mining of marl. The scope of the project was finalized in January, 1990, and the contract for the study will be put out to bid, shortly.

The ultimate objective of this project is to provide valid scientific and engineering information needed to allow objective and environmentally sound long-term development planning of the mining of marl for Grand Cayman. Deliverables produced will serve as the technical basis from which the rules and regulations are to be prepared to govern and control marl mining and dredging in the future.

#### NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

##### 10 PARAGRAPH 73 - 78

(1) The Government wishes to record that:-

- the guidelines established for the purchase of lands were strictly adhered to; the guidelines for the development of concepts, architectural drawings, tender procedures, etc. have been strictly adhered to; the guideline established by international agencies pertaining to personnel, financing, or any other aspect of the development of this project were strictly adhered to.

The series of events which have surrounded this project were unforeseen and to some degree uncontrollable. However, Government does not seek to blame any party or parties associated with this project, and accepts the recommendation to attempt to provide improved coordination where project cuts across several Portfolios and/or departments.

##### 11 INTERNAL AUDIT

###### PARAGRAPHS 79 - 85

(1) The Government shares the view of the Committee that an effective internal audit function within Government will assist in maintaining sound financial control. It welcomes the clarification of the role of the Auditor General and has accordingly included an appropriate amount in the 1990 budget for the establishment of a central internal audit function early in that year.

It is the view of the Government that the Internal Audit Section should be established as an independent section by, and answerable to, the Accountant General, with independent access directly to the Financial Secretary, as he can provide the impartiality which is needed by the Auditors when dealing with all Government departments. Internal Auditors will have recourse to the Auditor General, as do all Government officers where fraud is suspected.

##### 12 STATUTORY BODIES

###### PARAGRAPHS 86 - 95

(1) The Government notes the displeasure of the Committee over delays in the production of annual financial statements for the Civil Aviation Authority, the Water Authority and the Community College.

Government wishes to inform the Committee that provisional financial statements have been prepared by the Civil Aviation Authority and made available to Government.

The Water Authority formally became a fully independent statutory body on the 1st of January, 1990. The necessary systems have been put in place to enable preparation and presentation of the Authority's accounts to the House in 1991.

The Community College's financial transactions are still incorporated within Government's Financial Statements. The Treasury continues to perform the accounting and financial services required by the College. The College has been diligently preparing a computerised system for handling its accounts and all indications are that this system will be operational shortly.

#### AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(ii) The Government acknowledges with regret the fact that the audited financial statements of the Board were again tabled late to the Public Accounts Committee. However, as the Committee noted, this was not due to any deliberate intention to avoid accountability. The delay



was primarily caused by difficulties in agreeing the format and contents of the financial statement with the Auditor General. These problems have now been resolved and no further delay in submitting the Board's accounts is anticipated.

#### THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

(iii) The Government informs the Committee that it acknowledges the concern expressed regarding the delay in agreeing on the value of the assets to be vested in the Civil Aviation Authority. This matter is still being reviewed and an agreement is expected to be reached shortly. The Committee should note that despite this delay the Authority has continued to make all agreed repayments to Government.

The provisional accounts of the Authority are prepared as required and have been made available to Government. They will be certified by the Auditor General and thereafter laid on the Table of The House. While the Authority may dispute the fairness of the charges made in regards to the vesting of the property, this was not a contributing factor to the delay in presenting the Audited Financial Statements. The delay was in part due to the late receipt of the schedule of charges from the Finance Department.

#### WATER AUTHORITY

(iv) Government wishes to inform the Committee that following a period of significant and extensive investment in the water supply and sanitation sector, the Government is now content that the Water Authority has the ability and sufficient sources of income to operate as a fully functioning statutory authority. Up to this point in time the Authority has been in a phase of intensive development and investment and during this period has operated as a quasi-Government department. The Authority has been provided with its full statutory independence as of 1st January 1990, at which time it took on all the assets and liabilities attributable to the sector. Full commercial accounting procedures commenced January 1990 and audited accounts and a balance sheet will be available to the House early in 1991.

With respect to the claim in relation to the West Bay Beach Sewerage Project, negotiations with the contractor are continuing and it is hoped that early in 1990 a clearer indication of the outcome of those negotiations will be forthcoming. With regards to the Committee's recommendation that this contractor be excluded from tendering for future Government contracts, the Government advises that such a decision will be separately considered.

#### CAYMAN AIRWAYS LTD.

#### PARAGRAPH 96 - 97

The Government is pleased to note that the Committee recognises the strategic importance of our National Airline. The Government does not share the view that the annual subsidy should be treated as a capital injection. However, the Committee's suggestion has been communicated to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the airline for referral to the External Auditors so that they may advise on this in the Annual Audit and Report.

The Government has recognized the importance of controlling cost and maximizing income and these objectives are given top priority on an ongoing basis. The Government is supportive of a review of the Company along the lines recommended, subject to the availability of funds from the Finance Committee, which will be apprised of the matter in the very near future.

#### 13 OTHER MATTERS

#### PARAGRAPH 98 GOVERNMENT MINUTE

The Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm to the Committee the seriousness with which it undertakes its statutory obligation in compiling and framing its reply to the Public Accounts Committee and expresses its gratitude to the Committee for its tenacity and many recommendations. All Heads of Department and Controlling Officers are cognizant of the need to provide the necessary replies and or follow-up to the comments and recommendation of the Committee. The Committee is assured that all future reports will continue to receive the same order of priority in Government's schedule.

#### PARAGRAPH 99 ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

(i) The Government accepts the concern of the Committee that previous Estimates did not include the ambit of the vote outlining the purposes of the expenditure on each Head. The Government wishes to assure the Committee that the ambit of the vote has now been included in the

1990 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and will be included in all future Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

#### PARAGRAPHS 100 - 109

Para 8.15(i): The Government appreciates the support of the Public Accounts Committee for the Auditor General. The importance to the good Government of the Cayman Islands of effective and strong public accountability cannot be exaggerated. The Auditor General hopes to continue to help strengthen the Legislative Assembly's and the public's ability to scrutinise public finances, and continue to help the Government achieve good value for money. It is his intention to increasingly review matters which significantly affect the achievement of good value for money in the Public Sector.

Para 8.15(11): The Government welcomes the support of the Public Accounts Committee for the Auditor General's Development plans. Government is pleased that the Public Accounts Committee considers it.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, on a Point of Order I draw the House or the Chair's attention it is now 11:00 and I will make the proper recommendation.....

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The Motion does not have to be moved until we come to it. To suspend the Standing Orders when this is finished, we then suspend them.

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:** I am almost finished, Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I may just explain. As I understand the Standing Orders, questions cease at 11:00, unless the Orders are suspended. Questions have not even yet started. So I do not think we will move to suspend until we come to them.

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:** I will go on, Mr. President.

Government is pleased that the Public Accounts Committee considers it important that the Audit Office has the resources it considers necessary to fulfil its role and provide the Cayman Islands with a modern, independent and effected Audit Office.

Government is committed to ensuring that this vital Public Office is properly staffed and equipped in 1990. Government is also committed to the training of officers and notes that 5 audit officers are currently undertaking training for a qualification in the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT). It is hoped that in 1990 that the Government will be able to sponsor at least one graduate entrant to undertake the Certified Management Accounts (CMA) professional examinations.

(2)(iii) The Government has taken note of the Committee's concern over the slow progress made in including information on the Capital Expenditure in the Budget and informs the Committee that the process whereby capital projects are included in the Budget is under consideration by a special Committee appointed by the honourable Financial Secretary and chaired by the Acting Deputy Financial Secretary. In addition, a new Budget Committee will be reviewing the full budget cycle with a view of dealing with the wishes of the Public Accounts Committee that information be included in the Estimates on a number of staff employed overseas and the approximate numbers of staff expected to be employed on weekly wages together with various matters which will benefit future budget processes.

#### VOTE CONTROL-ELECTION

The Government accepts the recommendation of the Committee that the Control of the accounts for Election be relocated from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSION

The Government is gratified that the Committee takes the matter of public accountability seriously and that it has deliberately set high standards and lofty objectives. The Government also thanks the Committee for producing a very thorough and professional report.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Mr. President, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 83 (1) I, First Elected Member for Bodden Town do move that Standing Orders 19 and 24(5) and (8) be suspended to enable the Government Minute having been tabled and presented by the honourable Member to be debated.

Further to Standing Orders 19 and 24(5) and (8) having been so suspended, I, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, do move that the Government Minute be debated and that the debate be deferred until all business of this Honourable House has been completed.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I should like that Motion in writing as soon as it is convenient. On the first Motion, since you moved two, one in regard to question and the second in regard to Government Minute, on the first Motion I think I need a seconder.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I second the motion, Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Condense the Motion, as it is Standing Orders be suspended to enable the questions on today's Order Paper to be put and to be replied to. Would those in favor please say Aye, unless there is any debate?

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I am not following you, which motion are you talking about, Mr. President?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I am talking about the first one, to suspend Standing Orders in order that questions may be taken. Motion is being put by a non Member of the Government, it therefore needs a seconder. You seconded both Motions as I understand it a moment ago. To suspend Standing Orders on questions and to have the debate on the Government Minute on the Accounts.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** No, Mr. President, no Motion to suspend, there was no need. The First Elected Member for Bodden Town moved two Motions in regard to the paper being laid on the table.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I misunderstood. I thought the first one was to suspend the Standing Order for questions. Fine. Thank you. In that case, we will take the Motion to suspend the Standing Orders.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 23(7) & (8)

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:** Mr. President, on the Standing Order 83, I move the suspension of Standing Order 23 (7) and (8), to allow the questions to be taken this morning.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The question is that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the questions on the Order Paper to be taken.

**AYES.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Standing Orders are accordingly suspended.

**AGREED: STANDING ORDERS 23(7) AND (8) SUSPENDED TO ALLOW QUESTIONS TO BE TAKEN.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The First Elected Member for West Bay are you ready with question No. 44, please?

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, as a matter of procedure in regard to Standing Order 7, it has been the custom (and a precedent has been set) that someone moves the Standing Order at 11:00 and not after. I wonder if you could clear that matter?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** You are quite correct. The normal procedure is that at 11:00 it is moved, but that is when questions are already in process. The Standing Order says that no questions shall be asked after 11:00 A.M., etcetera. That has to be suspended in order for any question to be asked or to be continued to be asked after 11:00 A.M. The House had not yet begun questions, therefore, the Motion need not be put until after that item of business had been completed.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** It was just a matter of procedure, Mr. President. I believe it is a little departure from what is normal, but I accept your ruling.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I am grateful. The Chair is responsible for procedure. Please continue with questions.

#### QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**NO. 44:** The Honourable Member has said that he intends to develop District Centres, can he say what are the factual cost estimates and projections for the development of such Centres and what

services are the Centres expected to provide?

**ANSWER:**

The costing exercise such as whether it is practical, feasible and economical to expand the existing Health Centres or to have purpose built Health Centres has not yet been undertaken because Finance Committee did not provide the funds.

The services provided at present are primary care (treatment of minor illnesses, providing injections and dressings, refilling of prescriptions, etc.), home health care, doctors' visits to the clinics, nutrition counselling, health education, child health services including immunization and antenatal and postnatal services. Recently we have extended the psychiatrist's visit to the districts. As of January 1990, we have initiated E.N.T. clinics at West Bay clinic.

While the services have been expanded to meet the demand, as far as resources have permitted, the Health Plan envisions further development into comprehensive health centres whereby the existing services will be expanded and new services will be added.

These new services would include drug counselling services and drug prevention programmes and systematic health education programmes through the health centres. It is the intention to have a designated social worker and public health officer (environmental health officer) to work out of the health centres on specific days, providing the community with easy access to the services.

For all of these services to be offered in a comprehensive and integrated approach, physical space for additional staff, supplies and programme activities will be required.

#### SUPPLEMENTARIES:

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

Mr. President, question to the honourable Member. Were these clinics going to move on independently of the new hospital study or not?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

The development of the Health Centre is like the new hospital, part and parcel of the Health Plan, but they would be moved on independently but with an integrated approach.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

Have you considered in the Health Plan that the affect of these Clinics would ease up substantially on the clinical and emergency side of the George Town Hospital and have you varied the demand to cope with that?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

Yes, Mr. President, all of that was evaluated. It was found that the development of the District Clinics into District Health Centres would alleviate a lot of the primary health care functions, but would have little or no affect on the increasing demand in the specialized clinic areas at the George Town Hospital, nor the increasing complexity of the emergency and trauma services. They would not be designed to cater to that at all.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Question 45. The First Elected Member for West Bay, please.

#### THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**No. 45:**

At the last meeting of the assembly the honourable Member stated that a decision was about to be made by government on building a new hospital. Would the Member now state whether a decision has been made, and if the decision is to build one, how is it proposed to be funded?

**Answer:**

On 9th January, 1990, Executive Council made the decision to accept the Health Consultant's recommendations that a new 96 bed hospital be built.

It is considered that an appropriate way to fund the new hospital would be through loans to be repaid by revenue from the services provided, which will be based on actual costs.

#### SUPPLEMENTARIES:

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Can the Honourable Member say if he has considered alternate funding, or has he considered more than one means of funding such a project?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

Mr. President, I think in this case being a Government project, there would only be two ways to fund it. One from general annual revenue or from loans. Both have been

considered and it is the consideration of Government that loans would be the most appropriate way.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Can the Member tell this Honourable House whether there are there any planned future negotiations of loans with any private institutions, banks or otherwise?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** Mr. President, there are no on going negotiations for any loans. I have had representatives visit my office uninvited. I guess from reading articles in the press and hearing that Government had the Health Plan, a gentleman from the Merrill Lynch office in Miami, a Jamaican who represented a consortium out of Sweden and a Jamaican who represented a consortium in Jamaica visited. The discussions were very brief and open, because no decisions have been made. They were told they would have to send proposals to the Honourable Financial Secretary.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Can the Honourable Member say if in his visits he told the constituencies disseminating information on the proposed medical facilities and if the audiences were made aware of this proposed funding?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** Yes, Sir, I think all audiences were told that the project would have to be funded through loans, in my opinion, and I think I even said that if Government borrowed the total \$20 million for a 25 year period at about 9 per cent, it would represent a repayment schedule of about \$2 million per annum and stuff like that.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Third Elected Member for George Town.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, can the Member say whether the projected borrowing based on his estimates would put the Government's repayment schedule over 10 per cent of its annual revenue?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** No, Sir, because as I explained in laying the plan yesterday, Government regards (as a single most important recommendation) the reorganisation of the Health Services into a Public Authority. Such loans would therefore only be a contingent liability to Government, just like the Port Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** On such loans, Mr. President, who gives the guarantee, is it not the Government?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** Yes.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, to the Honourable Member, can he say how much it is estimated that Government would have to contribute in the form of medical fees or compensation in whatever forms of insurance or premiums to the Authority for this scheme?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** Mr. President, I cannot give those answers, but the economic development unit of Government is, in fact, conducting such an analysis and when it is available I would give the undertaking to distribute it to Members.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, could...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Are you asking a supplementary?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Yes, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The Honourable Member for Communications and Works.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Could the Honourable Member state...

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, on a Point of Order. Where in the Standing Orders is it allowed for a Minister to ask another Minister a question?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** If you are raising a Point of Order you must point out what is wrong in your opinion, please.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I think I did.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** You must point out where in the Standing Orders there is some problem.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, if you check Standing Order 85, I think that covers that question quite rightly.

- MR. PRESIDENT:** Could you make that a bit clearer for me? I do not follow.
- MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Standing Order 85 says; 'In any matter not provided in our Standing Orders should adhere to the practice in the parliament in United Kingdom. The practice in United Kingdom is that Ministers do not asked other Ministers questions.'
- HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, on a Point of Order...
- MR. PRESIDENT:** ...Excuse me for one minute I do not think the Member is quite finished. First Elected Member for West Bay have you finished? Had you finished, then? Right, thank you. I will comment on that first. Standing Order 20 in our Standing Orders says: "Questions may be put to a Member of the Government relating to any subject or department for which he is responsible or with which He is officially connected". I do not think that limits the asking of questions by any Member of the House. I do not think therefore we go to 85, because ....
- MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** What Standing Order are you reading, Sir?
- MR. PRESIDENT:** Twenty(one). Twenty, subsection one.
- MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** No, no, no. Mr. President, that is what it says, and technically you may rule that way, but if I could point out that normally (and as I said within precedent), a Member who shares collective responsibility knows what is happening and should not be asking the other Member a question. Questions come from the other side of the House, or from the Backbenchers in a different form of Government.
- MR. PRESIDENT:** I do not wish to get into an argument with you, and obviously you are entitled in your opinion as to what should be done. I can only interpret the Standing Orders as they are. If the House thinks that the Standing Orders should cover the point you make then it is up to the Standing Orders Committee to go into it and recommend a change. But I am afraid that I see it, at the moment, that does not limit any Member, I am not questioning the propriety of it, but I am interpreting what the Standing Order says. That, I feel, is all I can do.
- The Third Elected Member for George Town.
- MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, I was going to just add to the Point of Order. However, as you have ruled and really so be it.
- MR. PRESIDENT:** You have another Point of Order?
- MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** No, no, in relation to the same one, but you have ruled. Afterwards I could mention it.
- MR. PRESIDENT:** Maybe, we should discuss this outside the formal meeting of the House. It may well be there is some need for a change.
- The Member for Communication and Works.
- HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, just to say that when I got up to ask the question, it was with the understanding that I have sat in the House of Commons and I have seen Ministers of the same party ask their own Minister's questions. So in keeping with Standing Orders 85 I am abiding by that Standing Order, Sir. My supplementary question is that I would like the Honourable Member for Health to advise this Honourable House what form of support he has received from the general public during his public meetings for the Health Plan and 96 bed hospital?
- MR. PRESIDENT:** I think to relate that to the question it should be rather more closely to do with the funding of the hospital. So I think that we have to take that you are enquiring about the particular question of funding?
- HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** The answer, Mr. President, is that from the people present at the meetings and from discussions, question and answer periods which were allowed after all of the meetings, there was almost unanimous support in all of the meetings for a new hospital in the Cayman Islands.
- MR. PRESIDENT:** I think the First Elected Member for Bodden Town is next.
- MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Assuming the Honourable Member borrows the money from a private financial institution, can he inform this Honourable House of the duration it would take before the hospital becomes self-supporting? The loan is payed and the hospital then becomes self-supporting, Sir?
- HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** Mr. President, that exercise, as I said, is being conducted by the economic unit of Government, but it would be my guess and not wishing to preempt their recommendations and with the clear understanding that any answer I am giving now is my opinion, I believe that self-sufficiency is defined

to mean that the hospital can service the loan and meet its commitments and the cost of operating. I think that can be done from the first year, right on through until repayment is complete.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Third Elected Member for George Town.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, a follow up on the supplementary asked by the Member for Communication and Works. Would the Member please state on average, how many persons attended the meetings that he referred to? Can he say whether he regards that amount as a majority of the electorate in this country?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I really think that is going way beyond the question. You may well feel that you want to introduce it but this question is about the decision or not to build a new hospital and how it is proposed to fund it.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, if I may just be given to mention why I asked it is because the Member has said from his meetings that the people have accepted it and really on that basis, that is why I said it was following on Mr. ....

**MR. PRESIDENT:** All right, the question may be put, but I think in any case it was covered yesterday or the day before. But do put the question.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Would the Member say the average people who attended the meetings on his Health Plan, how many there were? Does he regard that amount as a majority of the electorate of the Cayman Islands?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** Mr. President, the average attendance at the meeting was 23 people. Of course, I did not provide public transportation or drive people from one district to the other. I relied on the interest of intelligent leaders in the community and they were the kind of people who attended these meetings. I would not say that they represented the majority of the people of the Cayman Islands. That was not the answer I gave to the Honourable Member responsible for Communications and Works. I said that the majority of the people attending the meetings was unanimous in almost every instance, in support of a new hospital.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you, Mr. President.  
I wonder if the Honourable Member could inform the House if in order to meet the proposed funding if there would arise a significant increase in hospitalisation fees?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** No, Sir. The significant increase in the hospital fees to bring them in line with Financial and Stores Regulations (which say we should recover the cost will), in itself, be able to pay the loan; provided that the Committee (that is now reviewing Health Insurance) and Government buy Health Insurance or Government itself pays the cost for all those people who are presently obtaining free care at the hospital which is not billed for.

To break it down, the Health Services Budget in 1990, is \$9 million. Approximately \$2 million for the preventive side - public health inoculation, post natal, antenatal, those services. Approximately \$2 million for environmental health, garbage and all the work that they do. So that leaves \$5 million that is spent basically on curative services. Out of \$9 million that it is estimated to be spent in the Budget this year, about \$1.5 million to \$2 million will be collected in revenue. Five hundred thousand plus dollars out of that will come from garbage fees, so Government is now subsidising curative to the cost of \$4 million and if that \$4 million, if that number of people was payed for by Government at the cost of rendering the service, the funds from that would be more than adequate to cover recurring expenses and service the loan. That is my opinion. The exercise is being done by the Economic and Development Unit.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** It seems there are no further supplementary. No. 46 please.

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**No. 46:** International Health Care Corporation has recommended that the present George Town Hospital be turned into an Ambulatory Centre. Can the honourable Member say whether Government has made a decision to contract out the proposed ambulatory centre to the people who have done the study?

**Answer:** No. The proposed ambulatory centre will operate under the Board of Directors of the hospital.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, will the Member say whether any application was

made or whether there was any discussion as to whether Mr. Jim Conti and his group would care to take the contract over?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

No, Sir, not with me.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Third Elected Member for George Town.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

Mr. President, to the Honourable Member, would he please say whether he intends to put the contract for that out to public tender?

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

The contract for what, for the operation of the centre? That is going to be done by the Board of Directors appointed under enabling legislation.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

For the building and any outside services development that is carried on.

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

Yes, Sir, anything, any contractual work and stuff will be put to tender, anything over \$100,000 will be put to tender.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Take the last question on today's Order Paper, The Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands, please.

**THE SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE LESSER ISLANDS TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS WORKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**No. 47:**

Would the Honourable Member say if the 6000 yards of fill borrowed by Hurlstone Construction Limited from the Safe Haven project last year has been returned?

**Answer:**

No. According to the contract between Safe Haven and Hurlstone Construction, the 6000 cubic yards had to be returned in six months or when the marl becomes available, whichever would be the first to occur. Arrangements are in the process of being made now by Hurlstone Construction for the return of the marl.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:**

Would the Member say if there is now a source from which Hurlstone Construction can find the marl to be returned?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:**

Mr. President, just to elaborate a bit on that. For the duration of 1989, a serious shortage of marl was experienced. However, as of the 1st of January, 1990, this situation has been remedied and marl is now available in quantities such as is owing by Hurlstone Construction. Yes, they are in the process of having this returned.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Third Elected Member for George Town.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

Mr. President, to the Honourable Member, do I understand the contract correctly that if marl never becomes available or if it becomes available many years down, that not until then is the marl repayable?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:**

Mr. President, since the contract required the return of marl, if marl was not available this part of the contract would have been difficult to honour.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Supplementaries?

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

In the course of that period, Mr. President, were there outstanding applications for marl to be excavated throughout the country?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:**

Mr. President, we have had a number of applications for mining of marl, inland mining of marl in particular, but as Honourable Members of the House may be aware there was a moratorium placed on the mining, the inland mining of marl, particularly to safeguard the property that was being so badly destroyed by the mining of marl on land.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Mr. President, my reason for asking that question, is that I know that someone in my constituency had such an application. When was the moratorium put in place?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:**

Mr. President, as far as I can recall the moratorium was put into affect shortly after I took over the Portfolio, which was around December, 1988.



**MR. PRESIDENT:** Proceedings are suspended, for 15 minutes.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 11:37 A.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 12:24 P.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Proceedings are resumed.  
Continuation of the debate on the Throne Speech, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, continuing.

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

### **CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR ON FRIDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1990**

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Thank you Mr. President.  
Yesterday, in my debate on the Throne Speech, I made mention of the Water Authority, and I believe perhaps I should make a little clarification. I think I said something to the effect that even though I believe we did not need the Water Authority, we needed the water. What I really meant was that with all the problems of the sewage, I felt that the Authority should have been a regulatory body instead of doing the business of selling water and the rest. So, not that I do not support the Water Authority, it exists so we have to live with it.

Under the Civil Service, Honourable Members are aware that during the later part of 1989 a comprehensive review of salaries and other benefits was undertaken. Copies of the Report and Government's considered views upon it, are already with Members. The cost of the recommendations will be very substantial and during this meeting of the House appropriate revenue measures will be proposed in order to fund them. Without these measures it will not be possible to implement the review.

I support the Civil Service increase. I support the raise that the civil servants are really asking for. According to what I see in the review, Executive Council Members are getting a 16 per cent raise, against the rest. The civil servants of this country deserve for their salaries to be brought up in line with the private sector. While I fully agree that some revenue measures might be needed to fund this I would have hoped that we would have been told what kind of measures in advance so that we can make our decisions the right way.

I wonder how we are going to raise revenue; are we going to give the civil servants a pay increase and then raise the revenue; collect it back from them the same way. We give it to them on one hand and we turn around and take it back from them. So having said that I will leave that until it comes up. I would like to move on now to agriculture. The one I so dearly love. Even though there is not much time left in the debate, I will try, nevertheless, to do my best to cover this area.

I am happy to learn that we will soon get the Five Year Agricultural Development Plan, which is now being prepared. I am still awaiting that so I am not going to touch on any point that I feel might be covered. I do not know what it contains as yet, and I do not want to have anything to say about it until it comes out. I will await that and see the results.

I would just like to say that when we put the money in for the bulldozer, I felt and still feel that the farmers needed it. They need help. That will help to increase the beef production in Cayman, because that is one of the problems that the farmers are having. Having more land cleared at a cheaper scale and it will not only serve Grand Cayman, it will go to the Brac and possible to Little Cayman, too, to do some work up there for the farmers. The bulldozer could also help push through inland that the farmers need to get into which would cost less. So I believe in all, the island will benefit. If that \$150,000 that we are putting on that is a mistake, then I believe over the years Government has made greater mistakes than that.

We have also put in for a person for the agricultural sector who will be qualified graft plants. We are constantly importing plants that can be produced locally, but we import disease with them. We can cut that out in order to start production in Grand Cayman.

Through that Agricultural Society we will hopefully get the Agricultural Pavilion going very early this year. I do regret that we were unable and will be unable to hold the Agricultural Show this year. Hopefully, if everything gets under way we will have it ready for the next year. I would just like to make an appeal to the public that we have not given up the Agriculture Show. My personal feeling is that we could have probably located some facility because when the show started we did not have a pavilion. My argument on that is if we go, we really need a pavilion, and find some other area now that we could use as a show ground or facility this year, Government may just say well you can have it there next year, you can have it there all the years because we do not need a pavilion. We are taking the steps and I am sure the Portfolio for Communications and Works is working closely with us on that.

During 1990 conventional insecticides used by the Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU) will be reduced as much as possible and solid material will be increasingly used. I agree with that. That is good. This was my concern in a meeting with the Director of MRCU. Over the years MRCU has been in operation we have had the same pilots and in asking the Director a question as to whether he had ever tried to train a Caymanian, I was shocked to know that he was expecting them to come in and say they wanted a job from him. As long as that attitude continues in each department of Government, I see Government as

being the biggest culprit of not trying to continue training, then they expect the private sector to do the same. The private sector must follow Government so Government must set an example. I am saying until we take the steps to have Caymanians trained we are not going to achieve what we need. I cannot believe that Government has never encouraged a Caymanian who could be train to fly the Mosquito Research and Control Unit's planes. It has been promised that the Honourable Member in charge of that Unit will look into it in the very near future.

The Radar System. Last year the Governor mentioned the proposal from the United States Government to install a radar station in Cayman as one of its chains of such radar stations in the Caribbean. I supported that last year when it was mentioned and I still support it. I believe that will help this country with its problems of prevention of drugs being smuggled here. We need it and I hope that we will see it come true.

I noticed where the United States Authorities have extended an invitation to Members of this Assembly to visit the Coast Guard and Customs Joint Intelligent Centre in Miami. I would like to visit it, whenever possible. I believe as Legislators we have to take every step, if we are going to help this country rid itself of its drug problems.

I would just like to say that the district of Bodden Town which I represent, if everything goes well we should see some work being done I understand in May or June. I wish it would be before, but nevertheless, we have to do our best. I am almost sure we will soon see the street lights going up and I feel that for the benefit of the constituency of Bodden Town we have approximately 355 lights to go up. That means the main highway from Spotts to Frank Sound will get light on almost every other pole.

That road is used also by the residents of North Side and the residents of East End. So it is a widely used road. We want those residents that are passing through to feel safe when they are entering our District. Some Sub-divisions will also get lights where they are badly needed. As I said yesterday, if the planning regulations for building subdivisions were stricter, or if they saw that electricity supply or that good road standards were there, Government would not have to supply these. Again I have many of my constituents calling because they have to put down \$3,000 to \$4,000 in cash for two or three poles into a sub-division and they really cannot afford it. Even at that, that is cash from those poor people going down the drain. They do not get it back. If they were getting it back, they would not mind. The developer who sold the land is the one who is putting the money in his pocket and turns away, fades away. Government, in turn, has to go into these sub-subdivision and fix the roads and the people pay for the electricity.

Something needs to be done and I would hope the Honourable Member in charge of that department in the next meeting will see fit to have a revision of that section of the Planning and Development Law. Put that in as a priority. It cannot hurt any new developer. There are enough lots in sub-divisions on the market, it will only give those a chance who want to build a new sub-division to meet those standards.

I would just like to say that I asked my constituents in Bodden Town to bear with us on the boat launching ramps in Newlands, Spotts, Bodden Town and Frank Sound. We are going to do our best to have them done as soon as possible. In the Spotts area where the people of Savannah have their bathing area, I believe we are almost in the process of having the new right of way allocated to Government. In particular the residents of the Spotts area where I hope, as I said before, will get that area put back as part of Savannah, even though I know when those residents in that area are considered part of Savannah the George Town Members will lose some votes. Under the Election Law that area has been taken away from Savannah. Not that I am looking for more votes, I am just looking out for the people and what they need. They want their graveyard back and we are going to work for that. The people in Spotts want a beach area so they can go to the sea and bath and enjoy themselves. That, they now do not have. That is what we are going to work on plus all the other sub-division roads and other district projects that we have the money allocated for.

I noticed yesterday the Honourable Member for Education made a note when I asked him about the lights for the playfields, so I am happy to know he made a note of that and he will get working on it, I hope. I believe I have reached a very controversial issue.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

I wonder whether we might suspend there because you may take several minutes over this and we are already over the normal time? Would that suit you? Proceedings are suspended until 2:15 P.M..

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 12:46 P.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 2:27 P.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings are resumed.  
The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, continuing.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:**

inside this House.

Thank you, Mr. President.  
It seems like this is the longest four hours I have spent speaking

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

I think you have 16 minutes left, just for your information.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:**

Thank you, Sir.  
Before we took the break I was about to deal with, as I said, a very controversial issue which is the Constitution. The Governor in his Throne Speech said that the present

Constitution was introduced in 1972 and perhaps the time had come to look at it and consider whether there were any necessity to make changes to it.

I believe the time in bringing this is perhaps wrong, with all that is taking place in the Islands I feel that the introduction of this still just take attention away from the other issues that are facing this country today. Nevertheless, if it is the wish of the people to have the Constitution changed it will happen. As I said, I saw in the newspapers that there would be 11 people with strong backbones. I hope those 11 people are ready to take it to the people of this country. What I feel would have been appropriate for them to take it with was, that if the Government had accepted the Motion for a Referendum last year, to take an issue such as this to the people they would have been further ahead. But I will leave it and let those people take it to the people of this country. If it is the wishes of the people of this country that those 11 strong, good backboned people should change the Constitution I have nothing to object to. To be honest with you I believe they will do it.

Before I close, I would just like to say to the constituents of Bodden Town that when I was elected to this House in 1988, I felt I was elected by the people. I believe I got 648 votes. They wanted someone who would stand up and not be afraid of what they believed in. If those people who elected me were expecting me to come into this House and sit down in that chair and vote 'YES' when the Government wants me to vote and 'NO' when the other side of the House has a Motion, then I have failed them if that was their intention. I believe that if I have failed them now, they will have the chance in 1992 to put a good person with good backbone, who will stand up for what they believe in, in my place. I am sorry if I have failed them, but I cannot come in here and sit back and just warm the chair and do nothing else. With those few remarks, Mr. President, thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Instead of using the traditional phrase 'Does any other Member wish to speak?', perhaps I should say which Member would like to speak next? I am sure that Members are anxiously waiting to speak. [pause] Maybe I should correct that. Members do not seem anxious to speak.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, I suggest you put the Closure Motion.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Well, I can put the Motion. I can invite the Mover to reply, although for the Throne Speech we do not normally do that. I do not think I should put the question in the course of a debate that should be so important. Unfortunately, there is no guidance in the Standing Orders as to how long the Chair should wait before putting the question...am I being offered guidance?

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:** Mr. President, what I was about to say I do not think should be put on the air.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Just to fill the time while you are making your minds up, I once sat in a House where ballot was taken for the order of speaking on the annual policy speech, like this. You may wish to consider that.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, it seems that we have taken one from this side; it would seem that one from the Government needs to expound on their policies. They have been very brief in the Throne Speech.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I am grateful for the compliment that the Speech was brief. I hope it will not be quoted as a precedent against the Chair on another occasion that we have waited long for the next speaker. But this is a very important occasion.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** It is setting a precedent, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I think the saying is that something like a precedent is a precedent, but does not necessarily abound the principle.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** It is breaking both. This is certainly the longest we have ever waited, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I appreciate that. I do not know whether the Mover of the Motion is prepared to take on his broad shoulders a reply at this point.

#### MOTION TO CLOSE THE DEBATE

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, under Standing Order 38, I move that we close the debate, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** This is an interesting Standing Order. It does not appear to require a seconder. I have made a note on a previous occasion that it does not appear to. In the absence of anyone rising to speak, the Motion will be put under Standing Order 38 that the question be now put, in other words that the debate be terminated. The question before the House accordingly is that the question now be put that the debate on the Throne Speech be closed. Would the Mover wish to speak to the Motion for closure?

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**  
Member who wants to speak.

Mr. President, I could say a lot on that Motion. I defer to any

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Does any Member wish to speak on the Motion for closure? My understanding is that that Motion was moved by the First Elected Member for West Bay.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, the Throne Speech basically expressed Government policies. So we are happy to sit here for awhile. I support the Motion for closure, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Does any other Member wish to speak? I think we should recognise how significant this will be if this important debate is closed so summarily.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** I am wondering, Sir, whether it may not be prudent for a short suspension.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The House is conducting its procedure in the proper way. I do not see any need for that at the moment, but I thank you for the suggestion. Does any other Member wish to speak on the Motion for closure? (pause) In that case I will put the question recognising the House may have gained some time.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, I think I have a right to reply. One Member did...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** That is absolutely correct. Would you please reply.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, the Government has put forward a very brief Throne Speech and we have replied to many areas, to many factions of that Throne Speech. Question Time was drawn out over a long period of time on the important question of health and social policies and other areas. So we have aired certain things, but they could have expounded more to let the country know what they mean by certain statements in the Throne Speech. Perhaps they could have elaborated on what they meant when they said that perhaps it was time for a change in the Constitution. I think that is a very important question and they should not have allowed the debate to get this far without expounding on that particular policy.

The other important factor is that they have announced that they are going to raise many taxes. Again, the country deserves to know what these taxes are, how far they intend to go and what exactly the Government is going to do with the revenue. These are the sort of things that the country needs and which they could have expounded on. It is a farce to sit here and play a waiting game, Mr. President. After so long, I think the Chair was very patient and gave us a lot of time. Now the closure Motion has been put.

I think that the Government should have expounded on their policies, otherwise they are just saying they are going to do the things. I can say no more. Under the Standing Orders it looks like the question must be put.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I shall accordingly put the question on the Motion of Closure, which is that the question will be put on the substantive Motion. Those in favour of the closure motion please say Aye...Those against No.

**AYES AND NOES.**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, may I have a division, please.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Clerk.

**DIVISION NO. 4/90**

**AYES: 11**

Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson  
Hon. Richard W. Ground  
Hon. J. Lemuel Hurlston  
Hon. W. Norman Bodden  
Hon. Benson O. Ebanks  
Hon. D. Ezzard Miller  
Hon. Linford A. Pierson  
Mr. W. McKeeva Bush  
Mr. John D. Jefferson, Jr.  
Mr. Truman M. Bodden  
Mr. Roy Bodden

**NOES: 3**

Capt. Mabry S. Kirkconnell  
Mr. Franklin R. Smith  
Mr. John McLean

**ABSENT: 1**  
Mr. Gilbert A. McLean

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I will make one statement before I declare the result of that Motion. It will still be possible for any Member wishing to speak on the substantive Motion to indicate that he wishes to speak, and if he does, and if the Mover of the Motion that is now being voted upon will be prepared to withdraw it, I believe the debate could continue. I would like to suspend for a few minutes while the House considers that. The House be suspended for a few minutes.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 3:15 P.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 3:38 P.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Proceedings are resumed.  
The House had a division recorded on the Motion under Standing Order 38 that the debate on the Throne Speech be terminated. The question had been put. Under Standing Order 38 it is now, therefore, the duty of the Chair to put the question on the Motion on the vote of thanks for the Throne Speech, without further debate. It says it 'shall be put forthwith'.

The question is that this Honourable Legislative Assembly records its grateful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the address delivered at this Meeting.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, what are we voting on, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** We are voting on the Motion of thanks on the Throne Speech.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, for a matter of clarification, would you just mention to us whether this vote is a vote which is going to endorse what is in the Throne Speech or merely thanks...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The Motion is that this House thank the Governor for the Address. It carries no implications traditionally as to acceptance, approval or disagreement. So I will put the question.  
The question is that the House thank His Excellency the Governor for the presentation of his Throne Speech. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

**AYES.**

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:** Can I have a division, please, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Clerk, please.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** If I may explain, Mr. President, I really need to see the Motion that we are voting on. I am not clear on it.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The Motion was put on the 16th of February. It is in the papers of the House. I would therefore ask you to vote or abstain, whichever you choose.

**CLERK:** Madam Clerk.

**DIVISION NO. 5/90**

**AYES: 15**

Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson  
Hon. Richard W. Ground  
Hon. J. Lemuel Hurlston  
Hon. W. Norman Bodden  
Hon. Benson O. Ebanks  
Hon. D. Ezzard Miller  
Hon. Linford A. Pierson  
Mr. W. McKeeva Bush  
Mr. John D. Jefferson, Jr.  
Mr. Truman M. Bodden  
Capt. Mabry S. Kirkconnell  
Mr. Gilbert A. McLean  
Mr. Roy Bodden  
Mr. Franklin R. Smith  
Mr. John McLean

**UNANIMOUSLY AGREED: THE HONOURABLE HOUSE RECORDS ITS GRATEFUL THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR FOR THE ADDRESS DELIVERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1990.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:** Mr. President, I move the adjournment of this House until

Monday, 10 o'clock.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The question is that the House stand adjourned until Monday at 10 o'clock. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

**AYES.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The Ayes have it.  
The House is accordingly adjourned until Monday, at 10 o'clock.

**AT 3:43 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK, MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1990.**

**MONDAY  
26TH FEBRUARY, 1990  
10:00 A.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
Cayman.

Prayer by the Third Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little

**PRAYERS**

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

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.

Member for Health.

A statement under Standing Order 30, by the Honourable

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT**

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

Thank you, Mr. President.

In fulfillment of the undertaking to the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, during Question Time on Thursday, the 22nd of February dealing with question No. 37, I will state the following: The First Elected Member from Bodden Town asked:

"Can the Honourable Member say whether there are now or has been in the past, any civil or criminal litigation proceedings in the courts of the United States against Mr. James M. Conti as a result of breach of contract or agreement, defaults or bankruptcies?"

My answer at that time was "Not to my knowledge." and after further supplementaries I gave an undertaking to have another check done. Attempts were made to have an FBI check done through the Royal Cayman Islands Police, unfortunately this could not be done, because it was not official police business. However, the following three Declarations were obtained.

1. **POLICE CERTIFICATE**

This certificate is issued by the city of Youngstown, State of Ohio. Department of Police.

"To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that a search of the fingerprint alphabetical records of this department concerning the record of James M. Conti, Social Security No. 165-36-9534 of 5627 London Drive, Austin Town, Ohio, Zip Code, 45515, reflect the following: No record of any arrest, conviction, or sentence to imprisonment for any offence."

2. **STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS.**

This statement comes from Gregory Dimitri, Deputy Clerk of Courts, the Office of the Clerk of Courts, Courthouse, County of Mahoning, Youngstown, Ohio, dated February 23, 1990.

"To the Honourable D. Ezzard Miller,  
Portfolio of Health, Social Services,  
Government Administration Building,  
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands,  
British West Indies

Dear Mr. Miller,

I have searched the records of the Mahoning County, Common Pleas Court and there are not pending and have not in the past been any civil or criminal litigation proceedings against James M. Conti, on this Courts dockets.

Signed,  
Gregory Dimitri."

**STATEMENT FROM THE LAW FIRM OF MANCHESTER,  
BENNETT, POWERS, AND ULLMAN**

"Dear Mr. Miller,

My name is W. Stephen Malloy. I am a senior partner in the Law Firm of Manchester, Bennett, Powers and Ullman Company, LPA of Youngstown, Ohio.

For more than 20 years I have served as personal and business attorney for Mr. James M. Conti, of Austin Town, Ohio. As a result of this relationship I have a thorough knowledge of all legal matters relating to Mr. Conti.

It is my understanding that you have been asked the following question. 'Can the Honourable Member say whether there are or has been in the past any civil or criminal litigation proceedings, against James M. Conti as a result of breach of contract or agreements default or bankruptcies?'

Because of my knowledge I can state that no civil or criminal litigations involving breach of contract, or agreement default, or bankruptcy has been brought now, or in the past against Mr. James M. Conti. On the contrary it has been my experience that Mr. Conti has an excellent reputation in the community and has always shown an inclination toward careful adherence to contractual obligations which he undertakes.

My firm is honoured to have Mr. Conti as a client. Mr. Conti has a strong financial reputation and possesses good credit. I have always found him to be honest and trustworthy. I am proud to have legally assisted Mr. Conti's successful efforts to bring modern innovative health systems to our area and throughout the United States. If I can be of further information please contact me.

Very truly yours,

W. Stephen Malloy  
Attorney-at-Law."

Mr. President, I believe that these three statements confirm that Mr. James M. Conti, is a man of honesty, integrity and high professional standards.  
Thank you.

**QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** We move to Item No. 2 on the Order Paper. Questions.  
Question No. 7, the Elected Member for East End.

**THE ELECTED MEMBER FOR EAST END TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 7:** Can the honourable Member say whether all the aircraft and boats coming to these Islands are fully monitored for drugs?

**ANSWER:** The primary responsibility for preventing the importation of illicit drugs to Cayman rests with the Customs Service. In the event that police have suspicions about a particular aircraft or vessel, and suspicions about passengers on either, they would mount a joint operation with the customs, or at the very least notify Customs of their intentions to carry out an operation at either Owen Roberts Airport, Gerrard Smith Airport, at the dock, or in open sea. We remain concerned about light aircraft



coming into Cayman, particularly those that use the airport as a re-fuelling stop, but understand the difficulties in ensuring that each and everyone of these aircraft are searched.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you, Sir.  
Is the Honourable Member aware that the barge which is used to supply Safe Haven Development, is alleged often comes into and leaves the Island without proper clearance by the authorities?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Excuse me one moment, I am not certain, is it not the subject of a separate question? It is I think.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** All right, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Any other supplementaries? In that case Question No. 8.

**THE ELECTED MEMBER FOR EAST END TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 8:** Can the honourable Member state whether there are stationed at the airport or on the docks a qualified doctor or nurse to assist with thorough body searches for drugs?

**ANSWER:** This also is primarily a responsibility of the Customs Service and the Civil Aviation Authority. If we have suspicions of any passengers coming through the airport and search them with negative result, we would consider taking them to hospital for a full body search to be carried out. Before taking this line of action we would need to be reasonably certain that the information upon which we were acting is accurate.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. JOHN B. McLEAN:** Mr. President, if the Member could say whether this type of search has been carried out before?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** I can confirm, Mr. President, I cannot give the statistics, however of the total number, but these searches are quite regularly carried out.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** There appear to be no more supplementaries. First Elected Member for West Bay, Number 48 please.

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**NO. 48:** The Honourable Member has said that there will be an increase in cost of Health Services? Can he say what are the expected cost of Services such as consultations, x-rays, surgeries, medication, laboratory work, out patient services, room rates, delivery care, pre-natal and post natal care?

**ANSWER:** Yes, there will be an increase in the cost of Health Services. The details are now being finalised and will be announced soon. The schedule of fees will reflect as near as possible the cost of the Services. Pre and post natal care for all residents has been, and will continue to be free under the Public Health Service. The new schedule of fees will be implemented in three phases starting 1st June, 1990 and increased every six months to achieve the full level of the new fees by 1 June 1991.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Any supplementaries? In that case we will go to No. 49, the First Elected Member for West Bay.

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS WORKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**NO. 49:** Can the Honourable Member say whether any application for approval to dredge the North Sound in the area known as Little Sound has been made, who made the application and whether the application has been granted, refused or held on abeyance pending further study?

**ANSWER:** No application was made to dredge in Little Sound, which is an Environmental Zone.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Can he say whether an application was made to dredge in the area?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** No, an application was made to dredge offshore from North Sound Estates. However, due to its proximity to the historically significant breeding place and being within a Marine Replenishment Zone which borders an Environmental Zone, it was withdrawn.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Can the Member say who made the application?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Application was made by Hurlstone Construction Ltd.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Is it held in abeyance, pending further study?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, I did say in the supplementary that the application was withdrawn.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Final question on today's Order Paper, Number 50. The First Elected Member for West Bay.

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS WORKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**NO. 50:** Can the Honourable Member say whether the new building across from Island Taste in George Town has fully complied with planning regulations in regards to parking?

**ANSWER:** The only regulation governing parking is Regulation 7 of the Development and Planning Regulations 1977, but this applies only to "new development areas". In a Grand Court case in 1984 (in the matter of Arch), the Chief Justice, Sir John Summerfield, ruled that this regulation did not apply to a proposal to re-develop an already developed commercial area. This was because such an area was not a "new development area" within the meaning of the regulation.

The ruling applies in this case: There is already a commercial building on the site, part of the structure of which is being incorporated in the new building. This means that Regulation 7 does not apply and the number of parking spaces to be provided is entirely within the discretion of the Central Planning Authority (CPA).

The CPA considered that in this case two parking spaces should be provided. There were two reasons:

- (1) The premises are likely to attract tourists and other pedestrians rather than customers using cars.
- (2) Physical constraints of the site limiting the number of parking spaces that could be provided had to be taken into account.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, my question then is whether the Board had the right to give any permission to build, to expand the old facilities there, in light of the fact that they do not know for certain how many people are going to be needing parking spaces there?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, I am not sure I understand that supplementary, because with any application going to Planning, no developer can be certain of exactly how many people are going to be using any parking spaces. I did say that this is not a matter that falls under Regulation 7 of the Development and Planning Law. It is not a new development area. It is an area that is being rebuilt. The discretion of Planning is used in such a case.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, that is just what I am dealing with, the discretion. There was an existing business, but that business was very small. They have expanded the present business somewhat. What I am saying is they did not consider...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Please frame it as a question.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** That is what I am doing. I just said they did not consider that place would need more than two parking spaces.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, that sounds like a statement, but I think I can get the gist of what the Member is asking. The Central Planning Authority (CPA) did, in fact, give serious consideration, to that application. It was not a matter that was arbitrarily decided on.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Would the Member say whether the CPA has the discretion, whether it does try to follow the guidelines laid down in this instance for other commercial property?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, I believe that the Honourable Member is aware of the procedure because as far back as 1982 and 1983 we have had problems with this particular area. But yes, to answer him directly, the Planning Authority did follow the regulations and what was precedent in this case.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, this is a follow-up on that. Let me try to be more explicit on what I am asking here. Where the CPA has discretion it tends to follow as narrow as possible what has been laid down....

**MR. PRESIDENT:** That is a statement. Really, it is an expression of opinion too. I must ask you to ask questions. Frame it as a question.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** How many parking spaces would this building have had under the Planning Regulations, if they applied?

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, we are talking about two different things here. I think the Member is asking if it had been (and this is hypothetical), a new building in a new development area what the position would be? It is a new building, but not in a new development area. This is why the Planning Authority could use their discretion. If it had been a brand new building in a brand new development area, the requirements would have been five parking spaces.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. It is my understanding that the building in question has changed hands and the question I would like to ask is whether the prior owners made an application to develop the property similarly, to what has been recently approved. If so, was it then refused?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Sorry, I think that this is going way beyond the original question, which is simply in regard to parking spaces in a particular site. Any other supplementaries? In that case we move to Item 3. Other Business, Private Member's Motions, Number 1 of 1990, the First Elected Member for West Bay.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

#### PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 1/90 A PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I beg to move Private Members Motion Number 1, which reads:

**"WHEREAS** because of drugs and through other causes the youth of these Islands are adversely affected and family life is also adversely affected;

**AND WHEREAS** it is important to preserve the family unit;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** Government consider the institution by 1991 of a programme of Youth Development and other Community efforts as deemed appropriate for each district, including the Sister Islands, in which there will be contained provisions for youth workers;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** an interim report be made to this Assembly in June 1990;"

**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean:** I beg to second the Motion.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Private Members No. 1 of 1990, has been duly moved and seconded, would the Mover now wish to speak to it?

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Mr. President, we are seeing much unrest today; unrest among young people is a phenomenon of the present day. Over the last three decades we have witnessed unrest among youth in every quarter of the world. For the past two decades, it has hit home to us in our fair Isle. It is no longer peculiar to any one country or culture, though it may vary in the form it takes in different places. In most places it has reached proportions of mass demonstration. In our Islands it begun very quietly, but a state of affairs is now evident, where the result has caused many homes much anguish.

Our young people have been exploited in many instances and as a result of this exploitation, society as a whole is feeling the pressure and our communities suffer. Some people have tended to write this unrest off, as the irresponsibility of young people and that it is symptoms of the aimlessness of youth. I submit that to continue in that position is to exhibit a shallow appreciation of the quality and character of a vast number of our young people and to sacrifice the tremendous potential and dynamic idealisms of many of our young people.

There are, in too many quarters attempts to suppress any and every expression of restlessness in our young people, Sir. It can and has alienated many and that attitude in my opinion is courting dire consequences.

What is required is a clear and careful analysis of the symptoms of this restlessness among our young people and the effect on social life in the community and then genuine effort on the part of adult leaders must be employed to find ways of accommodating these young people.

What is the unrest among our youth all about? Why does it manifest itself in so many ways? I dare say that what we see and our experiencing today as unrest in young people, is but a looking glass of the society. The values that society has thrust upon our young people, in my opinion, this unrest is but a product of society.

Young people always dream of better worlds. Social emphasises scientist say that the idealism of young people, always react strongly to any and everything that runs counter to the dignity of the human person. If all around them young people witness injustices, discrimination, and prejudices of all kind, young people will react with disillusionment. If we add to this their frustration over the double standards and hypocrisy of some adults, the existing corruption and insincerity of some of the adult population, what are the results? We then have a cauldron of bubbling unrest.

Are we discussing the youth in the United States, Europe, Barbados or Bermuda? No, I am discussing the scenario in our Islands.

Many people write off our youth problems as the cause of affluence. They say if we want the good we must accept the bad. In my opinion, no longer can we sit on the sidelines and bemoan the fact that in an affluent society as we have, where all the evils that result from the greediness for more, and still more, have thrust upon our young people a myriad of problems. Situations which they cannot handle and thereby has caused to evolve a deteriorating social structure. We must now acknowledge the ideals of youth, their aspirations, their hopes and needs and accommodate them in our plans.

Programs must be developed at a level that can reach all the problem youth. Not programs made to suit some city in the United States, nor programs copied from some text-book in some out of the way city in a far off state which has no relevance to us, no historical or cultural connection.

The social programs we need can not be developed from textbooks, a textbook has not been written to deal with the Cayman of today. The social development we need can not be based on theoretical textbook arguments. We need to channel this idealism of our young people, with programs within the circles.

The districts in which they have grown up, in my opinion, this is paramount to a social development that can be effective. If we ignore that aspect and continue the folly of centralizing every agency, every program, young people will continue to seek elsewhere, in their districts, and in their circles for an outlet.

Unwholesome activities will continue to be engaged and other unscrupulous evil doers will continue to take our youth and use them for their evil cause. Which has already created social deterioration, and disintegration of the family unit in the Cayman Islands.

For us to understand where we are today, the seriousness and the extent of our social problems we need to look a little bit at where we came from. The statistics I am about to give are but a true picture that our problems are becoming worse. They tell us that a sound policy of social development at a level where it reaches all, is badly needed.

In 1973, we had a total of seven cases of juvenile problems. One for disorderly conduct, five burglaries, and one for ganja.

For 1988, we had 222 cases in the juvenile court. Today there are 10 children in approved schools overseas, one 15 year old girl for possession of cocaine, a 15 year old boy for eight serious traffic offences and one 15 year old boy for two charges of wounding. That is the kind of problems our young people are getting into today. Teen-age pregnancies - in six years we had a total of 397 young girls becoming pregnant. Teen-age pregnancies so far up to Feb. 14, this year a total of 30. There are some at the ages of 13, 14 and 16 years of age.

Since 1987, including 10 in Cayman Brac for 1985, we have an amount of 232 cases of child abuse and neglect investigated and some action taken.

In 1988, there were a total of 371 cases that affect the family, including divorces, adoption, maintenance, and ancillary matters. That is not including cases of indecent assault on boys and girls, or defilement of children.

There were 386 prisoners, held in Northward Prison during 1988. We all know that the number of young people at Northward Prison, is always in the majority.

We must take all these statistics into consideration in view of the fact that we have some 6,200 young people in the age groups of zero to fourteen, and 5,900 of our population in the age group of 15 to 30.

The statistics are very grim, given a very young population. I suggest to this Honourable House, that we have not got the entire facts, there are other serious cases, such as

incest that were not given and even with the statistics given there is much left to be desired. What do we do to address, improve, or wipe this social deterioration?

In light of our economic improvements there is not too much worry about survival from, let us say for instance malnutrition. No doubt there are areas which have to be addressed from the economic viewpoint. That is not the purpose of this resolution and this debate. Our major thrust is concerned with efforts, placed on improving the quality of life of those young people who do survive. I believe this requires major re-orientation and re-organization of the systems through which these goals can be achieved. Definition of goals and reallocation of priorities and resources would be needed.

Owing to urgency and in some cases to treat some situations in our communities, emphasises has been in the past and seems like is now being placed on the treatment of the symptoms of problems.

In my opinion, in order to say somethings are being done, there is an absence of strategic planning processes, with the major emphasis on prevention. While I agree that some interim projects must help and are needed, quality of life cannot be totally achieved without long term strategic planning of programs that foster prevention.

This Motion deals with Youth and Community Development. In my opinion, Community Development is a process of combining activities and programmes which seek to enhance positive growth of ones community, as well as to foster the continuity of long standing traditions and values. If we agree on this then this House has no problem in agreeing what needs to be done to assist the communities in which we live.

There are many good things happening and no one doubts or disagrees with it. But those things are happening in a very fragmented manner. I believe by integration it is reasonable to expect that better quality of services would be provided and a clear message articulated of our national concern for the value of preserving and maintaining the tradition of the Caymanian family and the Caymanian way of life. Although, you, as presiding Officer, to quote the words in the resolution: **"AND WHEREAS** it is of paramount importance to preserve the family unit as a Caymanian way of life;"

We feel strongly about that statement in the original submission to the Clerk. Statistics tells us that the family unit is very much threatened. It is a fact, it is not a vague opinion. Some in this House may very well agree or very well argue that the Caymanian way of life can still be preserved if the Caymanian family falls. I hope and pray that some bright social scientist in this House, can proceed to tell me how.

The Member for Social Services has provided a variety of answers from questions asked by myself and others, which have clearly indicated the state of play for our families and our youth at present. All Members should look again not only at the statistics, but consider the implications if this negative trend continues. Clear indications are unless we take positive action immediately these trends of abused and neglected children, of increasing families in distress, of incest, of defilement of children, will simply continue to grow and to worsen. As legislators, it is our responsibility to create a path for the future which has as its primary concern, the quality of life for our people, of our young people. At a time when some inappropriate youth policies may be amicable to the interest of the country we must take positive steps to insure development of our youth.

Some people see the problems of a restless youthful population as one which indicates a lack of responsible involvement of young people. We must however, provide such involvement through services, which are structured to provide for various levels of involvement. This could be of particularly importance to us since some 49 per cent of our entire population is below the age of 30.

I have been advocating many years, though it has fallen on deaf ears, a Social Development Commission which would operate with at least three units. A Social Development Unit, a Sports Development Unit, and a Youth Development Unit.

All these Units would work with programmes that suit each district's particular needs and work with each the existing facilities or create where there is no facility, and most importantly utilise any existing organization in a district community. A Social Development Unit would be responsible among other things for community organization. Leadership training at a district level, research even and most importantly adult education throughout a district. Certainly under this Unit could come different aspects of community development.

It could foster such things like craft development. By that I mean it could carry out functions for the training and promotion of craft skills, straw work, needle work and even ceramics and certainly help in the marketing of such products.

In my constituency we have some ladies who produce the most beautiful straw and needle work maybe of a much better quality than that which is imported. Emphasis could be placed on assisting them by production and in their teaching of the skills at a district level which would give those areas of local craft a higher profile in this country.

Co-operatives, is a notion that has not taken off in this country. It has not taken a hold, this is I feel because of the independence of Caymanians. That was alright years ago, when fishermen for instance invested their money in a boat and could do well earning a good living because he could sell his weeks catch. It was alright in those times when big money was not in play in the tourist industry for instance, but times have changed and we need to foster the idea of some Co-operatives. Even the producers of the needle and straw work perhaps could form a Co-operative which would help them that much more.

We often hear about how our people in the local tourist charter operation are having difficulties and one of the reasons is because big money has come into play and we know that money talks. They have not put themselves together in a position where they can help one another. They forget

that togetherness is strength.

Whomsoever would be chosen, to teach the theory of Co-operatives, would have the duty also to actually make them work by providing the ingredient of sales and the proper marketing of their production, so that there is a flow of funds which of course is the basic ingredient of the Co-operative in operation. As I said, the Social Development Unit could assist in the formation of Co-operatives however small.

In the area of adult education there could be out-reach attempts and parent education through meetings and workshops. I believe, there is a great need to expand the concept of family life education, which should include child rearing practices. Mental, social and emotional development of children depend to a great extent on child rearing practices. Some parents need to be educated to provide an adequate environment and stimulation for such development. The Social Development Unit would help at district levels to give adequate emphasis to mental, social and emotional development of children improving the quality of life. Most services now provide corrective measures, however, systematic programs are needed to improve the physical, social and mental development of young people. In any such planning, attention must be focused to the vast number of the invisible majority who suffer but go unnoticed, thus in the long run slow down progress. For instance abandoned children attract much attention. Those abandoned while living with their families do not, but can impede development. I believe for too long we have been satisfied with the notion that child rearing is an instinctive behavior. Some social scientists have proved that it is an acquired behavior. If this is true where is the training ground for people to acquire up-to-date knowledge on parenthood? For instance our instances of teenage pregnancies are high. Is it being taught to teenagers at a level where it reaches all of them? Adolescent motherhood presents serious risk for the mother, herself being frequently accompanied by pregnancy related hypertension and cervical lacerations which increase the risk of incurring cervical cancer. The process of child development is complex no doubt. On it depends the future of our country. No single Governmental agency or organization alone can achieve this complex goal. That is the way I feel.

There is a bit done in taking children to foster homes and a little done when they get so bad that an approved school is necessary. I submit there is a need to assess the total needs of children, right down to young adults, and to initiate integrated planning and concerted action with a full involvement of the families and communities from which these children and teenagers come to achieve their full potential.

The Social Development Unit is an arm which could provide the necessary training ground for up-to-date knowledge on parenthood. Through workshops there could be a means from which parents who cannot understand their children, the problems which their teenagers encounter in their growth, development and needs, a means by which they could communicate with them. While we have made some good strides as to the abused child and from our statistics there are too many, still adequate protection of children from abusive acts still remain somewhat of an unfulfilled promise. I contend that this is part of the problem of existing conditions. Children who are abused, it is wide knowledge encounter difficulty in trusting others as they get older. Having been hurt deeply by the very person they rely upon for support and nurturing. I as a parent have never believed that child abuse is the problem in and of itself. I believe from what I see that it is but a symptom of some deeper malady. In my view, and others as well, parents as I said who do not understand their childrens growth, development and needs, and we know that there are many, because of the situations where so many parents are working, cannot communicate with them and they may resort to physical violence as a substitute for communication. As I said, these are times when nearly all parents are employed. Times when most families have television and children are left to the mercy of televisions which in my opinion in its present state of affairs in this country is not altogether good for the young plastic mind of our young people. Most families are not recognizing the bad effects of unbridled television. I feel that the Social Development Unit could play a big part in developing programs which would help as I say at work shop level or even by placing ads on the radio or newspapers which can help educate on the bad effects of television as it is so unbridled in this country.

We come now to the other suggestions, a Youth Development Unit. This Unit would be the arm of the Commission which would help create Youth Centres and Youth Clubs where there is none. The Unit would see that existing ones are well run and direct and control to an extent the operation of centres and clubs. Help from this Unit could be provided in ways of educating young people to provide their services to the community. All the church groups and their organizations could be involved, schools could play an integral part, organizations like the scouts and even CASA could play a part. This Unit would direct the programmes and formulate programmes and see that funding is judiciously expended at a district level.

A Sports Development Unit, the other suggestion, would seek to create a comprehensive, long term sports programme. This would be drawn up with both the cooperation of all the existing sporting organizations.

It would be responsible to work out national coaching programmes, with sporting associations. It would organize coaching schemes at a district level for athletes and volunteer coaches, which would provide training at beginner and intermediate levels. It would of course evaluate these coaching programmes and arrange for persons to be brought into the coaching schemes at various levels. It could oversee the proper dispersing of funds for the development of sports and athletic competition. It could foster Regional competitions here, which I think is good experience for our local athletes. It would help keep accounts and progressive records for the purpose of reflecting improvements in athletic standards within the country.

A Sports Development Unit would be responsible for the availability of playing fields and courts and other facilities and to provide sports equipment facilities for organized training. The Sports Development Unit would have as an integral policy the arousing of the spirit and knowledge of sporting activities including cricket and tennis in our young athletes, where it is now dormant.

I have aligned what I feel could be the work of the three Units

which could operate under the umbrella of a Social Development Commission which would operate under the wider umbrella of the Social Services Department. As I say, the Social Development Commission which directs all the Units however would coordinate the participation of the different existing organizations, and individuals and create the programmes for the organizations where there is now none.

This country has much in place that is positive for us. There are scores of skilled staff existing, teachers, social service people, mental health workers, nurses, and church workers. These are resources, already existing at district levels that we must harness and channel in a particular direction. There are many worthwhile groups and some progress made, but the fragmentation in my opinion is limiting real progress.

There is just too much of a little bit here and a little bit there. A band-aid approach, which in the long run does nothing except bring us back to square one. We just need, to pull all of our resources together, organize them into proper functioning groups which can direct proper programmes.

The application of the principle of restructuring them into a Social Development Commission provides for integrated responsibility and interest, allows for a high sense of proprietorship, avoids duplication of efforts and financial expenditure and of course must avoid the danger of vacillating policies.

The ultimate aim of the Social Development Commission is to establish strong directed communities after laying a firm foundation of proper training and harnessing of various skills.

The first step of the programme is for Government to provide a firm foundation and that can only come by providing the services that are required and providing the various projects that are needed at a district level for development. We can then develop and provide incentives for the expression of peoples natural creative talent. We can develop our local leadership and harness the generation of community spirit or arouse it where it is now dormant.

I am not only talking about leadership ability, when I speak of the natural creative talents of our people. That is also part of it, I am speaking also of another kind of talent. A good example of which is the drama group from Northward Prison who have now done two plays where every performance has been sold out and who in my opinion have now dispelled any doubt about the natural artistic ability of our indigenous people. Its natural hard work coming from our young people. If they had a programme at a district level from the beginning they might not be at Northward today but instead be making a sound contribution to the community by being productive citizens.

This Motion is also calling for youth workers in the districts. This is something that I have always advocated and there are Motions passed in this House for youth workers on a district level. That again has been frustrating and nothing has been done. I want to see a programme develop for these youth workers. The commission as I say would lay the proper foundation, but then it is for the youth worker to live in a district community he or she is trying to help. On the basis on actual experience of life in the community I am betting there will a world of difference in results.

I have come to the conclusion that there is much possibility of getting more local people involved in Social work. There is much that could be done in the line of training them. They already have a lot of natural talent that could be developed by practice. There are many people who sincerely want to help. People who already are doing a good job in Social work in the districts. People who are concerned about the maximum result and positive results from the expenditure of Governments money in the country.

I wish to go on record again in thanking these people who have work so hard with no pay. There are many on a national level, The Lions members, Rotary Club members, and the Kiwanis Club members. Not to mention the individuals at a National level. There are those in the districts and I can speak particularly of people in my district who are very concerned and active in the church, women's activities and youth groups. I must take my hat off to them. These are the kind of people I feel are right and ready for Social work, if it is well organized. They can offer much because of their leadership qualities.

Social development means generating ideas and putting them into effect. It is good to get these people involved in an organized basis, because I believe people acquire responsibility, people acquire the ability to build and run their own social systems by practice. Social development must come not entirely from an outside level, but social development must come out of ourselves. It should not be dictated entirely by institutional textbooks.

There are as I said a lot of outside programmes carried out in a very eloquent dying way and having very little good effect because they are not geared for a district community but are very much publicised and worked at on a National level.

In conclusion, as adult leaders at the highest level, how do we see our National problems and community problems? What has given rise to so many social problems? What has given rise to the disintegration of the Caymanian family? Are the young people the cause of the problem? Why are there so many crack users and crack cocaine being imported in this country? Why is so much ganja still being imported in this country?

Whether we want to accept it, young people and the social problems are a product of society. It is society that has caused the problems to develop. There is a very essential need for re-establishment of proper values in our society. There is a very essential need for re-establishing of good morales. If there is not a resurgence of religious and morale values that have caused this country to do the good that it has done over the many years, social deterioration cannot be arrested.

Sexual promiscuity, teenage parenthood, family stress and violence in the family, one parent families, drug abuse, crack users, and burglaries will all increase. We need desperately to save our families.

We will remember how it was years ago in this country, how everyone interacted in love, how each bore the others burdens and shared the others joys. Our country sits at a cross-road, social deterioration is evident and the family unit as a Caymanian way of life is disintegrating. If a majority of Caymanians do not understand this reality and help to turn the tide then ultimately we will have no choice but to understand it a time when it will be too late to do anything about it.

Fortunately for us there are many who realize that we are headed in the wrong direction. The people who I spoke about in our communities, those who have good upright lives and lived that life, that still means something to people like myself. It still means something and I can teach it to my son who is 13 and my daughter who is nine.

There are still role models in our society and that is fortunate for us. It is these people, it is all those hard workers, this Motion seeks to help by integrating and mobilizing them as a striking force in our district communities. I trust that this resolution will enjoy a save passage and that Government will heed its request without frustrating its possibilities.

I thank you Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings are suspended for 15 minutes.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 11:30 A.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 12:07 A.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings are resumed.

Private Member's Motion No. 1/90, debate continued. Does any Member wish to speak? (Pause) I hope we are not going to have a repeat of last Friday. The Honourable Member for Health.

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

Mr. President, I rise in support of Private Member's Motion No. 1/90. The programme for Youth Development and other Community Affairs.

The Government accepts and has accepted for a long time and has been using all of its available financial resources, its physical resources, and all of its human resources to do something about the varied problems and concerns of the youth.

Now, in regards to the first whereas because of drugs, the Government has accepted that the country has a problem with drugs. It has not hid the statistics in any of the areas and it has put forward a five year drug plan last year which we have been working on very diligently. I would just like to highlight some of the areas in which the Government is actually working under this plan. If one looks at the statistics of the Cayman Police Annual Report tabled in this Honourable House earlier in this meeting, one would see that there has been a substantial reduction in drug related crimes and other statistics that we have suggest that we have turned the corner on drug abuse. Very little, though it might be, we seem to be having some success with the programmes that have been put forward.

Now, in terms of the National Drug Plan as Members are aware the National Drug Plan was broken down into three main areas; Prevention, Education, Treatment and both of those combined to a special programme called the EAP for people in the work place.

Under the treatment programmes, detoxification is organized at George Town Hospital as needed. Clients are assessed individually. Individual counselling sessions are organized and there is introduction to self-help groups such as Alcohol Anonymous and Alanon. Based on the needs which the clients require, in-patient treatment programme, overseas referrals are organized and we just started adding clinical phycologist analyst of these people before we send them overseas in order to better increase the possibilities of success.

With the recruitment last year of two drug counsellors in addition to those programmes just mentioned, we are now doing out-patient primary treatment programmes and we have in fact had in place for about three months, a complete family programme which is organized and run by one of the specialists at the Cayman Drug Counselling Centre.

This family programme is organized for families of drug users mainly. Rarely, families with other problems are also allowed to participate in the program. It is a six week programme with a maximum limit of 10, they attend group sessions twice a week. On graduation from the family care program they attend the after care program organized at the centre once a week for 12 weeks, and then they are referred to one of the two support groups, alcoholics anonymous or addicts anonymous.

The first group of these started with 10 families, seven graduated on 13 February and three dropped out. The second group was started on 8 February 1990, with 10, eight are continuing and two have dropped out. The third group will start 6 March 1990, and so far 10 have been enrolled already.

The out-patient and primary treatment program at the drug counselling centre is conducted on an out-patient basis for treatment of drug users. The success of the program depends on the clients decision whether he wants treatment or not. Hence our counsellor on initial assessment allows the client to attend Alcoholic Anonymous meetings before involvement in the treatment program.

The treatment program, that is the out-patient primary treatment program, is done in four phases.

Phase I, is an intake and an assessment and counselling with attending Alcoholics Anonymous three times per week with a minimum of one month, then there is a re-evaluation



of the patient.

Phase II, there is out-patient treatment once a week, Alcoholic Anonymous two times a week for 10 weeks, where the person obtains sponsorship from another AA member. Then there is another re-evaluation.

Phase III, is after care once per week and AA two times a week for six weeks, with another re-evaluation.

Phase IV, is Alcohol Anonymous three times per week, with counselling when needed at the discretion of the client. This program was started on 4 December 1989 and the program allows for groups up to 10. First group started 4 December 1989, graduated, 21 February 1990. Initial group consisted of eight with only two graduating, six dropped out. Second group will start on 1 March 1990, so far we have seven enrolled.

The Government hired its first drug councillor on 28 August 1987, and two were added in 1989, in addition to a trainee. In the initial stages most of the clients were counselled individually in an ad hoc basis and the statistics of drug clients were not in a retrievable position. Since January 1988, the statistics are retrievable.

A total of 248 clients used the service more during the two years. There was 674 patient visits in 1988 and 973 in 1989. Of new clients, drug users in 1988 numbered 103, in 1989 there were 80. Non-user, because we also cater in the centre for co dependents, people who suffer as a result of a family member or friend doing drugs and as usual when the Government speaks of drugs it includes alcohol. Alcohol is not separated from drugs.

Reduction in 1989 Sir, does not mean less work load as structured programs are organized. It indicates we hope a drop in drug usage, preventive education programs are showing their affect. The preventative education Sir, has come along way.

The school as part of its skills for living and the quest program have had training sessions for teachers, training sessions for students as peer counsellors, and the program is introduced in both the Middle School and the High Schools in both Islands and we believe that we are having some affect on the drug uses.

The five year drug plan, one of the objectives under Prevention and Education was to promote healthy life-styles. We have health education programs in schools and life skills programs are aimed at this. With the arrival of the health educator 7 March 1990, through PAHO under the Aids Program these programs will be intensified. We intend to offer all Health Care education not just education on Aids.

Another objective was to increase understanding drug problems. CASA's Parent to Parent and Youth to Youth Program, Peer Counsellors program are towards achieving this objective. Our counsellors from the drug centre assisted and will continue to assist in CASA'S program.

As far as the training for professionals are concerned we have had local workshops conducted for teachers, nurses, and doctors to enable them in recognition of the symptoms suspecting of cases and making appropriate referrals to drug counselling service.

Under Methods for Prevention and Education we find such things in the drug plan as providing community based education on topics such as achieving good health, adverse affects of alcohol, drug abuse and risks of drugs etcetera.

The counsellors from the counselling centre participated in CASA'S district meeting. Counsellors gave talks to most church groups, and as far as involving the community leaders, again we have assisted CASA'S Parent to Parent program it is aimed specifically at this. It is anticipated to involve political leaders in the future.

Some sessions were conducted with a couple of banks and churches, and it will continue. CASA is working with PTA's, entertainers, and we had educational activities incorporated in the SongFest event for Pirates week. Recovering individuals, press articles, and I think most people should have seen or I know that all Members of Parliament were invited to most of the CASA meetings with the involvement of the Crack Track video which was developed locally.

In the Hospitality Industry we would like to develop a bar-tenders education program and we hope to integrate this into the Employers Approach Program which is mentioned later on as the third arm of the Drug Plan.

Development education materials, CASA has developed one, and the Cayman Counselling Centre which is the Governments counselling centre is complementing it and rewriting it in some instances. Messages were developed through radio Cayman and it is envisioned to utilize some young students to develop additional messages.

We have had discussions with one church group about putting all the churches together to have a good healthy youth, type weekend, because one of the things that we are concerned about is that the only kind of youth that are getting the limelight unfortunately are the troubled youth. We want to enforce and help the good youth to continue to be good.

Providing education for the clergy, health personnel, educators, and the judicial system, this has been done twice so far, once through Hazeldon and another through PAHO. They will be expanded through other agencies. We are developing special orientation packages for new professionals in this field into the community. We are establishing a library on current information about drug usage, CASA has one already. We have and will continue to develop and expand the one at the Cayman Counselling Centre and encourage involvement in and by professional associations. The Business and Professional Women's Association has shown interest and we will strengthen this with the recruitment for the only vacant post which we have this year on the Cayman Counselling Centre.

Under objections for the treatment as I said earlier the objective

to formalize detoxification programs at the George Town Hospital and include this service in future planning. This has been partly achieved, a procedural guide for admission to George Town Hospital for detoxification has been developed. Of course we could not devote specific beds, due to the shortage of beds. We would like to allocate at least four beds to be available for the program, although all may not be used all the time.

But we do need some specialized type of rooms, putting people under the influence of alcohol or drugs into rooms with glass sliding doors which were designed in the early 1970s for elderly people and people with different kinds of illnesses not with people who might have or might not have violent withdrawal systems.

The development of the half-way house is being looked at. We are still working on an assessment and treatment services so that we can design the programme to meet our needs and then we will find a facility to put it in.

Initiate Court and the Prison Systems, the Cayman Counselling Centre liaise with the Courts and prison systems and we have a very good group that work with the prison and have been quite successful in referring people to the Cayman Counselling Centre on a voluntary basis when they come out of prison. The Caring Brothers Group are also very active in trying to rehabilitate in particular the youth back into society, once they have finished their term in Northward Prison.

We have intensified and redefined our whole outpatient treatment programme. This was done through the development of the family programme, and out-patient primary treatment programme, which I have given the details of earlier. We have expanded our out-patient capacity and capability by moving the centre to bigger and better quarters. We have some formalized after care services and referrals to self-help groups. This was done with the graduates of the two programmes we talked about earlier on, where they go to the after care programmes provided by referral to self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Addicts Anonymous and for the co-dependent groups.

One of the objectives under this was to develop separate services for youth including but not limited to out-patient programmes. This will be done separately based on the numbers of staffing at a later date. We have two posts and one of those we are recruiting hopefully to specialize in the EAP programme as we are not getting as great or as active support from the private sector organizations as we had hoped. We hoped they would have recruited one person to work with themselves to provide this kind of employer assistance and employee assistance programmes in the work place. Government is stepping ahead in terms of organizing it for the Civil Service and hopefully they will come later on.

We also have made an attempt to develop community Out-Reach Services. This we have done through trying to organize treatment programmes in the districts, through health centres. We have a group that meets in North Side in the health centre and we hope to promote these through assisting. The more graduates we get from the various communities who joined the self-help groups, because when we started this referral system, Alcoholics Anonymous in particular was made up of a half a dozen or so local people, but mostly were visiting people who were here on vacation or business and attended. We now have them up to the strength of about 30 people and we are looking at the possibilities of dividing the groups and reorganizing them at the community level to get more emphasis in the community.

We have developed the programmes in house as we have the qualified and experienced counsellors on hand, now. We still will be needing the assistance in developing the half-way house concept which is actively under consideration.

We have spent time on programme staff and they are already trained and experienced. However, it is envisioned to work with established institutions to have on going education to our staff in addition to their participation in our local programme.

To that event we have in fact asked for a proposal and a time frame for one of the professional institutions that we deal with, where they can send people down on a regular basis and make a proposal for an annual presentation on a regular basis for training of workers in the field and other community leaders who wish to get involved.

In the EAP, the Government as I said, has a vacant post and we are hoping to fill that post in the Cayman Counselling Centre with a drug counsellor who has a lot of experience in the EAP and we have already initiated the EAP by having a work-shop for the senior management in the Government and the private sector. This was held at the Grand Pavilion earlier last year when we had about a 100 people in attendance.

Even though we still desire the EAP counsellor to be Non-governmental in the initial stage, we believe that if the private sector through the Chamber of Commerce or some other similar organization could hire one liaison officer who has the skills to provide a kind of a triad for people who need counselling from the work place.

If it is drugs or alcohol then they can direct them to the centre. If it is family matters they can also direct them to the centre or to Social Services. If it is financial then they can provide that from the business world. If it is legal they can provide that from the business world, we need a person hired by them who would act as a kind of sorter. And we know the problems we always have when Government does it all and then they try to say that we are invading their precious territories and trying to implement these programmes.

We are still hopeful that the Chamber of Commerce is going to come forward and that their membership is going to support the recruitment of that officer so that we can get the program started. In the meantime we are lucky in that one of the counsellors, in fact the counsellor who runs the family programme at the Counselling Centre, also has some experience and training in the EAP and we are now in the process of organizing further seminars at the Hospital Conference Centre which will be specifically for Government heads of departments, supervisors and giving them some training in how to spot these problems and

get them on.

So as far as the programme is concerned about drugs, we believe the Government is doing all that it can. Of course we all would like to do more, but there are constraints over which we have no control. Part of that is willingness on the people themselves to come forward and be treated.

As far as youth work activities are concerned, the Department of Social Services have over the past few years operated various youth work programmes. They had a total of seven groups run for eight week periods, there were eight youths in each group, four of the groups were girls and three were boys. These groups dealt with family and peer relationships, communication skills, crime and consequences, problem solving, substance abuse and human sexuality. Additionally the groups dealt with issues such as personal hygiene, values and social skills.

We also have in addition to that on the social services a recreational group for boys as a kind of a preventive measure which utilizes the basketball court, next to what used to be Thompson Shipping Compound on Eastern Avenue. That group is about 30 to 40 children each week and we hope we are having some success in that area in terms of prevention.

We also have therapeutic groups which work (and there has already been a shift in policy direction) to deal not only with the individual who needs help but the family unit as well. We have a Crisis Intervention specialist who is running groups to teach basic life skills. We have therapeutic group work, we have the recreational group for boys and of course we have all the other varying treatment programmes that are ongoing.

In addition to that we have a programme that was started last year, where Government is encouraging churches to hire youth workers and to become more and more involved with youth work. We believe that too is having some success.

Several churches have applied for youth workers and have received financial assistance in hiring and recruiting and paying these workers. Some of these church groups for instance the Church of God in Bodden Town has about 60 to 70 youths on a Friday night. The Church of God on Walkers Road has a very impressive programme for youth. They are about to launch on a multi-million dollar investment in the youth of this country with a large auditorium next to the Church and a whole exercise, games and religious enhancement and quality of life facility.

In that area they also have several acres of land in North Side which is being developed for campsites and nature walks and stuff like that. We believe that the Churches themselves are becoming more and more involved in the Youth Programme and we are very grateful for their continued involvement.

We have several and in fact, we have an action plan which has been accepted by the Portfolio. The Social Services are working this year towards specific goals and objectives for the whole enhancement of the delivery of Social Services. All of this includes dates when all of these programmes will be in place and I believe that that in itself will enhance the services for the youth.

We have assisted other youth organizations in putting on functions for the youth. Besides that, Sir, we have in the schools of course the whole health education and quality of life and pointing out the dangers of drugs and other sources.

In another Portfolio, the Government also has very comprehensive youth organizations. For instance under the Portfolio of Education, Recreation and Culture we have youth organizations such as Amateur Athletic Associations, Badminton Associations, Olympic Associations, Swimming Associations, cricket, netball, body-building, Rugby Club, Gun Club, West Bay Progressive Youth, North Side Youth and Sports Club, Power Boat Association, varying activities provided for youth and young adults organized largely by private groups and supported by Government. In fact Governments total support in the 1990 Budget for Sports Grants alone is \$225,000.

Then of course we have other youth organizations such as the Boys Brigade, the Boys Scouts Association, the Christian Boys Brigade and Pioneer Girls, the Girls Brigade, Leo Club, the Path-Finders, National Trust Groups, all groups which conduct wholesome activities for youth. What most of these groups need is more of the individual community members involvement and the leaders in the communities themselves getting more and more involved with it.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Would that be convenient to break there for you?

**PROCEEDING SUSPENDED AT 12:45 P.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 2:18 P.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Member for Health, continuing.

The proceedings of the House are resumed. The Honourable

**HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:**

Mr. President, before the break I was dealing with some of the services offered by Government through the Department of Social Services. We did in fact include in the Throne Speech that the Department was being reorganized to provide better services in a more coordinated way for the community. The main thrust of the Department in the 1990s' will be community development issues and it is hoped the first step to establish family and community resource centres in the districts.

Now in keeping with that we have in fact made some progress. In fact after several meetings with the Director of Social Services she has done the reorganizing in the particular

programmes. Just to quote from a letter from her, Sir, it says:

"In our meeting of 11 October 1989, at my request, yourself and the Member outlined particular areas of emphasis held by yourselves for this department. These include formalization of organizational structure, name change for the Department, need for Outreach Programming, need for public relations campaign, formalisation of a policy statement, and the restructuring of overseas referrals for juveniles."

Basically the Department is being reorganized into the following areas of Service - Assessment and Referral Services, Family and Youth Services, (Family and Youth Services would include group work, counselling services, physiological and clinical assessment services, therapeutic services, the foster care programme, group homes including caring homes and shelters for teenage mothers, abused victims, rape victims, crisis services for adults and children, interim care and protection, adoption and custody issues).

Under the service area of Social Assistance Services we will find Financial Assistance Programmes, the Housing Assistance Programme which with Environmental Health was doing repairs where someone needed sanitary facilities or other small amenities done. The Housing Development and Social Services joint project and Members will recall that we reworked and redid the Housing requirements and we have in it a special provision for indigent housing where Social Services will become the mortgagee of the HDC and to help those who cannot qualify at all.

Support services again, mostly financial for utilities, furniture etcetera, burial assistance and emergency relief mostly of a financial nature. We have also included with the expectation and the planned hope for programmes we have included under this provision for the National Pension Plan to give people assistance and for the Medical Insurance Scheme. We are trying to plan into the future.

Community Outreach Services Department, will deal with Community and Family Resource Centres, Community Care Programme, Inter-agency Programming, voluntary agencies, day care, elderly, children and mental and physical handicapped.

Under Rehabilitation Services we will have the Diversion Programme which is to provide an alternative for going to Court under the Juvenile Law. Probation, community services orders, prison counselling, juvenile secure care, long and short term placement and a secure remand services prior to going to Court.

So the Department is actively trying to reorganize itself, Sir, and it even has been brave enough at my insistence to put these things on a time frame.

For instance, they created a Clinical Supervisor position which will provide direction, supervision of staff, and service deliver in each of the units. To be responsible for in-service training and development of the units, to develop clinical procedures and systems for efficient operation of the units. This has to be completed by the end of June 1990. They also hope to manage the Housing Assistance Programme, to coordinate and oversee the development of the Community Out-Reach Services, development and revision of clinical procedures and clinical statistics and again the deadline for that is June 1990.

The department has come in for a lot of criticism over the past and people have the wrong connotation, it went from basically Welfare Department of Government to a Social Services Department. We think if we are going to expand the services that are offered we need to change the name from something more appropriate like the Human Resources Department or something of that nature.

For the whole year we are conducting a media trust, which is to keep the community readily informed on ongoing and new services and their developments on a regular basis. This is to ensure our community is fully aware of all services being offered by the department and to apprise the community of positive outcomes in our various service areas and that is a year long programme by the department for 1990.

Other objectives is to elicit from the community from time to time their reactions and comments of the services offered as part of that media exercise and public information and what is being done, and what the success and the failures are of the various services being offered by the Social Services Department. The name under consideration, Sir, just to get it right is the Department of Human Services, rather than Social Services or Welfare. So that we can get into a lot of this preventive work.

They are to have a written mission statement for the department on the overall, to initiate work performance indicators for these various Units that I talked about awhile ago. The objective here is to develop a statement of intent for the Department in its various Units in respective of the nature and type of services order.

To develop a management process of accountability for various services provided and it is hoped to have this in place by October 1990.

To set up the Intervention Services Coordinator whose job it will be to develop, monitor and coordinate the growth of treatment services as an integral part of case work services.

To foster the development of an assessment team equipped with therapeutic and clinical skills able to assess, diagnose and treat clients, both adults and juveniles. That is to be organized by the end of June.

To put in place a Management Revue System of the Unit System that they are adopting which was explained earlier on. The purpose of this is to monitor integration of new staff and what difficulties if any are being experienced in the Unit developments and that should be in place by November.

To set up a multi-disciplinary team called CAST (Child and Adolescent Services Team), and the objective here is to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to the management and treatment of juveniles from any sector of our system or community who warrant such attention.

To collect such data and statistics on the problems of juveniles in order to assist in the timely development of necessary programmes and services.

To develop a pilot project for troubled juveniles and the objective here is to locally develop personnel, strategies, and resources to effectively manage juveniles who have chronic problems of one sort or another.

To coordinate services of mental health, education and social services in this endeavor. This is to be completed by the end of July.

To improve our Foster Care Programme, to provide for the comprehensive development and administration of foster care services. To increase the number of foster homes available for placements. To develop training programmes to enable greater flexibility in foster homes and this is to be done by June 1990.

To review the Community Care Programme, to determine what degree the present level of service is effective.

To determine what other types of services may be of benefit to the community.

To develop and coordinate an on going training programme for programme personnel. This is to be done by the end of July.

To establish the first of the District Family and Community Resource Centres. To assess and initiate the development of such services as are deemed necessary and appropriate for the community growth and development in each district.

To train and develop local personnel in the respective districts to staff and manage their centre.

To provide support as necessary for the on going development of new programmes. We hope to have this in place by the end of April 1990.

So the Department of Social Services is very active and very much aware of the complexity and large number of problems faced by the youth and I believe they are making some valiant efforts to provide the services.

Cayman Brac is not left out in this programme. We have a very dedicated and competent Social Worker in Cayman Brac. She runs a boys counselling group at the high school, usually for the Fourth Form boys, carried over to Fifth Form. They have slowed down the counselling and the frequency because of conflict of exams, but they plan to continue it as soon as the exam period is over.

They plan to coordinate with drug counselling people in initial planning stages for this peer counselling groups in the schools there. They have a very good and dedicated youth and community worker over there, who began groups such as Brownies, Girl-Guides, Boy Scouts in the Brac; runs various sports groups such as boys football, girls football, basketball, etcetera; takes social groups swimming four days per week from two Primary Schools to teach them to swim; and he also has programmes where he tries to get the elderly out-doors more often.

I mentioned earlier that the sporting organizations that they worked with and the funds that were allocated for that, the Portfolio of Education, Recreation and Culture work very closely with a lot of the voluntary youth organizations. These youth organizations all have active leaders and programmes. It is operated with volunteers and it does receive some public support. "e.g. under Government page 26 - 08 - 033, there is \$15,000 to help these youth organizations." and they do enjoy a lot of favourable private support. The examples of them providing for Scouting only as they were readily available and Government does have in its employ some of these organizers.

If there is a problem in the youth organizations it is not so much that the organization does not exist, but it is the lack of community leaders and adults involvement at the community level. What is happening in some of these organizations is that the youth to adult ratio is so high that the children cannot be properly controlled and often times not, we might be doing more damage than good. Only the negative aspects, the bad behavior is what is being highlighted simply because they do not have enough adult support from the various communities where these organizations are.

In terms of the sports facilities I have a list of maps which are very comprehensive and most people in this Parliament know where they are. I think that Government has provided very well, both numerically and with equipment for these various sporting sights, through-out the island.

Every district has its fair share of public open spaces, public playing fields and other things like that. These are available from the Lands and Survey Department if Members do not have copies and I would not bore Members by reading them all out.

It does show that playing fields and hard courts and tracks etcetera are fairly accessible in most communities. This excludes such areas such as the water key park which is being developed over in Rum Point.

There are funds in the Budget to further develop public open spaces by placing barbecue grills, picnic benches etcetera where possible in all of the areas for instance the Water Key Park.

These areas are all very heavily utilized by Government with families on week-ends and public holidays in fact if you want a space in one of the six huts which have barbecue grills by them, in the upcoming Easter, you had better get up there from about Tuesday or Wednesday if you want to spend Good Friday. It does become very crowded and people take good advantage of it.

The Sports and Recreation section of the Portfolio of Education, Recreation and Culture works with all of the youth organizations in schools through the provision of a variety of coaches and stuff like that.

We have the Prospect Youth Centre which is a church organization but it can accommodate up to 60 youth plus leaders at any single event, all sleeping in. It is heavily used by our churches and because Government also cost shared in its construction it is open for public use. Many overseas groups use it on a regular basis and some even have long term reservations. It also has lighted hard courts.

Additional programme and exposure opportunities for the youth, some I have mentioned earlier, like through the department of Social Services, through the churches, Christian Endeavour, Youth Fellowship, the various Path-Finders, Scouting organizations, and service clubs.

Most of the service clubs now have a youth club arm that is active on the island. Key Club, Leo's, National Council of Social Services, and here I would like to pause and deal briefly with the Member who moved the Motion idea of setting up a Social Development Commission.

Now, I think the National Council of Social Services was a very valiant attempt by the Government of that day to establish such a Commission, because one of the mandates of the NCSS at the time that it was formed was that it would do exactly that. It would coordinate the activities of all service clubs, of all youth organizations and it would basically direct the programmes. But I do not think it has been very successful in that and that has to do with what the Member moving the Motion talked about the individualism of Caymanians and each club and organization wanting to do its own thing.

Although they have taken up certain things that NCSS might have suggested, rather than being one of a regulatory function and a supervisory role NCSS unfortunately has had to actually develop a lot of the programmes like pre-schools themselves. The public and the private schools have bands and clubs and extra curricular activities for all the schools, there are youth groups in most of the communities and many groups sponsor overseas activities, events, and trips to broaden the members scope. Some of these groups even have visitors from other areas. The Government does not believe that the problems of the youth is one of services not being accessible and available. The problem lies more in being able to motivate the community and the adults to get more involved in a positive way with the youth programmes that are around.

I believe that we have had for a long time the informal development of our social programmes through the churches and for many years that was very effective. I believe that we have come to the stage where we are going to have to look to the textbooks. We are going to have to look to the theory behind these problems and assist us in finding solutions. Granted we cannot use the theory in abstract, we have to use our local technicians in the Social Services Department in particular to help us analyze and properly determine what the problems are and therefore find solutions. It is very difficult to find solutions for problems if you have not first identified the problems.

We have to carefully strike a balance between formal attacks on this programme in terms of structured programmes etcetera, because that in itself is what a lot of countries are rebelling against is the over formalization, the over rigidity of programmes for the youth. We have to try and find a clear balance where the formalization is available. We have to find ways to encourage and to coerce people to come to these programmes but they certainly have to leave a lot of room for individual choice. Most people unless they choose to come voluntarily to these types of organizations are not going to benefit a lot from it.

Parent Education, we believe that CASA has done a tremendous job on parent education on particular in dealing with problems of drugs. They have trained hundreds and hundreds of parents through the Parent to Parent Programme on how to identify it, how to deal with it and how to continue to deal with it.

The Community College tried a programme in East End and West Bay for Out Reach for adult education some time ago and it failed miserably. The HDC, we realize that some of the houses that people are living in and the environmental surroundings in which some people live, lead to problems. But we are also trying to address that through the Social Services joint effort with the HDC.

Teenage pregnancies, we have sex education going on in the school as part of Skills for Life and this starts at the Middle School level going up. While we have had some teenage pregnancies and I think incest was also mentioned, the one case in the figures that I gave a couple of days ago that might have been incest, there is no way to prove it. The people who could prove it simply will not come forward and give the evidence. That is not a good thing.

The Government is very worried about the increase in child neglect and abuse. Sexual abuse or incest is nothing new in this country, in fact I would venture to say there is a lot less today than there was in the 60s or 50s. We have special programmes in place for the products of those unfortunate times and we are trying to deal with it but we do not have any magic solution.

Fragmentation we are trying to pull the Departments together there is a Committee now, between Education, Social Services and the Medical Officer for Health representatives who are looking at trying to find a way to deal with the troubled kids who are having to be chronically expelled from school.

At my own Portfolio level I have a monthly meeting with each of my Departments. Usually twice a month and every quarter we get all of the Departments together to make sure that everyone knows what is doing and making every effort to coordinate it.

The Government has no qualms about accepting the resolve section of this Motion, we believe we are doing all that we have the financial resources to do, all that we have the physical resources to do and all that we have the people to do.

As far as the second resolve is concerned that an Interim Report be made to this Assembly in June 1990, I have no problem in making that report in terms of what is going on and what has been completed and what achievements have been made. So with those few words, unless other Members can come up with programmes and how they will be funded and how they will be staffed, I am prepared

to listen to any proposal, have the technocrats at my Portfolio look at it, look at the financial implications of it, and see whether it will help us, Sir. We are prepared to listen to anyone who can come up with constructive ideas to solve the problems.

Thank you very much.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:**

Thank you very kindly, Mr. President.

A few years ago, I had the honour to be invited to address a group of graduate students at one of the large universities in upstate New York who were pursuing a programme in multi-disciplinary studies. I was asked to comment on some aspect of societal change on these Islands. I chose my presentation title as "Changing Rights of Passage, Coming of Age in the 21st Century Cayman Islands".

I suggested that as a frontier society the behavior of young people and the kinds of pass times they are indulging in now, were substantially different from my growing up where at the pre-adolescent level we played marbles and a popular pastime in Bodden Town, where I came from, was a kind of surf-riding we called Running Seas.

We have moved from that now to a culture largely influenced by television and American behavior because of this there are some important changes and strain infiltrating our society. It was strange in the 1950 to hear of ganja and I would venture to say that cocaine use and abuse, as it is known now, was unheard of in these Islands. As a result of the advent of these kind of problems, our young people are facing challenges that were unknown before.

While it is true that the Government is doing much to address the problems, I think one must be realistic and honest and admit that Government, with all its provisions, if it is to be successful must find some way of marrying the resources which it is providing, financial and otherwise with community efforts.

That leads me to say, if my understanding of the Motion is correct, what the Mover is calling for is not for a recital of what the ERC and the Department of Social Services is doing, but for some formula which would involve community efforts with the resources offered by the Government. I would like to say that is a challenge and one that cannot easily be met. Given the smallness of our society and the relative ease with which the problems we face are brought to light, if we exert a concerted effort we can rise to that challenge.

Often we as politicians and community leaders overlook the role and influence which we ourselves can have in these kinds of instances and these kinds of situations. I am reminded of efforts expended in my community by people who are interested in youth development.

Certainly credit must be given to churches and church groups and to other civic organizations, but again we have to realize that they cannot do it alone. I am happy to say that many years ago in the 1970s I started a soccer club in Bodden Town, one which is still continuing and which the youngsters now for the most part continue of their own volition. It is interesting however to note that apart from teaching the skills and rudiments of football as we call it, I tried to inculcate in them a sense of leadership and responsibility and above all a sense of self esteem. I have maintained close contact with that group and I am happy to say that few of the youngsters are showing great leadership potential and I hope one of these days that one of them can rise to take their seat as a representative of that community in this August Assembly.

So with all due respect we have to find a way of reaching the young people and of reaching their families. Sometimes it does not necessarily need an expenditure of millions of dollars, rather it needs the correct approach. I would suggest that we should begin by finding the things in which the young people are interested and begin from there.

One of the problems frequently experienced is that when we import ideas and when we import people we have to realize we are not necessarily importing solutions, but rather we may be importing fresh problems or fresh avenues to existing problems.

I say that to say that it does not necessarily follow that because we employ for arguments sake 10 new Social Workers or five new Sports Coordinators that we are going to be any better off.

In the constructive alternatives which we propose, I am a great believer in the adage of self-help and I believe that our best examples and successes must come from the communities where the young people themselves take up the leadership mantle. The young people themselves realize that they have to provide the backbone, they have to provide the thrust and that the role of the Government should be supervisory and in ensuring that some of the financial needs are met in as much as possible. But I stress it must be a community wide effort.

I was reading the Caymanian Compass some issues ago where the Sports Coordinator was lamenting that the Government had provided facilities in many of the constituencies as I prefer to call them and they were not being used or utilized.

He made special mention of the hard court facilities at the Civic Centre at Bodden Town. Either by design or accident however, he omitted to mention that while the Government had provided the equipment for the basketball court the youngsters in Bodden Town brought that equipment from the Public Works compound to the Civic Centre and put it up themselves, including digging the holes which were not easy and I know because I was there.

Also the reason why the facilities were not used in the evening time, is because it was that time of the year when dusk set in rather quickly and there were no lights. That was compounded by the fact that the nearby hall was used by a church.

It is not in all cases that the facilities provided by the Government are not being utilized, but sometimes rather there are extenuating circumstances.

I realize too, that while there are some young people who indulge in constructive activities and I can speak with authority of my constituency, there are many more whom we are not reaching for one reason or the other. I would like to find a way and join in the challenge and offer my services and abilities to the Government in trying to reach these, because by and large these are in the greatest numbers.

Some weeks ago, I received a call from a young constituent, to visit him at Northward Prison. I was moved by the number of young people whom I saw there that Saturday. I am minded to ask in commenting on a statement made by the Honourable Member with responsibility for Health and Social Services. It may be that the reduction in crime statistics and the drug related crime statistics is proportionally related to the number of young people incarcerated at Northward Prison at any given time.

While it is true, that the problems of drug abuse are on going I am not convinced that the efforts we are now providing through rehabilitation and incarceration services are necessarily in the best interest of the young people. I think we have to find a way of reaching them, before they get to that stage. I am suggesting that the best way, the most effective way in which to do that is to find out what leads to this breakdown.

I am minded also to remark that a booming and affluent Cayman is taking its toll on family life. It is now economically necessary in many instances for both parents to have to work. And the sociological implication of this is that in many instances children are being neglected, unfortunately sometimes left to watch unsupervised television. These are the kind of things that we have to grapple with. These are the things which the mover of the Motion (if my understanding is correct) would like to see resolved. Again I am suggesting that the resolution must lie in efforts made in individual communities and constituencies. We develop those and then we move gradually onto some kind of National programme or some kind of plan which can be fully threshed out and laid out by the relevant departments.

Perhaps the Government should consider trying to address this Motion with both the Departments of Health and Social Services and those from the Education, Recreation and Culture. This is where the most comprehensive solution would come from. I would like to make a comment on a point made by the Honourable Member for Health and Social Services when he said that we have to consider adopting a textbook approach. I have always had problems with adopting textbook approaches to solve problems in the developing countries. One reason is that most of the textbooks unfortunately are based on case studies in the developed world. So if we go purely by a textbook approach we stand a chance of not properly addressing the problems.

The second thing is that I do not think any solution is necessarily etched in stone and written in blood. Sometimes what we have to do is use a combination, a little of the textbook and a little of good old Caymanian common sense. I would say that there is a danger in purely going by the textbook approach, to solve these kind of problems facing us now.

A few months ago the Mover of this Motion and myself were discussing amongst ourselves as to what we could do as Parliamentarians in this country to help alleviate and address some of these problems. We were and are still toying with the idea of developing a Youth Parliament. Hopefully we could on a district basis encourage young people to form Youth Parliaments where they would debate topical issues against each other. We could encourage them to visit the Assembly sometimes when the Assembly is in session with a view towards providing community leadership and people not only interested in sports and games in the community but also interested in serious issues in their community and in the country as a whole. I would hope that time would allow us to develop that some more and that we can quite realistically put it into place before this year is out. Hopefully as early as the summer.

Any mention of an address of these kinds of problems would be incomplete without complementing the service clubs, the church organizations and the many other organizations who voluntarily give in many instances time and money to the development of youth programmes.

We now need to move beyond a tokenism beyond the sense that we are doing this because we consider we have an obligation by virtue of the fact that we are representing a multi-national firm in the Cayman Islands, or by virtue of the fact that we are representing an international service club and get down to what I would call a more utilitarian motive.

It is a moral obligation if we want to see the perpetuation of an orderly society. I would go so far as suggesting that in this we have literally to be our brothers keeper. It is incumbent upon us and that is why I say it is a challenge for us as legislatures. I would hope that we as leaders of our individual communities and leaders of the Nation collective could find the time to move out into the communities and let people see that we are actively involved because we are concerned that these problems are problems which are growing. We can begin from here.

What has started as a genuine effort by the Mover towards an understandable preoccupation with the deterioration in family life and the development of young people, will not turn into a cult administered by a priest hood of esoteric politicians who want to reel off solutions and congratulate themselves on programmes that they want to put in place or now have in place and use arcane formulas to rationalize what they are doing. But rather that the Motion is taken for what it is worth in that if we are to remain progressive and are to continue to boast that the Cayman Islands are leaders in the Caribbean, penetrate the Motion and try to come to a realistic understanding and to really and sincerely address the problem by expending more efforts at community wide solutions.

I hope that the Government is sincerely planning to address the resolve section of this Motion and that they have listened to the contribution of the Mover. I would like to take the



time to compliment the Mover and the Seconder of this Motion on something needed by our country at this time.

May I suggest to the Government that if it is not their intention to do something to exert a concerted effort along the lines suggested in the Motion, that they might as well vote against it and let us understand once and for all that they have no intention addressing the issue.

I do hope in closing that the Government takes the Motion for what the Mover and the Seconder intend it to be and that they sincerely realize that these are the things we are up against and the efforts must begin at the community level and branch out into a National Programme. The Government can help with that. They are equipped to help with that and it will not necessarily mean a multi-million dollar effort either. Rather it will mean harnessing community resources be they community leaders or otherwise. I am sure that the Members on this side of the House and they can speak for themselves, certainly I am not adverse in whatever I can be of help to lending my support.

Thank you kindly, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:**

Thank you Mr. President.

As the Seconder of the Motion before the House, needless to say I support this Motion. It is one in which I believe is timely and it asks for Government to consider in a practical fashion and in an effective manor the development of a programme for youth.

In the recitals it states that because of drugs and through other causes, youth are being adversely affected in these islands and that family life is also being affected. I believe that anyone in this country who honestly looks at the situation for exactly what it is at this time in terms of the youth of this country, must have certain concerns about how drugs are affecting the young people. Perhaps it is true to say that it is a single most negative factor affecting the youth of the Cayman Islands at this time. It is not the case that the poorer among us are being affected or that the have-nots are being affected. Indeed, the question of drugs has touched every family at every stratum in this society.

Not only is there the question of the physical affects which it has on the young people or the youth, but also the actions which it causes them to do. In this process of drugs, drug use or in this affair of drug use on the island there is upper most in it, for some the appeal of money. The prevails of drugs, indeed that is the ultimate goal, to receive money from it. That in itself is an appeal that youths grasp and reach out to. Some I dare say start into it purely to earn money and become addicted to it themselves.

The peer pressure in this country I believe is in many instances is to follow fashion, follow the leader. It is happening over in the United States or in the other countries as the case may be, the youth in this country see it on television and it becomes a thing that all youth are doing. So, there is also the enticement from that point of view.

One cannot underestimate the effect of audio visual media in this country at this time. I speak specifically of television. Television, in the Cayman Islands today is I dare say in the majority of homes in this country. Studies have shown in developed countries that television has an impact on people like nothing else does. The future lies in television. But of course there is future and there is future.

I am wondering if there is much unsupervised television in the homes and families in this country and even now (although the United States television companies are becoming more conscious of not portraying the drug situation as being glamorous), if a certain amount of that is seriously affecting our youth. The drug culture here has proven results such as stealing and murder and it seems that it is going to be ongoing unless Government take some serious steps to stop what is happening at this time.

One of the areas that something can be done is for Government to look seriously at advancing ideas for the utilization of proper television programs, in this country. Recommending it in a program so that all families in this country are aware of it and encouraging them to supervise their children when they view television.

It may not hurt either for the Government to look at creating programs or tapes for viewing which can be made available through the numerous outlets for video cassettes in this country. As has been done in one of the areas that Government now have in place.

There also needs to be greater concerns of our print media, where simply just reporting what has happened or on programs that Government now has in place it can more actively get involved with reporting on good activities, sporting activities, youth activities that are happening now, and encouraging others on a regular basis. Something needs to be done, something which can have a practical effect.

The family unit in the Cayman Islands has always been the shelter from the storm. It has always been the training ground for youth in this country, by proper supervision of parents, but that has changed dramatically because of our economic conditions and changing values. More and more the parents in any given family work and thus the supervision of children or youth is reduced.

One time all of the older family members put great effort into advising, supervising, informing youth, pointing out to them the Caymanian values. Things which were treasured which were carried on from generation to generation, I do not believe that that exists in the same way in which it did before. Somehow the Government needs to find a practical approach where families, where parents can be brought into a position to understand clearly that they have to play a vital role.

I understand from things that the Member has said that there is in place a programme now to do this, how effective it is, is the question. Can more be done? Is the right approach being taken on it? Why is it that more persons and older persons in the community are not taking part? Are they getting the wrong message? These are questions which need to be answered.

I am wondering if the time has come when Government should seriously look at certain penalties to the adults, guardians, parents when they are not responsible in the way they should be for their children. Must one think of only punishment to the youth? Or are the adults really to blame? Should there be penalties to be invoked on them?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Would it be convenient to break, for you?

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Yes, Sir, that is fine.

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

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 3:21 P.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 3:56 P.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Proceedings of the House are resumed.  
Second Elected Member for Lesser Islands, continuing.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Thank you, Mr. President.

When we took the break I was stating that perhaps the time had come when that Government could look at creating penalties for guardians or parents or adults who had supervision of youth or minors and that penalties be brought to bear where they were failing in their duties. Not only are youth responsible for their behavior indeed I believe that the parents, guardians, adults share responsibility as well.

The Mover of this Motion suggested an organizational structure with a Commission and under that three functioning Units. I have no problem with the suggestion because I believe that makes sense, however, we have heard at length what the Member responsible for Social Services has said in respect of this particular aspect of it.

He has pointed out that various programmes are in place that are supposed to similarly deal with this situation and I believe he has all good intentions that this should succeed. The question however arises is it succeeding? Is it effective enough and can some improvements be made?

I believe that this is the gist and crux of the matter what is being sought in this particular Motion. That an examination of things as they are be done and that we have a re-look at the situation in respect of how the programme functions. There are in place on this island various physical facilities, buildings, equipment and all the rest of it. But how well and how much is it being utilized to the objectives for which it was created continues to be a question.

For example, there are sports fields, there are buildings, there is equipment and there are certain sporting activities, but could these not be enhanced? Providing a physical facility begs that also manpower resources be provided. I do not think that these are as readily available as one might wish or that indeed could be.

It has also been suggested that the specific appointment of youth workers be considered. There are now some, but do these people find themselves over taxed, over burdened, or having duties to perform to the extent that they cannot truly give the time that they should, that is desirable.

We can make suggestions here, and recommend possible methods for approaching this problem, the private Members here do not have at their disposal the funds which they vote for the Member responsible to carry out these particular services. That is a relevant and salient point in this whole matter. We can recommend and suggest, but we do not have funds available to ourselves to do these things. We can but request the persons responsible on the Executive Council to carry out such activities.

I too pay tribute to the churches, to the service clubs and to all the various persons who are helping in this with the development of youth in the way that is good and desirable. However, more needs to be done and in this particular respect, Government perhaps of necessity has to be the leader. Interaction between persons whom the Government can appoint and the churches and the service clubs can be beneficial and can improve what is already in place. Improvement has to be the key. I share this view with the other speakers that there has to be the strongest encouragement of this on the district level. If we can get the districts functioning as they should, surely the overall National position has to improve and succeed.

It is not sufficient simply to have a Unit somewhere here in George Town offering counselling or offering sports support or whatever it might be. The key to success lies with the development in the community, in the district.

I support that fully and I look forward to seeing what is done with this request and Motion in the time that has been set for a report that is June 1990. I would stress once again that while I support this Motion that my colleagues and I on this side have the financial wherewithal we can but vote that money for the Member to carry out what needs to be done. In ourselves we have none to implement these requests.

The question of youth development in this country is of paramount importance because the solution lies where our country will be in generations to come. Having said that, once again I support this Motion.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:**

Thank you Mr. President.

I rise to support Private Member's Motion No. 1/90. A Programme for Youth Development and other Community Affairs. I would like to congratulate the Mover and the Seconder for bringing this Motion before this Honourable House.

It is timely and certainly addresses a very important issue. Youth development is something of paramount importance in this Nation. I emphasize youth, and this development starts at a very early age. It is the responsibility of parents within this community. I have great concern that many parents are abdicating their responsibility to their children, and therefore creating a problem which the Government is being forced to address.

I listened carefully as the Member for Health and Social Services carefully outlined the programme which his Portfolio is administering and I complement them for all the many ways in which they are trying.

I feel there are many things that the private sector must do in addition to all the efforts which Government will put forth. Something that might sound very minor, but in our three island Nation we have arrived at a situation where our Law enforcement body is no longer considered as our protector, as friends of our community. Our youth are raised up with a dislike for our police force and I think that this is a dangerous situation. In most countries of the world the police take a very active role within the schools and pre-schools. They sponsor Pee-Wee leagues, they have parties and different things for the youth and become very closely associated, giving instructions on how to cross streets and how to behave in public. Therefore, they have a very close relationship between the police and in the event they have a need, their friend is the policeman. That is the first one they go to. I realize as we became more developed here in Cayman, the beat policeman was removed from our streets and then the cars with open windows we still had some access to our police but then with the introduction of air-conditioning we no longer hardly see our police as they cross by and certainly they do not hear what is going on. We need a closer association, our children should be taught that they are our protectors and really not something that we should fear or should contrive to work against.

Other Members have spoken on what is happening with the media (and I share their views that we having access to all the many TV channels that are available via satellite here in the Cayman Islands) is being very detrimental to our adults as well as our youth, but in particular our youth. Very often the criminal is played up as a hero and they are taught ways and means which to beat the law and not to respect the police. It reverses what is taught in our schools often times and has a lasting impression on a young mind. They become frustrated whether what they are learning in school is correct or what they are seeing on the TV screen. Of course watching TV they do not have any homework, so they prefer to watch TV. That is compounding our problem.

I know in my district which is small by population, but it covers the two islands and quite a number of miles. We have some delinquents there today that I am afraid have reached the point of no return. I think in some instances their parents failed them at a very young age, in particular some of them, two at least were sent to correctional institutions in Jamaica, they learned the tricks of the trade and came back and they have been teachers to some of the less fortunate and therefore have compounded the problem.

I think it beholds every adult in the Cayman Islands to help address this problem. We need social workers within the communities. I see the need every day. I feel the institution of Government's financial help to the churches in last year's Budget to hire youth workers to help has been very beneficial. I think it was a step in the right direction. I see a benefit from that in my district and I have heard good reports of it here in Grand Cayman and I feel that it is only with the combined effort of all Government and the private sector and in particular the parents of these children that something can be done. If we do not address this problem we are going to have a serious problem in the next five to 10 years.

I think one of the things we lack is, we do not stress enough emphasis on team work within our school system, there is not enough competitive team work activity where they realise that they are not individuals as a team. Many of the youths feel they are already a woman or already a man. They do not have to take advice. They can earn a few dollars enough to support their needs and they become hardened in the process of learning, they turn a deaf ear to what they should learn and, learn readily, what they should not. This is a serious situation.

I call on all Honourable Members of this House to support this Motion, I call upon the Member responsible to help us in each and every community to help foster this work because I say today the youth that we are having problems with today are going to be the parents of tomorrow.

If they are not trained and corrected, how can you expect them to correct their offsprings and where will the leadership of this Nation go if this continues unchecked. We have a good country, we have many dedicated people, I complement the service clubs, the churches and all the organizations who are helping but I ask for a combined effort to help implement this Motion to the very best of our ability.

Mr. President, I support the Motion.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Third Elected Member for George Town.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

Thank you, Mr. President.

I support this Motion, and I would like to commend the First Elected Member West Bay and the Second Elected Member for the Lessor Islands for bringing this.

This Motion touches at the very kernel of the future society and of the present one within these Islands. As has been said the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow and if we do not channel them and their efforts in the right direction, then the Cayman Islands and all people within it must

ultimately suffer.

All development within any country, (especially the rapid development that we have had here), we see the deterioration in the family unit. It weakens and it begins to get traded somewhat and unfortunately the sufferers are the youth and the aged people within it. We have within the Islands a good foundation supported by the service clubs, the churches and the many organizations that are here. We also have a community which gives more than you will find in any other community. However, what is seriously lacking is the ability to pull all of these resources together and to focus them on the difficult areas that have arisen in the social structure of these islands.

We as Backbenchers, have done our part as best we can to assist in increasing or in fact doubling the grants to private schools and for sports. This has been our effort and our contribution because we regard it as very important. Things such as bleachers for the sports complexes in each district may sound small but they go along way towards getting children involved, teenagers involved in sports and keeping their efforts in a wholesome direction.

A lot of the influences, as the Second Elected Member for the Lessor Islands, I think the Member for West Bay that moved this has said, we have in the last few years been bombarded by television. That is something we do not have unfortunately any control over. I do believe that efforts by the press and the radio, constructively towards programmes for youth is something that can well be developed and increased.

Half of a child's life is spent in school and about a half spent in the home, at least in the early stages. It is so important that the effort be focused to deal with youth in all areas of the environment that they are in. It is most important where you have the child's attention in school, that the proper programmes be strengthened and continued there to develop the youth towards what is good, and what is wholesome and beneficial within society.

The deterioration can come in many forms. Perhaps the one that impacts the most in Cayman now has been hard drugs. I would just like to mention here for clarification, but not as a criticism, that the Member for Health said that he was pleased to have seen the decrease in the number of convictions on drugs. Well that is so, but I do not think it is reason to ease up because it is made very clear in the police report and I would just like to read paragraphs five, six and a bit of seven, and I will just read this:

"The significant reduction in the number of arrests for drug related offences cannot be used as an indication that the drug problem is lessening. That may or may not be the case; police statistics alone are just not a reliable indicator."

Paragraph (6): Two factors, other than any reduction in the consumption of drugs, have probably led to a lower number of drug arrests:-

- (a) The direction to the Drugs Squad to concentrate on significant dealers.
- (b) The increasing assistance we give to US Law Enforcement Agencies on legitimate drug related enquiries in Cayman."

Paragraph (7): Concentrating on dealers and the tracing of their drugs related assets is difficult and time consuming."

I agree with the direction they are going, but what I am saying here is that hopefully the Member will continue trying to ensure that the effort toward users is kept up and intensified.

In most things in life the problem that one faces is communication and team work. I think it was the First Elected Member for the Brac that dealt with that. I could not agree more that unless we have proper communication with youth and that is not just talking to them, but getting through to youth, getting them moved in the right direction, that a lot of the battle is going to be to no avail. Team work, must go very much hand in hand between the Portfolio for Health and the Portfolio for Education and they have to see it as a challenge and to get their staff to see it that way. However, until there is that effort at the top, there never will be a follow through effort from staff members who are in the field and dealing with youth from day to day.

Along with that is in the Rehabilitation Programme that the Third Official Member is responsible for. Some of these youth do end up in prison and it is important that the is team work between the three Members. The last aspect that has to be looked at is to ensure that we do provide the communication and the liaison between Government and its Portfolios and the private schools who also school about one-third of the primary school children at the age where they are susceptible to a lot of the problems within society. That communication and liaison must also stretch to where the churches, the service clubs and organisations within our society that deal with drugs, social work or whatever is encompassed.

Pulling that diverse a group of people and organisation together is not going to be easy. I believe that it is the bound duty of the Government to put out that extra effort that may be needed to harness all involved and to attack the problem of the deterioration of youth within our society at all levels and in reaching all youth within the Cayman Islands.

It is good to know that within the school system there has been and, continue to be, very good programmes which are made available still to private schools and this has been very important from the youth who are within schools for their progress in that respect.

Lastly, the youth that get into the most problems are those who have too much time on their hands, whether it is not sufficient to do, through laziness, or whatever that can creep in as we know on teenagers. It seems to me that having young persons busy in the right areas, having their efforts channelled through things such as sports or church work or within the service clubs doing community work, or last but not least having a substantial amount of homework through the schools brought to children. Having them kept busy with a few hours of homework which at least under the earlier education policies that I produced was in fact compulsory.

It can all go a long way toward seeing a positive impact on our young persons growing up to be the sort of men and women that we can be proud of. If we fail in this then society ultimately fails and crumbles from within. Never forget that the Roman Empire which stood for some thousand years, the longest of any empire in the world, ultimately crumbled from within. It crumbled because of the social deterioration that arose from within it, which split it into two empires and was ultimately destroyed.

So I believe that efforts in this area have to be intensified. Whatever resources this House can put for Government's use I believe that will be looked at and whatever is necessary will be granted. We stand ready to assist in any way that we can and to join hand in hand in dealing with this problem and hopefully being victorious with it and seeing our youth grow up to be the men and women of tomorrow that this community can be proud of.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

We will not take the motion for the adjournment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:**  
o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr. President, I move the adjournment of this House until 10

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
o'clock tomorrow morning.

The question is that the House do stand adjourned until 10

**AYES.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
Tuesday the 27th February at 10 o'clock.

The House is accordingly adjourned until tomorrow morning,

**AGREED: AT 4:27 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK, TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1990.**



**TUESDAY,  
27TH FEBRUARY, 1990  
10:32 A.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
Trade.

Prayer by the Honourable Member for Tourism, Aviation and

**PRAYERS**

**HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:**

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.  
Questions, No. 51, the First Elected Member for West Bay.

**QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS**

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 51:** Can the honourable Member say who has been appointed to conduct the investigation into the police force, what are his/her qualifications, what are the terms of reference and the terms of remuneration?

**ANSWER:** Sir Peter Allen, a former Chief Justice of Uganda, was appointed to conduct a preliminary investigation into certain complaints concerning the Royal Cayman Islands' Police Force.

The terms of reference were to make appropriate enquiries into certain allegations and to make a Report to the Governor.

Remuneration was agreed at the current rate for temporary Judges of the Grand Court.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**  
completed?

Can the Member say whether the investigation has been

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:**

Yes, it has been completed, Mr. President.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Are we going to be informed, Mr. President, of the results?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:**

Yes, Mr. President, an appropriate statement will be made at the appropriate time, at the discretion of his Excellency the Governor.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Mr. President, was this investigation conducted because of allocations made against the Commissioner of Police?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:**

The enquiry was carried out as a result of certain complaints

against senior officers of the police.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Including the Commissioner of Police?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Yes, Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Next Question. No. 52, the First Elected Member for West Bay

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 52:** Can the honourable Member say under whose recommendations the Salaries Commissioner was appointed and who wrote his terms of reference?

**ANSWER:** The Salaries' Commissioner was appointed by the Acting Governor after consultation with Executive Council.

The Terms of Reference were approved by the Governor after discussion with the Members of Executive Council.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Mr. President, could the Member say if any input from either of the two staff associations was sought in determining the Terms of Reference?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President.

**THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR WEST BAY TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 53:** Would the honourable Member say what was the total cost to recruit the Salaries Commissioner, including remuneration?

**ANSWER:** The total cost of recruiting and remunerating the Salaries' Commissioner amounted to \$26,429.00.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Can the Member give us a breakdown on that, Mr. President.

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** I am afraid I have to apologise, I am unable to provide the breakdown, immediately. I did have it in order to arrive at the answer. I could give an undertaking to provide it by lunchtime in writing.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I would certainly appreciate that, Sir, because the question was broken down into two parts.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Question No. 54, please. The Third Elected Member for George Town.

**THE THIRD ELECTED MEMBER FOR GEORGE TOWN TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR TOURISM AVIATION AND TRADE**

**NO. 54:** Would the honourable Member say what was the total cost to Cayman Airways Limited and/or Government of the cocktail party, entertainment and the trip to New York for the inauguration of the New York/Cayman route?

**ANSWER:** The cost to Cayman Airways Limited of functions in connection with the inauguration of its New York service was US\$40,281.00. The cost to Government was US\$6,195.51.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Would the Member say whether this was specifically the cost of the function, this was the total cost, was it?

**HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:** That is correct, Mr. President.



**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Mr. President, could the Member say what were some of the items of cost to Government included in the \$6,195.51?

**HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:** Mr. President, that really covered costs for ticket, air-transportation and hotel accommodation mainly.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Next Question please, No. 55. the Third Elected Member for George Town.

**THE THIRD ELECTED MEMBER FOR GEORGE TOWN TO ASK THE HONOURABLE ELECTED MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR TOURISM AVIATION AND TRADE**

**NO. 55:** Can the honourable Member say how much has been spent and is projected to be spent in the future by Government and/or Cayman Airways Limited on advertising in New York State and on Cal/New York route?

**ANSWER:** From July to December 1989 the cost of broadcast and media advertising in the New York area was:

Department of Tourism:	US\$594,906
Cayman Airways:	US\$1,128,689.

1990 Budget plans for broadcast and media advertising in the New York area are as follows:

Department of Tourism:	US\$1,705,317
Cayman Airways:	US\$383,414.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** To the Member. Is this cost of nearly US\$4 million usual for the inauguration of each of Cayman Airways new routes?

**HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:** No, Mr. President. The 1990, amount would be ongoing in general advertising of the destination of the Cayman Islands as a destination and of their services. So what was really the large amount was the start up advertising which was spent in 1989.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** A follow up on that. I guess what I was asking is if that amount is similar to this having been spent, for example, when starting the Atlanta or some of the other routes? Is this usual or is this a lot more?

**HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:** Mr. President, this is a lot more because New York is a very expensive destination. Places like Houston, of course, Houston was started in 1978. Atlanta and Tampa, for example, it would have been much less because the cost of advertising and media press coverage is not as expensive in those gateway cities as it is in New York.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Does the Member have any idea as to what number of person per dollar spent has actually come about from the New York area?

**HON. W. NORMAN BODDEN:** Mr. President, I do not have the numbers in regard to the total number of visitors that we get from the New York area on an annual basis. But what I do have is the results, so far, of the number of passengers which Cayman Airways has transported on its non-stop service from New York to Grand Cayman. In the period of two months that we have been operating that new route we have brought in almost 4,000 passengers from New York, which provided about a 77 per cent load factor on the New York/Cayman route.

**THE SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR BODDEN TOWN TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 56:** Can the honourable Member say whether the position of Deputy Manager of the Housing Development Corporation and Adviser to the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board are held by the same person, were the positions advertised locally, and if so, what were the results?

**ANSWER:** The positions of Deputy Manager of the Housing Development Corporation and Adviser to the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board do not exist. Rather a dual position entitled Deputy Manager/Project Officer of Agricultural and Industrial Development Board and the Housing Development Corporation was created in 1988.

This position was advertised locally in October 1988 to which three applications were received - a young Caymanian graduate, an American, and the Industrial Development Specialist in the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board who was on attachment from the Caribbean Development Bank.

Following due and proper consideration, the Industrial Development Specialist was offered the position. Special provision for the creation of an understudy position for the Caymanian applicant was recommended. However, the Caymanian decided that this area was too limited for career advancement and the understudy position was not taken up.

Efforts are continuing to identify a suitable Caymanian understudy.

#### SUPPLEMENTARIES:

- MR. PRESIDENT:** First Elected Member for Bodden Town.
- MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you, Mr. President.  
Can the Honourable Member say what are the advantages of having the same officer being Deputy Manager of the Housing Development Corporation and at the same time Advisor to the Agriculture and Industrial Development Board?
- HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, I do not feel qualified to give an official explanation for the main advantages. I can give, what I believe, is the statement that has been publicly made and that is that the two institutions are currently being jointly managed for the purpose of cost efficiencies but I could not enumerate the individual advantages relating to this particular position.
- MR. ROY BODDEN:** Has this Officer now severed his connections with the Caribbean Development Bank?
- HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** My understanding, Sir, is that he is now engaged under local contract to the Cayman Islands Government.
- MR. PRESIDENT:** Third Elected Member for George Town.
- MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Would the Member say what efforts he is continuing to identify a suitable Caymanian?
- HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Efforts are being carried out by the way of internal advertisement and internal identification of other candidates within the system of recruitment.
- MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, does he not regard the Caymanian Protection Board's policy of having advertisements placed externally applicable in this instance?
- HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** The general practice has been to commence the process by first identifying possible candidates internally within the Public Service and then, yes, as a further step, having been unsuccessful, the next step is to place advertisements locally to try and widen the net.
- MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, the Member has said that this started in October, 1988. How long does it have to be dealt with internally before you go externally to try and find someone?
- HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, it depends on the possibility and responses that are under consideration internally and although I cannot say that this is happening in this particular case, it is possible that candidates are actively being considered. I cannot confirm that, but there is a possibility.
- MR. PRESIDENT:** First Elected member for Bodden Town.
- MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you, Sir.  
Am I correct with my understanding that at the inception of this officer's tenure of work in these Islands he came under the auspices of the CDB? If so, might I ask was there a break in his service and any abbreviation or was his transition from an officer of the CDB, to an officer of our Government continuous and smooth flowing, without any break?
- HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, the officer is no longer engaged under terms applicable to CDB. He is now engaged under contractual terms as laid down by the Cayman Islands Government.
- MR. ROY BODDEN:** Mr. President, my first question was, was the officer upon inception of employment in these Islands an officer of the CDB?
- MR. PRESIDENT:** That is answered in the original question. It does say so. But I

do not think your second supplementary, in fact, was answered. Was there no break in service? Perhaps that could be addressed.

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Yes, Mr. President, there has now been a change of employer. Therefore, there has to be a break in the services.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Can the Honourable Member say what break took place?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, I apologise if I use the term break, to mean a period of absence. I meant a change in the employment. I did not mean a break in the resident services.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Can the Honourable Member say whether the terms that CDB had will still apply now when you apply for a loan now that he is employed by the Government?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** I do not feel qualified to answer that question. That is a matter for the policies that are laid down by the Board that manages the organisation.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I think that it is rather outside the scope of the question which is about the person holding the appointment, rather than the policy of the Board with regard to loans. First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you.  
Am I correct in understanding the honourable Member when he said there was, in actuality, no physical stoppage of employment? The services performed by the office between his transition of the two jobs?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** That is correct, Mr. President.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Mr. President, may I then ask is this common practice? Has our Government such a standing arrangement with CDB or any other regional body that allows this?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Yes, Mr. President, it is not uncommon.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Second question, Sir.  
Does our Government have any kind of standing or contractual arrangements which allow this?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** The Honourable Member has said this position was advertised locally in October, 1988, from which three applications were received. Can the Honourable Member say whether any advertisement has taken place since 1988 on an ongoing process to encourage a Caymanian to take up the position of understudy to fill that position one day?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Yes, Mr. President. Efforts are continuing internally within the Civil Service and as soon as those efforts have been exhausted, external advertisements will be placed, which is following the normal customary procedure.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** I wonder if the Honourable Member could say how many Caymanians are employed in that department, please?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Again I feel that is going beyond the original scope of the original question which is about a particular individual but, no doubt, you could get that information from the Member separately.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** That is not going to help, Sir. But anyway can the Honourable Member say whether there is anyone inside the department that could possibly be trained to fill that position?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President, not at the moment.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Mr. President, my understanding is there is no one inside the department that can be trained?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** That is correct. I said there is no one inside the department currently, considered suitable to be given the position of understudy.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Can the Member then tell this honourable House what are the qualifications of that officer?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Of which officer?

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** The officer who is Deputy Manager of the Housing Development Corporation and who was advisor to the Agricultural and Industrial Board, Sir.

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President, I do not have the qualifications of the officer.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** To just point out I intervened to ask that question because it appeared that it might be about an officer in the Board, but not the subject of the question.

Should we go forward then, Question Number 57. The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**THE SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR BODDEN TOWN TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 57:** Would the honourable Member say whether the boat/barge used by the Safe Haven Developers to ply between Cayman and Jamaica clear with the Customs and Immigration authorities in these Islands prior to its departure and on arrival?

**ANSWER:** Safe Haven Developers do not own a boat or a barge plying between here and Jamaica. However, an operator of a small 40 foot boat, which transports freight between Cayman and Jamaica, does provide some freight services for Island Dredging which has allowed the boat mooring at its dock in the North Sound.

Immigration and Customs' records confirm incoming and outgoing clearance for this boat every two or three weeks at the Port in recent months.

**SUPPLEMENTARIES:**

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Mr. President, in view of what the Honourable Member has said would there be the slightest chance that before this barge reaches the dock area for the Immigration to board it, illegal transactions could take place since there is a wide range of space or distance between the shore, the dock and the channel that it comes through in North Sound?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, there is always the possibility. I think the question is more of a hypothetical nature, but yes it is a possibility.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you, Mr. President.  
Is the Honourable Member aware of any complaints of this vessel bringing in contraband and taking out of this country items obtained illegally and dishonestly?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, I am very much unaware of that and if the Honourable Member has information I would be grateful to receive it from him.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Mr. President, while this may not be a supplementary question, I wonder if the Honourable Member could undertake to either see that since the distance from the dock to the barrier reef is such a distance that anything could happen within that time and perhaps when this boat is arriving it could be escorted in at the point of entrance by the police boat? And a search when it is departing be taken place?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Those are suggestions of an operational nature. They can be taken into consideration.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** The Member in his answer has said that Immigration Customs records confirm incoming/outgoing clearances for this boat every two or three weeks at the Port in recent months. Prior to recent months, was the boat not properly searched and cleared?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President, the records indicate that on each arrival and departure clearance has been requested and granted and the operation only started recently.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Question Number 58 please, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**THE SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR BODDEN TOWN TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**NO. 58:** Would the honourable Member say whether the Cayman Islands' Government assumes responsibility for the salary of the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board advisor in

the Cayman Islands?

**ANSWER:** There is no position of Adviser to the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board in the Cayman Islands. However, since its inception, the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board has benefited on two occasions from the services of an Industrial Development Specialist (IDS) provided under the Caribbean Development Bank Technical Assistance Programme. The services of the specialist were offered free of charge to the Cayman Islands' Government.

#### SUPPLEMENTARIES:

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Mr. President, am I to understand from the Honourable Member that the person now holding the position of Deputy Manager of the Housing Development Corporation was never an Agricultural and Development Advisor from the time he arrived in the Cayman Islands to assume his responsibility?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President. The question asked was if the Cayman Islands Government presently assumed responsibility for the salary of an advisor? That is the question that was being answered.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** I appreciate that, Sir, but if you look back on the other question, that says that that position and the answer that the Honourable Member has just given there is a big difference there. I would like to know when the person who is holding the position now, that the Government has just employed since 1988 to hold the position of Deputy Manager of the Housing Development Cooperation what his was position until 1988?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Prior to signing the contract with the Cayman Islands Government, the officer was engaged by the Caribbean Development Bank, as a Project Officer.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Semantics again, Mr. President. I would like to ask a supplementary. Does the Cayman Islands Government reciprocate or offer any form of remuneration, benefit, privilege, favour to this officer?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Only those as contained in the contract of engagement.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Does that contract of engagement also call for the waving of Customs Duties on any vehicles or whatever bought by the officer?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, no.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Can the honourable Member say whether this was carried out before for that particular officer when a vehicle was purchased?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Sir, I cannot confirm that.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Take the final Question on today's Order Paper, Question Number 59. The First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

#### THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE LESSER ISLANDS TO ASK THE HONOURABLE THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**NO. 59:** Would the honourable Member say what is the policy of the Traffic Department regarding the enforcement of speed limit whereby the speed limit is reduced from 40 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour using one sign and having no prior warning sign that a reduced speed zone is ahead?

**ANSWER:** There are no areas where a 40 m.p.h. speed limit is reduced to 20 m.p.h., but there are areas that reduce to 25 m.p.h. Advance warnings of speed restrictions are never given no matter what the speed limit. The sighting of such signs is carefully monitored to ensure that they are clearly visible and capable of being acted upon by motorists. There have been no new speed restrictions imposed recently. Police policy on the prosecution of offenders depends upon the severity of the offence and action would be to either verbally warn the driver, send a written warning or prosecute. The appropriate course of action would depend, in the main, upon what speed the motorist had been travelling.

#### SUPPLEMENTARIES:

**CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:** I said 25 miles, the question must have been typed wrong to him. I do not quite understand his answer, he said there are no areas where a 40 M.P.H. speed limit is reduced to

20 miles but there are areas that are reduced to 25 miles. Well, that was my question. The question I am asking the Honourable Member. How can a driver of a vehicle be expected to reduce speed from 40 miles to 25 when he crosses a sign if it is legal on one side of a sign? A sign is about one-eighth of an inch to a quarter of an inch thick and be 25 miles on the other? How can he be expected to comply with that regulation?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, he is expected to comply by seeing the sign approaching and to commence to reducing his speed accordingly.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** Thank you, Mr. President.  
Are there any warning signs upon approach of the final reduction sign prior to that, Sir?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Thank you, Mr. President.  
Is the Member aware of any instances where speed limit signs are not readily visible because of turns or bushes or whatever?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, the answer does say that effort is taken to try and ensure that signs are clearly visible. There are times, of course, when overgrowth of bushes and limbs may obstruct or cover the signs and those have to be cleaned and trimmed. There is a regular programme in place for that.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Mr. President, I wonder if the Honourable Member would undertake to have some signs erected saying you are now entering a reduced speed area or reduce speed ahead in future?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, again a suggestion of operational nature can be taken into consideration.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Third Elected Member for George Town was next.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, this follows up on the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town's supplementary. At present are there no signs that warn of traffic signals ahead? For other matters such as traffic lights, would you consider it similar to this warning that has been requested?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Yes, Mr. President, I would consider it very much similar.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:** Mr. President, I wonder if the Honourable Member would confirm that in the Traffic Law the 25 miles zone is generally outside of the area in which they wish the 25 M.P.H. to exist by one-eighth of a mile or a quarter of a mile in order that the traffic will have reached a satisfactory speed when it approaches a school zone or a hospital quiet zone etcetera. The reason distance is put in is to enable the driver to reach a satisfactory speed before crossing that zone?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** Mr. President, I cannot confirm whether there is any such provision in the Traffic Law. I can confirm that in practice there is a lot of common sense to that. I suspect that in practice the actual location of the sign takes that point into consideration.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:** Mr. President, a supplementary. I wonder if the Honourable Member could say if in the past there were signs erected to that reduce speed?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** No, Mr. President, I cannot confirm that.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Mr. President, is the Member aware if there are any instances where police radar cars sit or park immediately inside of a zone and a person finds themselves exceeding the speed limit having just passed a few feet from one zone into the other?

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:** That is possible, Mr. President.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:** Is the Member aware that at certain times of the year in Cayman Brac about the time when the Magistrate is supposed to go there, that there is an excessive amount of people

found speeding through that type of situation?

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
word excessive.

I think you are inviting an expression of opinion in regard to the

Perhaps I could clear up a misunderstanding, if I might, on the actual question. The question, as it came to me, did actually have 20 m.p.h. in it originally. I am not saying that is what you wrote and I think that is why it was read by the Member as that, although today's Order Paper has it corrected.

We move to Item 3 of the Order Paper. Statements by Government Members, The honourable Third Official Member.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:**  
Order 30 I wish to make the following statement.

Mr. President, in accordance with the provision of Standing

This statement is being made to Members of this honourable House at this time in response to Private Members Motion Number 7 of 1989, presented by the First Elected Member for Bodden Town at the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday the 24th of May, 1989.

The Motion was directed at instituting a system of personal identification stated and I quote:

**WHEREAS** the population of the Cayman Islands is increasing rapidly;

**AND WHEREAS** an increasing number...

**AND WHEREAS** the increase of crime, especially drug related crime, is a matter of increasing concern;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** Government investigate instituting a system of personal identification for all persons resident in the Cayman Islands, which would assist the law enforcement agencies."

On the presentation of this Private Members Motion, Government indicated that it did not intend to oppose it. Government recognised the potential usefulness of adequate personal identification and therefore accepted to explore the possibility.

The implementation of this Motion would be a complex undertaking with many ramifications and as there were many unanswered questions noted by Members during the debate Government commenced a process of analysis including applying the following policy questions.

1. Should identification be voluntary or compulsory?
2. What should be the minimum age?
3. Would an identification be required upon every change of address or occupation?
4. Which department of Government would be responsible for issue?
5. Should there be a charge levied for the identification.?
6. Could identification. be incorporated into drivers licences and exempt such persons from other identification?

These questions were accordingly put to several Government departments. During the debate one of the recurring themes was the role of a National Identification Card could play in crime prevention or detection.

In his comments the Commissioner of Police said that although there might well be individual cases in which an identity card system could assist in fighting crime he did not think that it would have far reaching impact in such a small community where police know most people or can quickly identify suspects. However, he noted, if the card was to be of any impact in this regard, the system would have to be compulsory, starting at 17 years. The Legislation would have to require citizens to produce identity cards on demand to a police officer.

On the issue of its usefulness in the fight against illicit drugs the Commissioner's view was that an identity card would be irrelevant. The Commissioner explained that many persons involved with dealing with drugs were known to the police. He said that the real problem in combating the trade stemmed from difficulties in resources, surveillance and gathering sufficient evidence to mount a successful prosecution. In achieving that, he said, the requirement to carry identity cards would not assist.

Concerning the problem of juvenile drinking; the Commissioner said that there were alternative ways of tackling this problem without resorting to the expense of a National Identity System which he pointed out again would have to be compulsory if it were to be applicable to this particular

problem.

The Commissioner indicated that commencing this year drivers licenses will be of the laminated type bearing the holders photograph and these could be presented on demand as proof of identity and age at premises licensed to sell liquor. He said that this was common practice in the United States of America and the United Kingdom where similar problems of juvenile drinking exist. He pointed out that it would be impractical to combine the card with driving licenses as not everyone drives a vehicle.

In summary, the Commissioner said that very little would be gained in the fight against crime by the introduction of identity cards and nothing at all if the scheme were voluntary. He concluded by saying that any small gains which might be achieved would not be commensurate with the cost involved, both monetarily and in public antipathy.

The Government chief statistician confirmed his views to the schemes potential as a source of population data. To be useful it would have to be compulsory he said and constant vigilance would have to be applied in keeping files up-to-date.

In his response the Chief Immigration Officer pointed out that it would be necessary to protect the cards against forgery and that the necessary security would likely prove expensive. In view of the special organisational requirements and the uncertainty surrounding its uses and benefits, therefore the introduction of a National Identification Scheme did not appear to be one which could be justified at this time.

Another factor militating against the introduction of this scheme, is that it would appear that to be of any value the scheme would have to be compulsory. As Members indicated during their debate this particular feature would not be likely to gain their support and would most probably become a contentious public issue.

It was mentioned in the police comments, drivers' licenses in the near future are to be of the laminated type carrying photographs. The immediate difficulty of proof of identity and age at a liquor license premises could, in part, be addressed in this way.

The remaining value and benefits appear uncertain and at minimal as against the likely cost and administration of such a scheme. In light of this, therefore, the Government has recommended that Private Members Motion Number 7/89, requiring the Government to consider the introduction of a national scheme for identification purposes, should not be further pursued at this time.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

I think that seems a convenient moment to take the break.

Proceedings of the House are suspended for 15 minutes

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 11:12 A.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 11:40 A.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings of the House are resumed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

#### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 14(2)**

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:**

Mr. President, in accordance with Standing Order 83, I move the Suspension of Standing Order 14(2) to allow the House to continue the Debate which began yesterday on Private Member's Motion No. 1/90.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Question is that Standing Orders be suspended in order to continue the debate on Private Member's Motion No. 1/90 before proceeding to Government Business on today's Order Paper. If there is no debate I put the question that Standing Order 14(2) be suspended. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

**AYES.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Standing Orders are suspended.

**AGREED: STANDING ORDER 14(2) SUSPENDED.**

### **PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 1/90 A PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The House will then resume the debate on Private Member's Motion No. 1/90. The Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR:**

Mr. President, I rise to support Private Members Motion No. 1/90 entitled A Programme for Youth Development and other Community Affairs. An investment in our youth is an investment in our future. I also support that these programmes should be at the district level where it can be



effective in reaching our youth.

I also feel that this particular programme must be organized with people employed specifically for the purpose and not run or tried to be coordinated on a part-time basis. I support the idea of full-time district youth workers for this programme.

I feel that the programme should also be coordinated with the directive Sports Office because, in my mind, sports is one of the greatest forces for the prevention of drug abuse among our youth. Youth involved in sports are conscious of their health and sports promotes clean living. So it has a very positive affect on our youth.

I think it is time for us to emphasise preventive measures as well as rehabilitation measures in our fight against drug abuse. I have not had the experience myself, but from what I have seen, it is much easier not to get started once you have gotten started, to be successful in kicking off the sickness of drug dependency seems very difficult.

I want to say publicly that I do recognise the contributions of the National Drug Programme, which is currently headed by Mr. Bob Jones. I think they are doing a fantastic job. But, in my opinion, they need greater numerical as well as financial support to have a greater impact on the fight against drug abuse. I am still concerned that all who may need treatment will not get it because the recommended centres are all overseas, rather than us having a local centre for that purpose, especially if these individuals are dependent upon Government for financial assistance in order to attend these centres for treatment.

I feel that if we are going to win this war against drug abuse or drugs in this country the programme must be introduced in our schools and it should become an integral part of our curriculum in these schools. It should be consistent and it should be introduced from the infant level. I feel that if we wait until our students reach high-school, it may be too late to convince them of the dangers of drug abuse.

The fight against drug abuse must be looked at as a full time job. I think it is time for Government to recognise this as a priority and move forward in the direction that it should by providing the manpower and the financial resources that are necessary in order for us to win this fight.

With those few words I support the Motion.

Thank you, Sir.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
Mover wish to reply?

Does any other Member wish to speak? (pause) Would the

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Mr. President, it sounds like the Motion will pass with Government support. I am leery of how Government gives support. We just heard a long dissertation on one matter that Government had given support to, and now they can not do anything about it.

As to whether Government is honest with the House in accepting the Motion and will implement its requests is another matter. The Member for Social Services plotted out a long list of programmes. Some of them very vague and marked by a lack of firm decision of commitment and of questionable outcome. On top of that he gave this House an indication that he intends to develop the programmes the Motion is addressing along the lines of mine and other Members' submissions.

If Government accepts this resolution we, on this side of the majority, are expecting that they will be bound by our request. We are expecting that the Governor and Council will not obligate their constitutional responsibility and by that I mean that their constitutional vote on this Motion, by doing contrary to what we have suggested. I trust that you, as Governor will see to it that the request of this honourable House is carried out.

We talk about social development in our communities and that has much to do with social responsibility of a lot of agencies and institutions in this country. While I have a good relationship with the news media and have high regard for them and, of course, would not do anything to erode our relationship. There are some matters which I consider a social responsibility that I must talk about.

The newspaper in this country has a social responsibility in this arena of youth and community development. The media should undertake to find out what is happening in the communities, what groups, churches, individuals or organisations are involved in youth work and development.

This responsibility of the newspaper is more important now as it enjoys a unique position in this country. Being the only such medium it enjoys the enviable position of being able to support both Government and Backbench. At their convenience they give us licks and then they want to take a little piece of each side and no one to question them, because we know that it would be folly for a politician to get in a wrangle with the newspaper. It seems that lately they have been doing that. That is a good position, but I trust that they understand that as Members of this House we come in here and we vote according to our conscience, we are led by our conscience. Whether they see that as being right, well that is another matter.

Many functions are happening at district level. But very rarely we see any newspaper coverage considering the hundreds of youth services and churches where special things are done, very young people, good clean young people are showing there talents. And in other areas, there is no coverage. I know that many good things that happened in West Bay. Nothing is said about it. But any time something bad happens it is carried loudly. Sometimes the person is not even from West Bay. As I said, they do have a social responsibility and I trust and pray that as long as they are the only newspaper in this country that social responsibility will be carried out to the best of their ability as much as we carry out in this House, both Opposition and Government, our duties according to our conscience and according to the best of our ability.

Before I go on I do not know if she is still here, but I would have liked to acknowledge the presence of a very charming young lady, Miss Cayman, who was here this morning. We were most happy to have had her with us in the gallery. From what the Member for Social Services said, one would

be left to believe that this country has the most comprehensive Social Service system in the world. We do not need to do anymore than what is supposedly being done by the Member. Far be that from the actual facts, Mr. President.

The matter of juvenile delinquents is a serious one. The Member for Social Services seems to think that everything, every social programme designed for use in Minnesota worked out by Hazeldon, is fit and proper for this country. As a good example he has taken the position that there will be no approved remand home built in this country. But rather the children, 10 of them now in Jamaica, will be placed in foster homes in the summer.

First of all, I wonder where he is going to find 10 homes to put those 10 children in? When the situation exists where there is hardly any adoptions locally, much less a person with a kind of offenses that we see in approved schools now going to Jamaica.

The next situation with regards to that even if he does find the homes (which I very much doubt) who says he will be in a position to keep the children here if they get a chance to come home. Our present position under the Juvenile Law is that we have no control over the child once the Juvenile Court has ordered the child to an approved school in Jamaica. The child from then on is the responsibility of the Jamaican authorities. That is the position.

Yet the Member says he is not going to build an approved remand centre, but will put these 10 children who are now in Jamaica in foster homes. I think he needs to do his homework. I do not know whether that theory will work in Minnesota, I doubt it will work in this country. But the irony of all of this is the fact that last year the Member put together a Committee for the Caring Homes Revue which was publicised and brought to this House in his usual style with much ado.

That Committee made some very valid recommendations. Recommendations which the Member for Social Services assured us he accepted. Four valid recommendations were made that are very pertinent to the matter at hand. Very pertinent to the matter at hand. And I will read those four. It says:

"Further, the Caring Homes Review Committee would also make the following recommendations relative to approved schools and Juvenile Court:

1. That serious juvenile offenders continue to be sent to approved schools in Jamaica until such time as a secure facility is built in the Cayman Islands.
2. That a secure facility be built for serious juvenile offenders as a matter of urgency.
3. That juvenile offenders sentenced to approved schools in Jamaica be regularly visited.
4. That a Juvenile Justice Magistrate be appointed to regularly sit on Juvenile Court with two Justices of the Peace, that a Justice of the Peace be specifically trained for this position."

It is funny that Executive Council accepts this with much pomp and circumstance but does nothing about it. Five Caymanians on this Committee, including the Principle Secretary for Health and Social Services, a doctor, Mr. Fred Hanson from the Kiwanis, Mrs. Sybil McLaughlin, MBE, Juvenile Court Justice of the Peace. Another fellow from the Rotary Club, Dr. Ed Fields, Psychologist, Mrs. Olive Miller, Juvenile Court, Justice of the Peace. And of course the secretary was Mrs. Roach, from the Portfolio of Health and Social Services.

Is it not funny that all of these Caymanians who have knowledge in child care and development and, Executive Council brought it here and accepted it with much pomp and circumstance, but can not find it in their heart to accept now for some reason. Why?

His Committee is making these suggestions. The Member for Social Services assured us of his acceptance. That was in September last year. He has since rejected all of this and is now listening to the theoretical policies spewed forth by people who have no connections and who, presumably, sums of money are paid out to. Do you see what I am talking about? Vacillating policies and irrelevant textbook policies? That is a good example. In the short span of six months he has changed his mind from the advice of knowledgeable people who worked long years with our systems for nothing to take the advice of outside people who are only involved because of the lucrative contracts they can get. That is why the social systems are suffering and the results are so few.

In dealing with the Approved School and Remand Centre, three years ago I brought a Motion here to straighten out that situation, but the Member then, the now Member for Education, in his usual style did nothing. He was on a joy ride then (as he seems to be today), while all the facilities and programmes broke down.

No wonder social deterioration has taken such a hold. I feel that we need to build an approved school or remand centre and I would like to find out what is being done to address the situation where we have to hold young offenders for days. Is he going to find a foster home for them too? That seems to be a 'pie in the sky dream', an Alnaschar situation, when we can not even find people here to adopt local children.

Let us go to the situation. Back in 1975 when the Juvenile Law was brought the Member then responsible, the same Member for Education today, had this to say. And I read from the Hansard of the 25th of June 1975.

"I, as I have said Mr. President understand the emotion that attends a matter like this, but until such time as we are capable of dealing with offenders who would be sent to approved schools in our own Island, I think that we must have provision to deal with them in some other way. At the same time I would say that we should endeavour as speedily as possible to provide our own facilities."

And he went on to say,

"And the advice which I have been given is, that until such time as we can provide the proper care for these children locally we would have to resort to sending the odd hardened and confirmed cases to an approved school elsewhere. So my point is, we should strive to provide our own facilities as quickly as possible - as speedily as possible, but until such time as we can provide the facility we should allow this clause to remain in the bill."

He was dealing with the objections raised from the Backbenchers on that day about sending children to Jamaica. From then the Member has been promising and promising.

I go on to deal with the matter in September, 1987 when the Member, the Fourth Member now on Council, the Member for Communications and Works and myself brought a Motion dealing with this remand home, trying to get it built.

The Member for Social Services today:

"Mr. President, I cannot support Private Members Motion Number 13/87 for two reasons, mainly. One, I do not see how this Motion is going to speed up the process of the establishment of a properly equipped and staffed approved school for juveniles. I would agree with the Motion, the Mover of the Motion that such a facility is urgently needed."

He went on: "on matters in which he was taking a piece out of me at that time. But that has no relevance to what I am saying here. He went on to point out and this Mr. President, shows the folly of Executive Council, there hard headiness."

The Member for Social Services today, who was on the Backbench then, as I was saying the Five Year Economic Plan which was tabled in this Assembly some time back provided in its third year (that is next year) that is 1988 in Section 4.3 under Social Services. Project 17/2 - Remedial Facility and he went on to read what the social or what the economic plan says. A plan that we are now following and let me read that for this honourable House:

"The multi-purpose remedial facility will be designed to hold approximately 75 children. The facility will also include the necessary classrooms for educational needs. Plans will be drawn up in 1987 and land acquired; construction will commence in 1988 and be completed in 1990.

The construction cost of this project is provisionally estimated at capital cost CI\$1,250,000".

In addition the sum of \$110,000 is estimated to cover sight selection, purchase and investigation CI \$250,000. The construction cost is allocated for 1987 and the remaining \$1.25 million divided equally between 1988 and 1989."

I further quote the Member for Social Services: "I believe that the mover of the motion has amply demonstrated and given credit to Government for the steps it has taken. Without wishing to repeat those accolades, I believe he has adequately proven that Government has given, is giving, and intends to give, priority to this project." The same words I heard him say over there on the Executive Council side yesterday have all blown out the window. He continued:

"We might be better off to continue as we are and provide this proper equipped and staffed remand home in the 1988 and 1989 financial years of this country."

That was the Member for Social Services and now the man from whom he took over the position, the Member now for Education who was then the Member for Social Services, I further quote:

"Mr. President, there is no doubt in my mind that the Mover and Seconder of this Motion have strong feelings about the Motion, and that it is brought with good intent. But I would have to question really, Mr. President, their power of recall. As the Member for North Side pointed out, the Five Year Economic Development Plan, which those Members studied, commented on, and accepted in this House, includes provision over the next three years, starting in 1988, for the provision of a juvenile remedial rehabilitation centre."

He said and I quote again,

"I consider the Motion redundant. "The money", he pointed out in winding up, "has been put in the Five year Economic Plan. I can assure them that next year's provision has been submitted in the budget requests, so that it is being treated seriously and urgently. This Motion could not add any more impetus than what is already behind the project."

He said that the technical staff are already at work on this project. The Motion, he said, is redundant because they were doing their job. I wonder where they did their job, Mr. President? Vacillating policies and advice from people outside who have no connections to this country and know nothing about the social problems. They only come here for a day or two and walk away with a check from a contract that is not even put out to tender. If they want to do something about helping those people who are now in Jamaica, they should do what their Caring Homes Committee suggested and do what this honourable House set out in the Five Year Economic Plan. What have they done? They remind me of what a teacher in West Bay said about a child. "Did not come to school for anything else but to warm the seat".

The Employees Assistance Programme. Does he believe that that programme will reach the people who really need assistance by having a few hours in Hyatt or the Grand Pavilion Hotel? I believe that this programme can help but these are the kind of programmes that should be integrated at the district level if they have the commitment to really help instead of seeking publicity.

The Member spoke of assisting Churches with youth workers. I like that one because that is my programme which was spurned at a district level by myself and Government accepting it at a national level. But you hear them say we are not offering anything constructive.

The fact is that this side has always and will always put forward constructive ideas. The sad fact is politically that they take the credit themselves. If they would only listen instead of trying to find ways to frustrate our suggestions this country would be that much better off.

The Member for Social Services mentioned the Government's usual support grants. This is nothing new, as was many of those other things he talked about. They have been around for years. The difference is: each group was getting very little until this side of the House wiped out the pork-barreling in the last Budget and increased that vote by a 100 per cent. That is the difference. We on this side understand Social Development and we do not need a barrage of consultants to tell us about those simple things. I trust that the organisations will get the money we voted.

The Member mentioned the Housing Development Corporation. I trust that it will assist the people it is meant to. He has made his threat real and has removed me from the Board. I am glad that I could offer a contribution and I would like to put this to the House that that was the only Board that I asked to be put on because they have to deal with the area that I am most concerned with in Government. Social work, the social services area, but they moved me in their spitefulness.

I feel that one of the greatest moves to assist people in getting a home was another suggestion I made. I asked for it to be possible for those who had borrowed from a Commercial Bank and had paid back most of it, he can now qualify for a loan. Apply and hopefully he will be able to qualify for a loan. The Housing Development Corporation will pay off the commercial bank if he qualifies, that is a good policy. The suggestion came from me, though you hear that we on this side do not make a constructive contribution, yet they so obviously used our ideas.

If anyone doubts where this idea came from check the *Hansard*, go back to my public meetings while I was a Member reporting to my constituency in my first year. About me doing nothing and about our constructive contribution? What about the work that is done by this side of the House? We do not have Government's money to help us. What about the spearheading of youth clubs that some of us have done? What about devotion to create a sports person's medal? They have the nerve to talk about us doing nothing constructive. The big mistake in putting some of them on Executive Council! That was the destructive contribution.

In connection with Community Development I have another idea to discuss. For years I have been saying we need to do something with the old Bosun Bay school house. Although they say that nothing can be done about it, (I see the Member for Education laughing). What I have in mind is something along the lines of the Sunrise Cottage in East End. As I pointed out earlier, there are many resources to tap in the district to assist with something like that.

There are many old people going to the Pines for the day, but that is very expensive. We could renovate that building and some people say it can not be done. Well it stood up to Hurricane Gilbert when other new buildings were blown down. We can renovate that building and, of course, it would cost but the historical value alone makes it worth the expenditure. Many decent people in this country attended school there. So it has some historical and cultural value. All the people in Bosun Bay could use it as a meeting place where perhaps they could get to see people and enjoy their company which they would not normally see do months.

There is a lot of work that can be done at a district level which we need to tackle. It would please me if I had heard from the Member that he intends to do some things as we have suggested, instead he was busy with things some group from somewhere had told him would be good to implement in this country. And, of course, we can always send them to some city where somebody will be paid vast sums of Government's money. There is much that can be done, if he would get off his high horse and talk to us and deal with us as representatives should. Nobody can ever charge this Member with not making his duty or his contribution at a district level.

What is happening to drug counselling? Sure Mr. Bob Jones can do quite a bit. CASA has done a tremendous job. How many people are attending Hazeldon? That is the question. How many people are attending Hazeldon? Very few, very few. How much good is that programme in

contrast to the hundreds of people who are hooked on drugs?

I referred yesterday to vacillating policies and here is a good one. In 1985, the Member for Social Services seconded a Motion here for me. He was part of the Motion here some years ago, which called for a rehabilitation facility and this is what we put together.

**"WHEREAS** drug and alcohol abuse are on the increase in the Cayman Islands;

**AND WHEREAS** there is no re-habilitation and treatment centres for drug addicts.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this Government consider the setting up of a committee to make recommendations for the establishment of a Government sponsored drug re-habilitation facility in these Islands and that the committee have the power to co-opt outside expertise."

That was the Member for Social Services who is telling the country that his Hazeldon contacts, his Hazeldon consultants, are telling him that we do not need it. Oh what folly! I wish that these Members could change their ways of listening to these people who only come here for one day and when they come here they sweat so profusely that you wonder what is wrong with them.

There are some buildings and services that we, in this country must build and develop. There are some services and buildings that we have to spend the money on. Institutions that will be able to stand the test of time that would be of value in the years to come, because we would have available to us data and statistics at our fingertips, developed from such institutions. It is there where our people over the years would be trained. Remember I talked about people developing their own social systems?

If they accept this, then they must accept that we must do something about the vast hundreds of people, young people, that are hooked on drugs but are not reaching Mr. Jones. He can only do so much. We need to provide a proper facility with proper staff services, as they said back in 1975, back in 1985, back in 1987 and they accepted the Caring Homes Committee last year September, but all of a sudden they have now changed their minds.

I ponder their apathy and pray for a change of heart. The Member said: "Mr. President, there is a need for people to assist at community level." That is perhaps true, more people need to get involved. I agree. But people are wary of who they are dealing with. The first things need to be done first. There needs to be a change in attitudes from the top. How can he entice anyone when the people make suggestions? These are people with backbone, let us face it. They will sit on the committee day after day, week after week and make the suggestions and he scoffed at them as was the case with the Committee who suggested the approved remand centre. Attitudes need to be changed but a start should be with the Member.

The Member said that he does not support my remarks about incest. He said: "Incest is less today than in years ago." Where could he get that information, Mr. President? How could he back it up as a Minister of Government making a statement to Parliament? Our population has increased significantly. Our problems have increased. Many knowledgeable Caymanians argue that moral standards have deteriorated; that family life has disintegrated, and the statistics he gave us tell us so. So in light of these substantiating figures I disagree with the Member's statement that incidents of incest are less now than in previous years. Before making that kind of statement he should provide information to say he is right. I say, he is not, because we represent the constituencies, we deal with the department of Social Services, we know what is happening.

I believe what we have put forward are very constructive ideas. We believe it is what is needed in this country on a district level. We are not asking Government to send an army into the district to try and cure all the problems. No, but rather we are saying to use, on an organised basis, the resources now existing. We put forward the view that viable programmes are the ones which depend on inexpensive community workers, including the families of young people.

For instance every attempt should be made to identify and reinforce effective indigenous child rearing practices. That is one example. We are very much concerned that whatever is happening now at district level, there is too much fragmentation. Even at the national level there is some progress made but the fragmentation is limiting real progress. We need to pull all of our resources together, organise them into proper functioning groups which can direct proper programmes, which can help all and will reach all. What is happening is that most of the groups have involved children who are not the problem children, but the vast majority of children who are left at the mercy of the world, let us say when the parent is away at work or play. These are the ones we need to reach, the system we are advocating in this Motion can and will reach the large percentage who need to be reached and helped.

In conclusion, I will try and summarise the reasons for our positions as pointed out in our debate. There is need for emphasis on improving the quality of life for our young people. Some things are being done, we accept. But not nearly as much as should be done.

This requires re-orientation and reorganization of our system which has failed to meet the real problems of the majority. There is constant evolving of schemes which have no relevance to us. Much publicity and as the Member likes to put it, many wings flapping and getting no where. Just a treatment of the symptoms and signs of the problems.

We seek major emphasis on prevention. Strategic planning which is long term oriented will improve and ensure quality of life for our young people. We want community development which is geared to child rearing, family education.

We pointed out that as a result of the emphasis on the treatment of the symptoms and the preoccupation with crisis management the focus of the work has been mostly on the

visible minority. For instance, these 10 children whom he claims he will get foster homes for. We are very much concerned that there is an invisible majority who are not being helped. Parents are physically present, yes. But because of social and economic situations they do not get full benefit of the input of the parents. They are also orphans in a sense, but nothing is done for them.

These children who have visible signs of abuse attract our attention, yes. Some things are being done, yes. But the great majority who are physically, mentally, or socially abused but are not visible, do not attract attention but under distorted development we know will replicate the pattern that they grow up.

And what happens? Just a continuance of the social deterioration. We are concerned that too long programmes have been developed for these ten which become socially or psychological abnormal, but very little is done for the majority of those who cry out for help for a long time before becoming abnormal.

Like the remand home situation and the many hundreds of drug users. Policy situations we feel need to be made to find ways and means at district level of systematically addressing these problems of the silent majority of young people who suffer, but do not attract attention. We know that children become what they live. That is a known fact. Some people believe that it is an instinctive behavior and that parenting is generally assigned to the mother. We know child rearing is an acquired behavior which either parent can perform equally well, given the right training. Where is the facility for such training?

We advocate systematic programmes that should be developed to disseminate knowledge in the art of parenting. A big problem in our country, training could be available at a district level to prepare people for parenthood. They are not coming to the Tower Building from West Bay, they are not going up to Creighton Building, they are not even going to the hospital, they are not.

We are proposing a Social Development Commission which will work under the wide umbrella of the Social Services Department. This Social Development Commission will have three units. A Social Development Unit, a Sports Development Unit and a Youth Development Unit.

The ultimate aim of the Social Development Commission with its three units is to establish strong, well directed communities, after laying a firm foundation of proper training and harnessing of various skills. This must be done at a district level where people can acquire the responsibility and ability to build and run our own social systems by practice.

We are not saying that Government must give us millions of dollars, no that is not what we are saying. Our families are under attack. Families are disintegrating. Some of the highest ones in the community. The affluent ones are disintegrating. Something must have happened at an early stage for children to reach their teens and help disintegrate the family. We need to reach the problems at the heart (the district communities), and we need to start now to prevent our problems from worsening.

I thank all those Members who spoke on this resolution, who did research, and who themselves are doing their own little bit in their constituencies. The House must remember, the country must remember, that we on this side have no monies at our disposal to fund projects as we would have them and we are not charged with the day to day management of Government. The country must understand this, we can only request, require or demand that an action be taken, but we cannot force them to act as we would have them.

I thank all those individuals in this country, CASA, the people who sit on the committees like the Caring Homes, the Rotary, the Churches, the Lions, the Kiwanis, and that reminds me that the Business and Professional Women's Club will sponsor an academic service at the court steps on March 8 which is the day set aside by the United Nations as International Women's Day.

I would ask that a message be sent to them on behalf of all Members of this House, thanking them also for their interest and care and assuring them of our support.

I warn again of the Executive Council accepting this resolution but doing nothing about what we recommend. That kind of action is only perpetuating the whole problem that Executive Council has found themselves in. Where we ask them to do something and we all agree only to find out that Executive Council is doing the opposite that we agreed on. The Motion is too important for political chicanery to get cheap political mileage. Remember now, what you vote on and vote for this resolution, and the implementing of it is your constitutional duty if you vote yes. That is what we are expecting.

We believe that this programme of Youth and Community Development is needed. We are asking for youth workers in the district as we feel this is the route this country needs to go, if we are going to address, improve or wipe out the social deterioration that exists.

I thank Members again for their support and I pray and trust that a couple of years from now, I will have no need to do what I did to two Members, the Member of Education and Social Services and showing how they can pound their chest on matter and come back and do nothing about it. I trust those two responsible will do something, because social deterioration is affecting the Caymanian family. The Caymanian family as a way of life is disintegrating, that should concern you, if nothing else.

Thank you Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
in favour please Aye...Those against No.

Question we vote on, Private Members Motion No. 1/90. Those

**AYES.**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Could I have a division, Mr. President?

MR. PRESIDENT:

Clerk?

CLERK:

DIVISION NO. 6/90

**AYES: 15**

- Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson
- Hon. Richard W. Ground
- Hon. J. Lemuel Hurlston
- Hon. W. Norman Bodden
- Hon. Benson O. Ebanks
- Hon. Ezzard D. Miller
- Hon. Linford A. Pierson
- Mr. W. McKeever Bush
- Mr. John D. Jefferson, Jr.
- Mr. Truman M. Bodden
- Capt. Mabry S. Kirkconnell
- Mr. Gilbert A. McLean
- Mr. Roy Bodden
- Mr. Franklin Smith
- Mr. John B. McLean

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Motion has passed.

**UNANIMOUSLY AGREED: PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 1/90 PASSED.**

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are suspended until 2:15 P.M.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 12:45 P.M.**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 2:20 P.M.**

MR. PRESIDENT:

Proceedings are resumed. I have notice of a Motion.

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

HON. D. EZZARD MILLER:

move the following Motion:

Mr. President, in accordance with Standing Order 83, I wish to

"(1) Suspend Standing Order 24(5) to enable Government Motion No. 2/90 to be taken without five day's notice having been duly given; and

(2) Suspend Standing Order 67(1) so that the proposal does not stand referred to Finance Committee."

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Motion is for the suspension of Standing Orders. Does any Member wish to speak? Third Elected Member for George Town.

MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:

Mr. President, this Motion before the House for the suspension of two Standing Orders is, at least in relation to Standing Order 67(1), a fairly serious matter. Normally five clear days' notice prior to the time that the Motion comes up is required. The reason for that is that where Motions are serious they can be looked at in some depth not only by us, but also that some notice can be given to the public and they can have some input in it as well. I am going to have to deal with this in two different section because they are in effect two substantive non-related Standing Orders, so to speak, that are being dealt with.

I would like to have had time to have looked in some depth at this, because it is dealing with what is going to be an immediate debate on a public matter. It is a matter that while the Motion itself, at which I cannot speak on now, I have a lot of sympathy with. On the other hand there is plenty of time between now and before this honourable House is going to finish it's business to have given some time on this matter.

The suspension of these Standing Orders now, will really mean (if it is carried) that we will have to debate immediately so to speak. Someone has to begin immediately to debate on a Motion, involving a commitment of \$1.5 million and it will then be rushed through (or rammed through whatever) in a very short period of time. I do not even have my file that would deal with this matter here.

The first Motion came in early this morning, as you know, and I subsequently overtaken by a further Motion which I got later in the morning; the notice given is not even five clear

hours much less five clear days. So I do not think that it is in the public's interest that a matter as important as this when there is time in the House, just let me say this. If the Member was prepared to deal with this after some of the other Motions when we have had time to look at it, then I can assure him I would happily be prepared if he was running out of time in the Legislature to debate the Motion. I would be very happy to support a suspension to do so but the House does have time. While it is an important Motion, I know that he wants it to be debated.

We have another five or six motions that are going to go on probably all of this week and probably partly into next week to deal with this matter. What I find not just strange, but somewhat odd is, that since there is a period of time when the public would have a right to look at it, a right to consider it and, I would at least have a right to have my file on it, that we are coming here now in this railroading manner to wave the Standing Orders and to move on with the debate of this Motion.

While I can not and do not intend to go into the merits of that Motion, it carries sympathy I think from many sides, but right is right and wrong is wrong. I think the Motion is one carrying a substantial amount of sympathy, but we need time to try to put together our mind, to try to get what particulars we would need to deal with the Motion.

It can not be in the interest of this country when there is time. I am standing here and I believe that other Members of this House are prepared to say to the Government, since we will have several days left to go if we are running out of time before the five days are up then I would be the one prepared to stand up and say look we are running out of time, we wave the Standing Orders and we move on with it. No one does not want the Motion not to be debated.

What I am seeing here is that we do have time and to put this Motion now after only giving a few hours for it surely cannot be in the interest of the country. This rush, rush, rush that we get from the Government and constantly, the constant effort to push things through is what is creating a lot of instability in this country.

This is not the usual way that things are done in a democracy and I want it made abundantly clear that what I am saying is that while the Motion has merit we have sufficient time that we could take and try to look at this thing, not have to try to rush into a decision in what is what a very major matter. At least from my point of view a few hours notice on a major Motion has got to be the ultimate decision, has got to be one that cannot be a well reasoned one. It cannot be a well debated one, it has got to be one that could be improved on, things could be looked at in more depth. If we are given the time. I think that this is unfair and there are times when I accept Standing Orders can be suspended, but I do not really see the reason for suspending it, because even if he gets his Motion through, a few days cannot affect going out to look for some money.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
times.

I hesitate to interrupt you. You have made that point four or five

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

I would like to wind up on that aspect of it. In summary what I am saying is this. Firstly, that the five clear days should have been given (or at least a few days).

Secondly, if the House was going to stop sitting before the Motion was taken, I would be happy to agree to a suspension of it.

Thirdly, it cannot be in the country's interest to have the suspension in these circumstances on a major issue which cannot be properly debated.

Now the second aspect of this causes me some very grave concern. I now see this and I want to read what Standing Order 67(1) is as a clear, very clear, indication to this House that the Government does not wish to operate in accordance with the Standing Orders that refer to having matters relating to Finance to Government referred to Finance Committee. Standing Order 67(1) reads as follows:

"67(1) If a Member of the Government presents a paper setting out the financial requirements of any proposals,

- (a) for expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred in the course of the current financial year either in respect of a service or of several services for which no provision has been made in the estimates for that year or in respect of further financial provision beyond the total sum already sanctioned for a particular head or sub-head or for particular heads or sub-heads,
- (b) for expenditure incurred in the course of a previous financial year in excess of the total sum sanctioned for a particular head or sub-head or for particular heads or sub-heads by the estimates or supplementary estimates for that year,

then that paper shall stand referred to the Finance Committee."

That Standing Order is basically the Order that puts estimates (Supplementary Expenditures) into the Finance Committee. The notice on this Standing Order is stretching down into minutes, not even hours. The Motion relating to this Standing Order and I have really not had any opportunity of trying to even digest what is being done here, but I believe I am understanding now where the Government is going.

As I see it, the move here is one to try to deal with in this honourable House in circumvention of Finance Committee, the expenditure of the country in this specific matter of



some \$1.5 million. In every democracy that I know about, and in the Cayman Islands as well, normally the course is to have matters of expenditure go to Finance Committee and the reasoning behind this, I believe to be that estimates have to be looked at in considerable detail and matters such as this where the accountability to the public is so important should be dealt with in accordance with the usual procedure laid down in the Standing Orders.

The move here and this part seems a bit odd because the Second Motion I think even deals with approval in principle rather than the final approval and compared to the first Motion, but I see this now, which if it is followed in other matters of expenditure is one way of circumventing the Standing Finance Committee because when they come or when the matters go into Standing Finance Committee, then the procedure there is that it is the 12 Elected Members together with the one Official Member, the Honourable Financial Secretary.

The reason why things go there, is because accountability for funds to the public have to directly come from the 12 Elected Members who are put there to manage the funds of the country. In effect, what could well arise if this procedure follows and what would happen in this instance is that you could very well have a minority of Elected Members not only carrying Motions here, but then you will now have expenditure being brought here and the accountability shifted directly from where it lay in Finance Committee on the shoulders of the 12 Elected Members then you would have it being brought where the Official Members as Members of this honourable House would be taking part in that aspect to it. I regard this as extremely serious. Quite frankly I do not know why the Member for Health has clouded the issue of suspension for his Motion with this suspension of the circumvention of the Finance Committee. I have not had time unfortunately, I must say this, because I am not certain even of what the position is under the constitution and what the sections there that relates to this if any, would be. This is once again the problem where proper notice is not given.

I believe that it would be very prudent and I am inviting the Government to take this approach, to withdraw the reference to waving Standing Order No. 67 (1) and to come for their supplementary expenditure and maybe we had better look at the seriousness of waving Standing Order 67 (1) itself when we have time and we can see the ramifications of what is really happening. What happens today, may well have far reaching affects in this country, if we do find the erosion of accountability of the Members of the Legislature and an attempt to deal with matters in an unusual and odd way such as this.

Quite frankly, since the approval is approval in principle, I personally do not see, unfortunately the Member who introduced the Standing Order has not spoken on this, so I am not certain of what he is going to fully achieve, because even if this is waved now presumably some Motion has got to come back to this honourable House or to Finance Committee or somewhere to give final approval on the expenditure.

I believe that it is important and I have to be very frank. I have not, as I said earlier, been able to get into the constitution itself, but I would hope that anything that is going to be done and I believe that the only established Finance Committee, I do not know if it says much beyond that. But perhaps some of the previous speakers, someone would look that up because obviously I can not do it at this stage to just make sure of what the effects could be on that.

It seems to me that if Standing Order 67(1) is going to be waved, the machinery within this honourable House in open debate on the floor is not appropriate and has never been used to any extent to look at detailed expenditure in a democratic country. Because the Member must at some stage be coming with plans, costs, estimates and this sort of thing to justify to the public exactly what the expenditure that he is proposing to bring in the following Motion is going to be dealt with.

What is unfortunate and I am wondering if it may be possible that since these as I see it (while it is a waiving of one Motion, it is suspending two separate Standing Orders), whether it may not be prudent to see whether it is possible to have a vote in relation to the Suspension to go on with the Motion on the one hand and then to have a vote on the second portion, because the ramifications to the second portion in my view are extremely serious. I do not want to stand here and create unnecessary panic or concern but there can only be a limited period of time during which...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Can I take your point? As the debate develops we can see whether it would be right, necessary to take the two separate sections as two separate questions which can certainly be done.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Moving on, in the last stages of what I have to say in relation to this. The ramifications of any consistent and concerted attempt to circumvent the Finance Committee in a democracy could well lead to a further deteriorating of the Parliamentary position within the Cayman Islands. That is why I am saying to the Government Members on the other side, we had better look very carefully, because we as Backbenchers have done everything within our power to assist the Government, to agree as much as we can as was shown in this House with some four or five bills that just about all were accepted except a little piece and to try to not put the country into a position which could create instability and ultimately run the country into perhaps prematurely having to deal with early elections.

That is purely your discretion, but what I am seeing here is that we can only do so much and no more. I would hope that the Government would try to follow the usual and customary procedures laid down in a democracy and in the Standing Orders and not get to a stage where we are perhaps going to begin to force on the people something that may not or will not be good for the country.

I would hope that this is an isolated instance. I would hope that there would be no further concerted effort in relation to it. Like I said, nothing that I vote on, these two resolutions,

these two Motions will affect my sympathy with the Motion that the Member is bringing. I think it has got very good areas with it, I just want to say that so there is no doubt on it. It is just unfortunate we have had it clouded with Section 67(1) which is the Finance Committee procedure.

All I can say to the Government when they support it, is that if we have to debate the Motion on the hospital for the 1.5 million, so be it. I would strongly advise that you either withdraw or do something if necessary and time is necessary to look at it.

I believe the House would probably consider that, but be very careful when you deal with Section 67(1) which is Finance Committee. I see a trend that is going to create instability, it is going to hurt the country and it is going to badly erode accountability to look at the details of Finance and to really run this country the way that it should be run.

We, the eight Backbenchers, can only do so much and no more because this is squarely on the Government shoulders. I am speaking only myself. I want to make that abundantly clear because time has been very short and even things like consultation on the matter relating to Finance Committee because it was only a few minutes really that we had on it, were just not enough to even try to get the views of anybody else, even within the House, much less outside on what the position is.

All I would say lastly, in summary on that part is that I will be voting against the circumvention of Finance Committee by waving Standing Orders. I would hope that perhaps something can be done that this not be put to the vote, but if it is, then the country must clearly understand the Government has brought it, and the Government is charting a course which hopefully will not be repeated in future.

Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Honourable Member for Communication and Works.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:**

Mr. President, I rise to make a few brief remarks on the Motion before us which is suspension of Standing Order 24(5). This has been moved in accordance with Standing Order 83. It is asking that the Government Motion No. 2/90 be moved without having to give the five clear days notice.

It also seeks to have Standing Order 67(1) suspended so that the proposals contained in the Government Motion No. 2/90 will not have to be referred to the Finance Committee or will not stand referred to the Finance Committee.

I would like to make it very, very clear that there is nothing unconstitutional about this Motion. I think even the Third Elected Member for George Town agreed that he was not suggesting that this was unconstitutional. He was unable to find any thing in the Constitution that would go against this procedure.....

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

...Mr. President, if I may ask for a point of Explanation on that?

What I said, was that I did not have the time to look at the Constitution. I do not know what is in there. It is totally different thing from saying that it is within it. I do not know, Sir.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:**

Mr. President, I accept the Members explanation on that. Maybe I was assuming too much. I thought perhaps he knew the Constitution inside and out.

The suspension of Standing Orders in this House has become the rule of the day rather than the exception. This is a matter that has been taken advantage of by the Backbench on many occasions. So I cannot see why the Third Elected Member for George Town would find the procedure that is being adopted today to be unusual.

The Hansards of this House will show that on many occasions our Standing Orders are suspended for whatever reasons. This is, indeed, a very, very good reason why the Honourable Member for Health is requesting this House to suspend Standing Orders in order that he can deal with a matter that is very, very urgent indeed. I believe that the suspension of this Standing Order is necessary in order to allow this House to properly deal with this matter.

Also of importance is that such a procedure does not give Members of this House the protection from the cloak of secrecy that one obtains within the Finance Committee. Members of this honourable House will have to express their views concisely and clearly and without any ambiguity because the public will want to know exactly how they stand on an important issue, such as this one.

While we are not at this point debating Government Motion No. 2/90, the purpose of the suspension of the Standing Orders is to deal with Government Motion No. 2/90 which seeks to obtain the necessary funding to upgrade the hospital.

Within Finance Committee I accept that there are 12 duly Elected Members of the House represented, together with the First Official Member, but there is nothing in our Constitution which states that a matter as important as this and the procedure that we are following is incorrect.

Standing Order 73(1) which deals with the Finance Committee points out quite clearly that the Finance Committee is not more important than this honourable House. This honourable House is more important than any Standing Committee of the House. It states:

"There shall be a standing select committee to be styled the Finance Committee, for the consideration of the estimates of expenditure, financial bills and other business referred to it by the House or by the Governor."

There is no doubt that when we bring a matter before this

honourable House, we are taking it as high as we can go under our Constitution. The Third Elected Member for George Town also stated that it appears that the Government is trying to rush this Motion, trying to rush this matter. And that this House has a lot of time to deal with it. By his admission there should not be a problem if we have a lot of time to deal with it and each Member of this House, under the Standing Orders is allocated four hours to speak, then that Member and any other Member of this House should have sufficient time to express their views on this motion, without repeating themselves.

There is no doubt that the Government bench has had a lot of difficulty in getting our policies through Finance Committee. There is no doubt about that. But this is not the reason for this Motion. I do not think this is the reason. Even if it was the reason, we have in this honourable House the same 12 Members that form the Finance Committee.

If there is any instability that will be caused, it is caused by Members with authority but no responsibility being able to dictate the policies of this country. Motion No. 2/90 is a very, very important matter. There is no matter that could come before this House more important than the health of our people. I have heard Members of the Backbench ridicule the Honourable Member for Health on his health plan. Not to speak of other matters that have been brought by other Members of Executive Council. And now he is calling their bluff. He is saying to them put up or shut up. He is saying that we want to work with the Backbench. He is saying that during the meetings of Backbenchers when they went from district to district...

#### POINT OF ORDER

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** On a Point of Order, Mr. President.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, ask him to state his Point of Order.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I am dealing with relevance. What has the meetings in the districts got to do with the suspension of Standing Orders?

**MR. PRESIDENT:** It is a comment made in response to another Member speaking. And I am going to give this debate, like every other debate, considerable latitude. It is a very important matter. I am sure you would agree.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I agree. Once we can stick to the Standing Orders.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I think that comment comes ill from that particular Member.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I will withdraw it, Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Thank you.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, I once heard, in debating a motion when I was on the Backbench, the Member of Government said to me in reply to my motion, that when you throw a stone in a pig pen, the one that hollar is the one that you hit. I would not suggest such a matter here today. I would just say that I would wish to have the opportunity to debate this Motion without undue interruption, because I sit here and I do not make noises when other Members are speaking, regardless of how much I am ridiculed. And the First Elected Member for West Bay is a past master at ridiculing people.

I do not agree that there is any rush in presenting this Motion. This Motion is well timed. Now I want them to get up and say to the people of this country that they are going to deny them the services that they should be given. Decent health services for this country. They may get up and say that the Comprehensive Health Plan that the Honourable Member proposed is expensive, but \$1.5 million placed on the health of our people is something that I would not consider too much for them. They deserve every penny that is spent on them.

This Motion seeks a suspension in order for Government Motion No. 2/90 can be moved during the present sitting. I would have thought that rather than hearing a number of objections to this, that all Members of this honourable House would welcome the efforts being made by the Honourable Member.

I feel that like anyone else in this House and perhaps in the Cayman Islands, he has made his mistakes but no one can accuse him of not trying to carry out his duties. Bar no Member of this House, it is doubtful whether any Member has tried to accomplish more, in as short a time, as the Honourable Member for Health. So, he is to be commended and congratulated on this move.

Let us not play around with Standing Orders and give the public the impression that this is unprecedented. The suspension of Standing Orders in this House is something that is being done over and over whenever it suits the wishes or the wants of other Members. And the Third Elected Member for George Town has asked for suspension of Standing Orders many times, when it suited him.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:** Mr. President, on a Point of clarification. I have never, to the best of my knowledge, asked to waive Standing Order 67(1). I want to make that abundantly clear. That is the seriousness of this matter, Sir.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:** Mr. President, I do not want to get into any sort of semantics on

this, but Standing Orders 67(1) is just one of the many Standing Orders under our Standing Orders. So if he has suspended others, it does not matter. The point I am making is that he, like other Members of this House, have requested that Standing Orders be suspended when it suited them. I say that without any fear of contradiction because it is the truth.

The grave concern regarding the suspension of Standing Order 67(1) that the Third Elected Member for George Town referred to or intimated, would seem to be two things. The suspension of Standing Order 67(1) is not that serious. It is not serious at all. For emphasis, I wish to just read what that Standing Order says. It reads:

"If a Member of the Government presents a paper setting out the financial requirements of any proposals,

- (a) for expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred in the course of the current financial year either in respect of a service or of several services for which no provision has been made in the estimates for that year or in respect of further financial provision beyond the total sum already sanctioned for a particular head or sub-head or for particular heads or sub-heads,
- (b) for expenditure incurred in the course of a previous financial year in excess of the total sum sanctioned for a particular head or sub-head or for particular heads or sub-heads by the estimates or supplementary estimates for that year, then that paper shall stand referred to the Finance Committee."

I have already read Standing Order 73(1) where this honourable House takes precedence over any Standing Committee. Mr. President, 67(1) the concern, as I see it, would appear to be two. It would seem that the only feasible or reasonable deduction that I could get from the Members objection to the suspension of Standing Orders 67(1) is that he feels that if this matter is not referred to the Finance Committee that he probably will not have his way with it.

And two, that the public will not hear what is going on or his position on this important matter. I feel that a matter as important as the health of our people should be publicly debated, so that the people of this country will know exactly how their representatives feel regarding the national health of this country.

These funds requested in Government Motion No. 2/90 are most necessary. I will not go into the debate on this because it is a different Motion but I think it is only fair that the people of this country and the listening public should know why the suspension of the Standing Orders is being sought. Again, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for trying to move ahead on this very, very important and crucial matter which is in the best interest of the people of these Islands.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

I would just like to make an observation because once or twice during the debate on this proposal, it seems to me, that there has been reference to a commitment for funds, and this is in relation to Motion No. 2/90 which has been proposed. It does not appear to me that this is a Motion seeking a commitment of funds.

As it is in front of me is that the Assembly approve in principle the borrowing. And I do not see that as giving the authority to borrow. It could not mean the creation of a loan without further reference to the appropriate authority.

I simply make this point because it does appear the debate is assuming it is a commitment for funds. The First Elected Member for West Bay.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Mr. President, many Standing Orders in my time have been suspended for many reasons. Never has Standing Order 67 (1) been suspended that I can remember in this fashion.

I believe exactly what the Member for Communication and Works said, this Motion (and then by your explanation also just now, Mr. President), why are they moving it? What is the purpose then? The purpose is as the Member for George Town, the Second Member for George Town and the Member for Communication and Works said, to take a little piece out of somebody.

That is the reason and those who claim to be Christian or not everyone or says 'Lord, Lord, is a Christian'. Those people who are always preaching peace are ones wanting war and now they are finding a way to get it. They did not find it in the Throne Speech now they are finding a way to get it by bringing these sort of Motions. That is the only reason. I can take my licks, Mr. President. My shoulders are broad, but I can give mine.

The main Motion which this Standing Order is dealing with and this particular Motion on the discussion has two questions at hand. I have no grievance with the first question which is saying that, we allow the Government to move the Motion that you say they are not seeking any financial commitment on. That is what the first question in this Motion, the Motion to suspend Standing Orders is dealing with. We have no question with that. If they want to deal with that and get a commitment from us. We have no qualms with that. This is what we have been saying through the length and breadth of this country. That there can be work done on that hospital in the interim period, we said that in December in Finance Committee. This is what

we said in Finance Committee.

So I am not worrying about what the Member that has the chance to wind up last will get up and say because Almighty God knows the truth! We have been saying that these things need to be done. So that is not the argument if they want an argument on that they will get one later on.

We are happy, we understand what he is talking about. But the main Motion says that we agree in principle to borrow \$1 million dollars. Now, an agreement in principle could only mean that the matter must be brought back to the proper body to get the funds.

If they are only seeking an agreement in principle, if that is all they are seeking, what are the reasons for seeking to take away the power of the Finance Committee by suspending it here today?

They talk about peace, but they do everything to create a war. I have no problem with the first question in this Motion, to suspend Standing Order without giving the five clear days notice in order for them to get approval in principle for what the Member claims is so urgent. We should have done this along time ago. Remember that Finance Committee adjourned in December, the Member on Executive Council could have come back to us and done the same thing that they are doing now.

I want to let the Member for Communication and Works know that I have nothing to hide. Anything that I say in this House I can say on the street or anything that I say in Finance Committee I can say on the street. I have no axe to grind, nobody has seen me bringing any Motion there for any of my friends.

What I do hold in contempt is the way that Member does his work, is to bring little scraps of paper into Finance Committee, expecting us to vote \$8,000.00 for projects that we have no information on. Eight thousand dollars per month which would carry us into a five year period of over a half million dollars. That is what the public wanted to discuss. That is what the public wanted to hear. He should have brought that to this honourable House instead of taking it into Finance Committee.

I have nothing to hide, the public know McKeeva, when I have reason to shout I can do so as good as any backwood preacher and when I have reason to be solemn, I am a Presbyterian and I can be very solemn. This is the time I do not think for being too solemn. They started it, they take their blows, I can get mine later on I know.

I have some serious problems with Standing Order 67 (1) being suspended so that the proposal contained in that Motion that you say will not commit us to anything does not stand referred to Finance Committee. That is what this side of the House has problems with. I want to deal with the Standing Orders now too.

I wonder while our constitution says very little about the Standing Orders, I wonder how much the Presiding Officer in his capacity as Governor has considered this matter the way to allow it because the Presiding Officer you, Sir, as his Excellency the Governor do have reserved powers. [interjection] You Benson you hush, you got your time, you will get it.

Mr. President, Standing Order 67(1) says:

"(1) If a Member of the Government presents a paper setting out the Financial requirements of any proposals,

- (a) for expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred in the course of the current financial year either in respect of a service or of several services for which no provision has been made in the estimates for that year or in respect of further financial provision beyond the total sum already sanctioned for a particular head or sub-head or for particular heads or sub-heads.
- (b) for expenditure incurred in the course of a previous financial year in excess of the total sum sanctioned for a particular head or sub-head or for particular heads or subheads by the estimates or supplementary estimates for that year. Then that paper shall stand referred to the Finance committee.

(2) At any time after a paper has been so referred to the Finance Committee a Member of Government may give notice of a motion "That the Finance Committee approves the proposal (or proposals) set out in the paper"; and such a motion shall be considered in the Finance Committee."

Now, what are the reasons for taking the route here? The Member could have passed that Motion, he could have beat up his gums and beat us up and told us what he wanted to tell us, if that is what this is all about. But then he could have done his proper costing his estimates, taken it the proper route of getting it through the Financial and Stores Regulations Tenders Committee. All that could have been done, then it could have come to Finance Committee and we could have given him the funds. Why all this fuss? Why all this movement of suspending this so important fundamental rule in this House?

Now the Constitutional Expert the Member for Communication and Works has said there is nothing unconstitutional about it. But I tell you if it is not unconstitutional, it is highly irregular and one that does not befit a Parliament of a country to do that sort of thing.

Now he says that suspension of Standing Orders has become the rule rather than the exception. We have suspended Standing Orders, but never in my time in this House has this fundamental rule been suspended. Nor did I ever hear about it happening before in any other House in this

country. Why do it this way if they want peace?

The Member, the same Member from George Town, the Member for Communication and Works says that why are we finding it unusual? Does he not understand what the Finance Committee means on what, let us put it, the Founding Fathers meant when they made those Standing Orders? Let me tell him, what they meant.

He referred to Standing Order 73, which is the Standing Order dealing with the Finance Committee. Now here he talks about this honourable House having all the power over Finance Committee. It does? This Standing Order is saying that the Financial Bills and other business is dealt with by the Finance Committee after it is referred to by the honourable House or the Governor. They are taking the other way around, they are taking the other route. They are circumventing this section.

Now let me ask him, why does he think that the framers of the Standing Orders put it that way? Why does he think that the same Standing Order says the Finance Committee shall (not "may") consist of the Elected Members only. Standing Order 73 (2) says: "The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Secretary as Chairman and all the elected Members". Why does he think that all the people that frame the Standing Orders put that Standing Order that way? I submit to this honourable House that the framers of the Standing Orders wrote the Standing Orders in that fashion so that we the people's elected representatives will have our way in the manner the people expect in Finance Committee. If the House took precedence over Finance Committee why do we send the Bill or any other matter to Finance Committee? If the House took precedence over Finance Committee why does the Budget go to Finance Committee?

Executive Council should withdraw this and throw it away in the wastepaper basket where it deserves to go. This is an abrogation of every fundamental right of this Parliament and of us as elected Members where the two or three Official Members can vote with them and do what they please. I ask you today in your capacity as Governor of this country, do not let them override this thing here today.

You have the reserve power to do it, even if you do not have a direct constitutional obligation under any written clause in the Constitution. This should not be. Let us deal with the Motion if he wants. Let him kick me if he wants to do that, but let us go to the Finance Committee whenever they want to get the money. After they have gone the route that is by law, they should go in this amounts of money.

The Member for George Town should not have got up, he should have gone to the funeral he said he was going to because he is really killing Parliamentary democracy.

The Member talked about the Third Member, the Second Member from George Town, and the Member for Communication and Works talked about a cloak of secrecy. Here in again lies the paramount importance of Finance Committee. When we go into Finance Committee all that is done is that a report is made, minutes are taken and certain things can be put into the Minutes if Members so wish and if the whole Committee agrees. That is the importance of the Finance Committee. We have know other cloak of secrecy. What are they doing to this country? Then he gets up there and scream about this health situation for our people.

Why in the world were all of these things not done? Did it take a man from Timbuktu to tell us that we needed surgical beds? No, we did not need any man from the moon to tell us that. The doctors have been saying that for a long time. All of these things could come by if that Executive Council sat down and did there work properly instead of gallivanting here, there and everywhere sometimes not looking out for the interest of this country.

I only have one last matter to deal with him. That is the part about me being a good hand at ridiculing. That is because I had to deal with him for four years on the Backbench and I know how well he can ridicule. I do not like to be ridiculed; before he ridicules me and he gives me the chance and he has not done what is right, I ridicule him. If there is anyone in this House that has a record for ridiculing, even when no one has said anything, it is that Member. I remember his four years on the Backbench here. I remember you could not open your mouth without him jumping down it. You did not have to say anything to him either.

In summary, this Standing Order is of paramount importance to this country. This House should not be allowed to circumvent the Financial Orders of this country. We are not just dealing with a matter of suspending to bring in a Motion for other reasons, minor reasons. This is of major concern. It is paramount, it is fundamental to a Parliament.

I say let us try to get the peace, that they say they want; let us do that. We cannot get peace in this fashion because I have a bound responsibility, a constitutional responsibility to see that things are done properly, that money is expended properly. That is why I was elected by 1316 people in my constituency.

I ask you, Sir, in your capacity as Governor to take your Executive Council to adjourn this meeting here and now and take them into your office and say to them; fellows you are going the wrong way with this thing. And whether you have a constitutional obligation by clause imbedded in the constitution directing you exactly that, you might not, but certainly, Sir, you have reserve powers and this is where one the reserve powers usually can be employed.

We support what the first question in this Motion is dealing with. Even though it is not the five clear days. No big thing. We are here to do the people's work. We support these matters that would bring about financial expenditure. But we do not believe that we should circumvent Finance Committee and vote on that now, saying go ahead and do it without the proper procedure first gone through of going to Finance and Stores Regulation Public Tenders Committee route. All that must be done and then brought back to Finance Committee. How much longer could it take? They have been in office for quite a long time and this could have been done. You can not get 12 beds built in four or five days. I say to them again, if they want peace let us get peace but do not make a war and expect to get peace.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings are suspended for 15 minutes.

**PROCEEDING SUSPENDED AT 3:36 P.M.****PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 4:00 P.M.****MR. PRESIDENT:**

Orders. Does anyone wish to speak?

Proceedings are resumed on the Motion to suspend Standing

**MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR.:**

Thank you, Mr. President.

A Motion of this nature raises my adrenaline. I have problems with both requests in this Motion. I have a problem with suspending Standing Order 24 (5). Because I feel it is wrong to come here to assume that we can just say yes, and we do not have any information or material to base our decisions on.

I am always very suspicious when matters are rushed. Especially when prior details are not available or forthcoming to Members. I can appreciate that there are maybe circumstances when matters or issues have to be dealt with in an emergency. However, I do not feel that this matter falls into that category. I feel for us to encourage the practice of continuously suspending Standing Orders just in order to deal with matters does not sit well with democracy or good Government when we are dealing with matters of the magnitude that this Motion calls for.

I do not agree with the statement that the suspension of Standing Orders have become the rule rather than the exception. I do not think that is the way it should be. I can see times when we will have to suspend Standing Orders in order to deal with matters of urgency. I resent the approach that is being taken here. I feel that the Member out of respect could have come to us and said, "Gentlemen, I understand and appreciate what you have been preaching for the last two or three months with regard to the renovation of the present hospital. I have gone out, I have gotten plans drawn, I have gotten it costed, here is how much it is going to cost, here is how I intend to go about getting the business done. This was not the approach.

To compound the situation for the resolution to also call for the suspension of Standing Order 67 (1) where this matter will be referred to the Finance Committee, I think is a serious error. I have a question. Why would the Member not want matters involving a commitment of funds of this country referred to Finance Committee? This is the normal procedure and also I feel an essential part of Parliamentary practice and procedure. There is a reason why matters of financial nature are referred to Finance Committee. Our Finance Committee consists of the 12 elected Members of these Islands, who should be held accountable for the way public funds are spent.

I wonder if the request for this matter not to be referred to Finance Committee is because the Member knows that in Finance Committee we will not be giving him any blank check (even though I have no reservation, or no doubt that we will approve the funds necessary for these reservations). But you can believe like we did in the budget session in December those funds will be spent subject to certain conditions. That is the way it should be. That is the way we will continue to approach things of this nature.

He will be requested to present us with proper plans and proper costing. I heard a lot of argument and legal interpretation in this House, which I do not necessarily agree with. That anytime based on what is said, that anytime that Executive Council feels like it, they can circumvent the Public Tenders Committee. I do not agree with that.

I feel that any contracts regardless of who is responsible for bringing them should be subject to the same procedures, which is that they should all go through the Public Tenders Committee.

I have heard other Members, not on this side of the House, but Government, say that this is not an unusual request for Standing Order 67 (1) to be suspended. If they were part of a Government which did that, that is totally up to them. I can assure you as long as I am in this House as a representative of the people, I will in no way agree that this very important procedure is circumvented. I look at this request in a very suspicious manner. If I support such a Motion it would amount to an abrogation of my duties as a Member of this House.

You know what I see this move as? I see this move as a precedent that is being established by this present Government to get what they want by way of finances for their grandiose projects without going to Finance Committee, which is the Committee responsible for approving the expenditure of Government. I am pleased to say that the request in Government Motion No. 2/90 are issues that we as Backbenchers have told the Member to address. He should have no fear in coming to Finance Committee to have the funds approved which are necessary to have these renovations done.

We are all responsible individuals. We feel that we are accountable to our people, we must be in a position where we can justify the decisions that we make in this House. That is all we ask, that the Member or any Member who has a request of a financial nature provide us with the details, show us the plans and I think our track record speaks well for itself in this House. We have only opposed issues that we felt that were not in the best interest of our people and this country. I cannot support their Motion.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Honourable Member for Education.

**HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:**

Mr. President, in addressing this issue I would like to start by

reading the relevant section of the constitution, which deals with Standing Orders. That is Section 31, which should remove all doubt as to the constitutionality of this move and it shows quite clearly that Standing Orders are made by this House with the approval of the Governor. Section 31 (1) says:

"31. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of any Instructions under Her Majesty's Sign Manual and Signet, the Assembly may from time to time make, amend and revoke Standing Orders for the regulation and orderly conduct of its own proceedings and the despatch of business, and for the passing, intituling and numbering of Bills and for the presentation thereof to the Governor for assent; but no such Standing Orders or amendment or revocation thereof shall have effect unless they have been approved by the Governor."

So that should put to rest the question of the constitutionality of what is being done. Standing Orders, are made by this House, this is not some treasured document that was handed down by our forefathers. The present Standing Orders were first made in 1976 and later amended by the Legislative Assembly in 1985. There is nothing stretching back to the forefathers of this country in these Orders.

Standing Orders as the Constitution permits are made by this honourable Assembly, just as any other Bill or Law which is passed by this House. All Laws are subject to repeal or amendment by this House and in the case of the Standing Orders there is a simple way and means of suspending the Standing Orders rather than having to amend them each time. That is under Standing Order 83, which gives the power of suspension of the Standing Orders.

Standing Order 83 says: **"Any of these Standing Orders may be suspended at any time for a specific purpose by the consent of a majority of Members present."** If it had been the intention of the Assembly that passed these Standing Orders to exclude Standing Order 67 from being suspended, then Order 83 would have made an exception. Order 83 would have read that any of these Standing Orders, save Standing Order 67 may be suspended. But it does not read that way. It says any of these Standing Orders may be suspended at any time for a specific purpose by the consent of a majority of Members present. There is nothing untoward about what is being attempted here. Every Sitting of this House, some Standing Order is suspended for one reason or the other.

Frankly, the Members opposite have made more use of the suspension of Standing Orders than most people that I have seen in this House. It seems that that is only appropriate when the shoe is on the on the foot. It is only being suggested here that these two Standing Orders be disposed, be suspended in the normal way and as permitted under the Standing Order. There is no miscarriage of justice or anything illegal being attempted here.

As to the timing mentioned by the Third Elected Member for George Town, I only say that it seems to me that the Member had sufficient time to move an amendment to the resolution. I have seen an amendment in his name circulating, so I do not see how he can say that he did not have time to study the Motion, unless he is in the habit of moving amendments without having read the Motion properly. I doubt that is the case.

I would like to make this point that the Finance Committee is not mandated under the Constitution, it is not constituted by the Constitution. The Constitution merely gives authority for the making of Standing Orders and the appointments of committees. It was done by the Members of the Assembly in 1976 and 1985, when these Standing Orders were done.

One can understand why the Member referred to the Budget being brought here or going to the Finance Committee, but one can readily understand why one would not want to go into the details of the budget in a committee of the whole House. In fact it would be difficult even to handle the estimates on narrow desks like this. The Budget is a much cumbersome exercise and takes a long time so there is no big deal about this.

As I said, the Finance Committee was constituted by Members of this House. It is a creature of this House, therefore it is in all respects subservient to the authority of this House. While the House would not dictate to any Committee, nevertheless the Committee is appointed by the House so the Finance Committee is not a creature constituted by the Constitution or any other Law other than the Standing Orders of this Assembly and since it is a creature of this Assembly I argue that it is at least one step down the totem pole from this Assembly.

One Member gave us his reason for not wanting to suspend these Standing Orders. The fact that no information has been given, no details have been given on Government Motion No. 2/90. I assume that the Member presenting that Motion will when it is presented give all details sufficient to satisfy Members. If at that time they are unsatisfied with the detail, then maybe they can vote against that Motion.

I have a sneaking suspicion that it is the contents of that Motion, which Members do not want to debate publicly where everyone will here and see them. I have a feeling that that is the Motion, not the one that is before us now and that is why the attempt is being made not to get it on the floor. I would have thought that it would have been quite simple to have agreed to this Motion that we are debating now, and debate details of Motion No. 2/90 dealing with the money to be borrowed to provide the interim improvements at the George Town Hospital.

I believe that most people in this country want that done and some Members who have spoken from the other side say that they too would welcome such work, so I do not know what they are worried about. It seems to me if you are prepared to back something you would want to get it on the floor where you have the opportunity to vote for it, so the job can be gotten on with.



I do not believe that I need four hours to convince Members that what is being proposed under this Motion is straight forward, uncomplicated and certainly legal. As I pointed out Standing Orders provide for their suspension for any of them to be suspended. Not just all Standing Orders other than 67 (1) or 67.

If it had been the intention to exclude Standing Order 67 from this provision of Standing Order 83 that is allowing it to be suspended then I maintain that Standing Order 83 would have read something to the effect that all Standing Orders other than Standing Order 67 may be suspended by a majority of Members of the House. That is not what it says, it says all Standing Orders may be suspended.

So I have no problem in supporting this Motion, I have no fear that in supporting this Motion it will be looked upon as something illegal and unconstitutional. As I said this Government has made very sparing use of the suspension of the Standing Orders, but even Government from time to time suspended a Standing Order to enable a Bill to be taken through, more than one reading in a day or to permit a Bill to be taken even though the necessary time was not given for its publication.

I wish that Member would sit down, he must still be out there with our forefathers.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Yes, but you are not in that group though.

**HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:**  
why I know it was not made by our forefathers.

No, I was in one that made the Standing Orders though. That is

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Why do you not tell the House where you got them from?

**HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:**  
Mr. President, we are going to give that Member a lesson in history today? I hope he takes it in so he does not come here and corrupt our history book or our history. That is why I have taken the time to put it clearly and squarely on record because when the history of the Cayman Islands is written I want it to be certainly an accurate one. I do not want anything that might have been said in this Legislature to mislead the historian who will be preparing it.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Are you the authority?

**HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:**  
I am the authority on these Standing Orders for the time being save that you will rule on them while we are practicing them up in here. But as to giving my opinion to the other Members that is my prerogative, and I believe that they understand clearly what we are trying to do and when we sit down they will vote for the Motion, Sir.

## ADJOURNMENT

**HON. RICHARD W. GROUND:**  
o'clock, Thursday, 1st March.

I propose the adjournment of this honourable House until 10

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
o'clock... [interjection] You can speak when I put the Motion; that surely is the normal order. Would any Member wish to speak?

The question is that the House do stand adjourned until 10

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Mr. President, just very briefly to say that if we wanted to circumvent the Standing Orders we could very well do so because we have a majority now. Government is seeking to circumvent that Standing Order by moving where they have a majority without three Official Members to vote for them, to get that Standing Order circumvented. We are not, we will do the good thing and vote for the adjournment.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

That seems to be eminently sensible in that certain Members have asked for more time to consider the Motions. I put the Question then?

**HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:**  
Members got back. So he cannot take any advantage here, Sir.

Just to say, Sir, that we could speak on this Motion until our

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

I do not think we want that sort of competition, frankly.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

He cannot stand up that long.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
Aye...Those against no.

Let me put the Question. Will those in favour please say

AYES.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Ayes have it. Accordingly the House stands adjourned.

AT 4:30 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK, THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1990.