

*Leave of Absence**Friday, July 23, 1999***HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES***Friday, July 23, 1999*

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

**PRAYERS**[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, I wish to advise that I have received communication from the Member for San Fernando West and from the Member for Naparima who have asked to be excused from today's sitting. The leave of absence which they seek is granted.

**PAPERS LAID**

1. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts and Financial Statements of the Tobago House of Assembly for the year ended December 31, 1990. [*The Attorney General (Hon. R. L. Maharaj)*]
2. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts and Financial Statements of the Tobago House of Assembly for the year ended December 31, 1991. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
3. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Nariva/Mayaro County Council for the year ended December 31, 1988. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
4. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Nariva/Mayaro County Council for the year ended December 31, 1989. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
5. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Nariva/Mayaro County Council for the year ended December 31, 1990. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
6. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Assistance to the National Drug Abuse Demand Reduction Programme as required by Project Document AD/TRI/96/910 between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) for the year ended January 01 to September 30, 1998. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
7. Loan Agreement No. 4458-TR (Postal Services Reform Project) between Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development dated June 14, 1999. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]

*Papers Laid*

*Friday, July 23, 1999*

*Papers 1 to 7 to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee*

8. The Auditor's Report and Financial Statements of the National Helicopter Services Limited for the year ended September 30, 1998. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]

*To be referred to the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee*

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Energy Sector**

**(Identification of New Projects)**

- 71. Mr. Kenneth Valley** (*Diego Martin Central*) asked the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:

Would the Minister kindly identify the new projects, which have been started in the energy sector and have been the result of initiatives of the Government?

**The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Finbar Gangar):** Mr. Speaker, under the United National Congress administration, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries has succeeded in revitalizing the entire energy sector of Trinidad and Tobago in both the upstream and downstream subsectors. [*Desk thumping*] This has been achieved with the overriding Government philosophy that the natural resources of the Republic must be used for the benefit of the citizens of the country. During the term of office of this administration, the energy sector has remained the dominant sector of the economy and has become the major catalyst for growth and development.

The United National Congress administration is committed to widening and deepening the industrial base of the country to create wealth and employment for the people of Trinidad and Tobago. Projects have been initiated in both the upstream and downstream subsectors and a summary is given hereunder.

(a) Upstream

Under the United National Congress administration, special emphasis has been placed on attracting investment projects in the exploration subsector. During this period 13 production-sharing contracts have been signed giving production companies the right to explore for hydrocarbons off the coast of Trinidad. The award of these contracts has resulted in the contribution of TT \$558 million to the Government via signature bonuses and the companies are committed to spending

US \$446 million in exploration work over a five-year period. Over the last three and a half years the natural gas reserves of the country have grown from eight trillion cubic feet in 1995 to 22.5 trillion cubic feet in 1999, an increase of almost 200 per cent.

The Government has rationalized both state and Petrotrin land acreage and awarded exploration licences for the Moruga Block, the Eastern Block, the Central Block, the South West Peninsula, East Brighton and Brighton Marine. It is expected that these awards would revitalize exploration activities on land to the highest level in 20 years. In order to resuscitate land production the Government introduced in 1998 a new royalty formula for marginal fields which is expected to impact positively on production levels.

(b) Downstream.

One of the United National Congress administration's greatest achievements has been its ability to attract and execute major capital investment projects in the natural gas-based sector. Some of the major projects undertaken include—

- The Atlantic LNG project at a cost of US \$935 million. This represents the largest single investment ever in the Caribbean and the first LNG plant to be built in the western hemisphere in the last 25 years. The project agreement, excluding gas pricing, was negotiated by the UNC administration.
- The Farmlands MissChem Ammonia plant with a capital cost of US \$300 million. Site relocation from La Brea and subsequent revision to the project agreement were negotiated by the UNC administration.
- The PCS Nitrogen Ammonia plant—capital cost of US \$300 million. Project initiated under the UNC administration and project agreement, including fiscal incentives and gas pricing, were negotiated by the UNC administration.
- The Ispat DR3 Mega Module—capital cost US \$240 million. Project initiated under the UNC administration and project agreement, including fiscal incentives and gas pricing, were negotiated by the UNC administration.
- The Cliff & Associates HBI plant—capital cost US \$159 million. Gas pricing negotiations were concluded under the UNC administration.

*Oral Answers to Questions*  
[SEN. THE HON. F. GANGAR]

*Friday, July 23, 1999*

- The PPGPL Expansion—capital cost US \$150 million. Project initiated under the UNC administration.
- The TTMC IV Methanol Plant—US \$300 million. Project initiated under the UNC administration and project agreement, including fiscal incentives and gas pricing, were negotiated by the UNC administration.

Mr. Speaker, at this time other projects are under development and these include the following:

- The Norsk Hydro Aluminium Smelter—capital cost US \$1.6 billion. A project agreement has been signed.
- Atlantic LNG Train 2 and 3 Expansion—capital cost US \$1.1 billion. Negotiations are currently in progress.
- The Ethylene Complex—capital cost US \$1.0 billion. Proposals from short-listed investors are expected by July 30, 1999.
- The CNC Ammonia plant—capital cost US \$300 million. Gas pricing and fiscal incentives have been agreed.
- Gas to Liquids Plants—capital cost US \$300 million. Gas pricing has been agreed.
- Atlas Methanol Plant—capital cost US \$300 million. Gas pricing and fiscal incentives have been agreed.
- Compania Vale Rio Dolce (CVRD) steel district—capital cost US \$700 million. Negotiations are currently underway.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I wish to quote from *Energy Day* magazine (a Lloyd's List publication) of June 1999. In an article headlined “Gangar moves Trinidad forward” it states:

“Trinidad and Tobago's energy ministry has sprung back to life since Finbar Gangar arrived there in November 1995.”

[*Desk thumping*]

“In the short space of 3-1/2 years, more has been achieved on the energy front than in the previous 10 years.”

Mr. Speaker, this aptly sums up the performance of the energy sector in Trinidad and Tobago under the Panday administration.

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. Member would be kind enough to tell us, of the projects which are, in fact, indicated, as the question asks, which of these projects were, in fact, the initiative of his Government? And being—  
[*Interruption*]

**Hon. Members:** All.

**Mr. Valley.** Just be honest.

**Mr. Speaker:** No. 72—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, am I getting an answer to the question?

**Mr. Speaker:** No, I thought that you wanted the same questions addressed. He answered you. If you wanted to ask a supplemental question, indicate supplemental.

**Mr. Valley:** Supplemental, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I got the impression you were asking the same question.

**Mr. Valley:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. My humble apologies. I am simply asking him to clarify, for my own benefit, which of the projects indicated as being in progress is, in fact, the initiative of the current Government?

**Sen. The Hon. F. Gangar:** Mr. Speaker, I have clearly outlined that in my response; the answer is all. [*Desk thumping*]

### **Constitutional Cases (Information On)**

**72. Mr. Kenneth Valley** (*Diego Martin Central*) asked the Attorney General:

- (a) Would the Attorney General identify the constitutional cases won by the State since the enactment of the Republican Constitution?
- (b) Would the Attorney General also identify whether costs were awarded to the State and if so, whether costs were paid in any of the situations identified?

**The Attorney General (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Speaker, this honourable House is hereby informed that the Chief State Solicitor's Office, which is part of the Solicitor General's Department, is responsible for the enforcement of costs awarded by the court in favour of the state. Mr. Speaker, a constitutional motion is a new remedy created by the 1962 Constitution of

Trinidad and Tobago. This new remedy gave to the High Court the jurisdiction to declare actions of the state, whether of the judicial, legislative or executive arm, unconstitutional and to grant redress to applicants in respect of those contraventions.

The court has an absolute discretion to determine whether a successful party in such a motion should receive costs or not. The court can even refuse to order costs in favour of the successful party. The winning of such a motion by the state would not, therefore, automatically entitle the state to an award of costs in its favour from the Chief State Solicitor's Office in respect of constitutional cases won by the state since the enactment of the Republican Constitution in 1976 shows that the state has been successful in some 148 matters.

Thirty-four of those matters were determined since the present administration assumed office in late 1995. In 41 of those 148 matters the court did not make an order for costs in favour of the state, although the state won those matters, in that the constitutional motions were either dismissed or withdrawn. The court, in exercising its discretion to award costs against an unsuccessful applicant, can take into consideration the ability or potential ability of the unsuccessful applicant to pay those costs. This accounts, Mr. Speaker, for the court not making awards, of course, in favour of the state where the state won constitutional motions against applicants who were death row prisoners.

The constitutional cases won by the state are identified in an appendix. In this appendix information is given with respect to the action number, the names of the parties, the nature of the order for costs and whether costs have been paid or not.

**1.45 p.m.**

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, please. We have time and I would really like the hon. Attorney General to indicate the matters where costs were awarded and costs have not been demanded by the state.

**Hon. R. L. Maharaj:** Mr. Speaker, I am answering the question. The Chief State Solicitor's Office has informed me that in respect of the enforcement of costs by the state in constitutional matters, the policy which has been in existence since 1962 is that the state must enforce orders for costs. The Chief State Solicitor's Office, however, has stated that it has complained since the 1970s that the office does not have the necessary human and other resources to effectively enforce orders for costs in favour of the state. In order for this honourable House to understand the difficulties which the Chief State Solicitor's Office has

encountered in this regard, it is necessary to outline the process to be undertaken by the state to enforce costs.

Before a demand is made for the payment of costs which are to be quantified, the following process takes place:

- (1) The preparation of the bill of costs.
- (2) Taxation, computation of the bill of costs by the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

This is a judicial hearing in which arguments are heard by the court on each item of costs contained in the bill of costs. Each side is entitled to be heard.

- (3) The sum is then computed, but no action to enforce the costs can be taken until the court issues a certificate known as the *a la coutoure*
- (4) A dissatisfied party can apply to have the tax bill reviewed again by the Registrar, and if he is dissatisfied, he could then appeal the order of the Registrar to a judge.

Mr. Speaker, having obtained the Registrar's certificate, the Chief State Solicitor's Office would write to the other side making a demand for payment of the amount. The records show that in 99 per cent of the cases, there is refusal by not responding. In order to enforce the costs as tax, the successful party will have to conduct an investigation into the means of the unsuccessful party to determine whether the unsuccessful party either owns real property or has other property including money so that the judgment can be enforced against that property.

If the property consists of land, a summons for sale of the land will have to be taken out. This entails a hearing before a judge. If the person does not own land but owns other property, the successful party can take steps to levy against the property in satisfaction of that debt. If the unsuccessful party is not the owner of either real or personal property but has an income or potential income, a judgment summons can be filed and it has to be heard by a judge in an attempt to get that judge to make an order for the payment of the debt by instalments. If the person fails to pay, as ordered by the judge, the person can be liable to serve a term of simple imprisonment.

It can be readily seen that the enforcement process for costs is not a simple exercise and the Chief State Solicitor's Office has found it difficult for its lawyers to be engaged in this process and, at the same time, to be engaged in instructing advocate attorneys in court.

Mr. Speaker, upon assuming office as Attorney General, I met with the Chief State Solicitor's Department and became aware of these problems. Steps were taken by me in an effort to address these problems. They are as follows:

- (1) The majority of vacant posts for professional officers were filled.
- (2) Two additional lawyers were employed on contract.
- (3) Physical working conditions were made more comfortable as the air-condition units were repaired and put in working order.
- (4) A heavy-duty photocopier was provided.
- (5) All old computers and printers were replaced and new ones were also provided.

Mr. Speaker, the Chief State Solicitor's Office has started to address the backlog and, in that regard, bills of costs for some of the outstanding matters shown in the appendix have been, and are being, prepared. The task is monumental, however, and steps are being taken to see if a specialized enforcement unit within that department can be set up. In this regard, a strategic assessment review is being undertaken in the Ministry and, on completion, would facilitate the establishment of such an enforcement unit.

With the imminent relocation of the Ministry of the Attorney General to its new building, physical working conditions will even be better, the handicap of a physically disjointed Ministry will be eliminated, and a networking operating system with case management would be implemented, which would facilitate integration of various office procedures in the entire Ministry, including the Civil Law Department.

I should mention, however, that the omission over the years to provide the necessary resources to implement the police of the state to enforce costs has prejudiced the interest of the state, since the provisions of the State Liability and Proceedings Act, Chap. 8:02, as amended by Act No. 8 of 1976, seem to require the state to enforce costs in the same way as private individuals. That is, within 12 years of the date of the award. This principle seems to be fortified by section 3 of the Limitation of Proceedings Act, 1997.

The rules of court place a time limit within which proceedings for taxation of costs must be commenced and gives the court the discretion to extend the time—Order 62 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Mr. Speaker, there has been,



however, one instance in the past in which the state has executed its policy to enforce costs. In this regard, the Chief State Solicitor has informed me that the state enforced the payment of costs by an unsuccessful applicant in a constitutional motion. This was in the case of *Endell Thomas vs. Attorney General*, No. 2227 of 1972. I am informed that the state seized and sold the car of Endell Thomas in 1989 and realized \$11,168.70 as part payment of the costs which were owed to the state. The Chief State Solicitor has informed me that this enforcement was done as Mr. Thomas was instituting new matters without paying outstanding costs for previous matters.

There is a case in which the unsuccessful applicant paid the tax cost to the state. That case is *TTUTA and Candice Chin Choy vs. The Minister of Finance*. That is action 214 of 1984. Mr. Speaker, TTUTA paid costs in the sum of \$118,931.30 in the year 1993. That is under the last administration. After the bill, of course, was taxed, the Chief State Solicitor's Office made a demand for payment. That union paid the sum so that no steps could be taken against it for seizure of its assets or its de-certification as a trade union.

There is a case in which the unsuccessful applicant made a request of the state for it to waive costs. In that case, *Patrick Manning vs. The Attorney General and others*, No. 1000 of 1997 and No. 834 of 1997. There was a judicial review application and a constitutional motion which were both consolidated. The attorney for applicant on April 20, 1997, before Madam Justice Warner, informed the court during the hearing of the matter that he could not continue the matter. The judge dismissed the consolidated action and awarded costs to the state. The costs were taxed in the amount of \$1,153,811.08. The applicant was represented at the hearing of the taxation of cost by an attorney. The applicant did not seek to challenge subsequently, by way of review or appeal, the quantum of the costs which were awarded.

The Chief State Solicitor's Office has informed me that steps were not taken by it to enforce the payment of those costs against Mr. Manning, the plaintiff in that matter, and that the state only acted in respect to Mr. Manning's request to waive costs which was made through Mr. Manning's attorneys. Mr. Speaker, it was not possible to waive costs in the light of the long-standing policy of the state to enforce costs in these matters. Obviously, the Constitution guarantees equality of treatment. The applicant has offered to pay and has, in fact, sent a cheque in the sum of \$125,000 on account with an offer to pay the rest by instalment in an

amount of not less than \$10,000 per month. This request is still under consideration by the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, there is a list of the matters here which, if the House wants me to, I can read, giving the names of the matters, the parties and the comments. I beg leave to introduce it.

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate if the hon. Attorney General can read those matters in which costs were awarded to the state and no demand has been made by the state for these costs. I am interested in those matters.

**Hon. R. L. Maharaj:** Mr. Speaker, I have answered the question and I do not think I can add more to the question I have answered. It is clear as crystal, and if needed, I will read it out.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is this: do you have any objection to the list being laid on the Table so that one could have a look, or do you want it read?

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, I do prefer that it be read out.

**Mr. Speaker:** Please continue.

**Hon. R. L. Maharaj:** I am much obliged, Mr. Speaker, list of constitutional matters in which the state won and their status of costs for the period 1976—May is as follows:

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1976</b>			
1.	1003/76	Application of ANR Robinson & Ors.	No order as to costs
2.	400/76	Application of Hayman Boodhai	Costs not yet paid
<b>1977</b>			
1.	1191/77 CA #48/78	Application of Contractors and General Workers' Trade Union	Costs not yet paid
<b>1978</b>			
1.	1218/78	Application of Samsoundar Ramcharan	Costs not yet paid

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1978</b>			
2.	1248/78	Application of Claudy Carabello	Costs not yet paid
<b>1979</b>			
1.	2920 A/74 CA #2/75	Romesh Mootoo vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
<b>1980</b>			
1.	3515/80	Application of Harry Singh	No order as to costs
<b>1981</b>			
1.	5067/81	Endell Thomas vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
2.	CA 78/81	Application of Shymoon Mohammed	No order as to costs
<b>1982</b>			
1.	S-225/82	Application of Horace Pollo	Costs not yet paid
2.	S-1279/82 CA #75/83	Confectionery Ltd. vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	3437/82	Tobago House of Assembly vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
4.	1873/82	Application of David Allan Sheppard	No order as to costs
5.	8/82	Ramdeo Ramlochan vs. The Attorney General & Anor.	No order as to costs
<b>1983</b>			
1.	S-1857/83	Frank Ramsaran vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
2.	570/83	Castillo John vs. Police Service Commission & Ors.	Costs not yet paid

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1983</b>			
3.	3313/83	Kenrick Charles vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
4.	S-863/83	Application of Balraj Rampersad & Anor.	No order as to costs
5.	S-766/83	Application of Terry Singh	No order as to costs
6.	3781/83	Courtney Rosales vs. The Attorney General	No order as to costs
7.	S-678/83	Application of Samlal Bahadur	No order as to costs
8.	S-872/83	Application of Kiston Branche	No order as to costs
9.	851/83	Application of Michael Bhagaloo	No order as to costs
10.	76/83 (San F'do.)	Application of Chandrawattee Ramlogan	No order as to costs
11.	S-850/83	Application of Andy Thomas	No order as to costs
<b>1984</b>			
1.	S-465/84	Bunny Brann vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
2.	2641/84 CA #22/85	Rishi Gobin vs. The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
3.	CA #86/84	Ramkaise Manogeesingh vs. The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
4.	507/84	Application of Feroze Mohammed	Costs not yet paid
5.	S-813/84	Application of Leslie Tiwary	Costs not yet paid

**2.00 p.m.**

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1984</b>			
6.	S-626/84	Application of Ramdass Bhaggan	Costs not yet paid

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1984</b>			
7.	3809/84	Balkaran Sinanan vs Public Service Commission	Costs not yet paid
8.	1097/84	Application of Rajendra Seereeram	Costs not yet paid
9.	539/84	Andrew Marcano vs The Attorney General	Cost not yet paid
10.	CA #105/84	Adella Moses Chevalier vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
11.	4375/84	Carifinance Holdings Ltd. & Anor vs The Attorney General & Ors.	Costs not yet paid
12.	C.A 37/84	Endell Thomas vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
13.	2005/84	Application of Khemraj Kannick	No order as to costs
14.	5476/84	Balwart Singh vs The Attorney General & Anor.	No order as to costs
15.	5475/84	Sandra Hughes vs The Attorney General & Anor.	No order as to costs
<b>1985</b>			
1.	3134 A/85	Inniss Frederick vs Police Commission & Ors.	Costs not yet paid
2.	6644/85	Mac Donald Padmore vs The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
3.	S-1292/85	Application of Peter Sookoo & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
4.	1712/85	Boodram Ramjattan & Ors vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
5.	C.A. 11/85	Sumair Bansraj & Ors vs The Attorney General & Ors.	Costs not yet paid

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1985</b>			
6.	4457/85	Darcus Howe vs The Attorney General & Anor.	No order as to costs
7.	S-289/85	Steve Rattan vs The Commissioner of Police	No order as to costs
8.	CA114/85	Attorney General vs Peter Sookoo & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
9.	Privy Council Appeal	Peter Sookoo & Anor vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
<b>1986</b>			
1.	193/86	Terry Lashley vs Snr. Magistrate Sarwan & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
2.	S-3050/86	Ayons Mohamme vs Ag. DPP & Ors.	Costs not yet paid
3.	6616/86	Dr. Bassant C. Bissessar vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
<b>1987</b>			
1.	S-2441/87	Premnath Ramlochan vs The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
2.	S-2459/87	Manic Ramsaran vs Algernon Jack	Costs not yet paid
3.	S-2483/87	Manic Ramsaran vs Algernon Jack	Costs not yet paid
4.	S-958/87	Darisan Ashton Mohansingh vs The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
5.	6453/87	Application of Diaram Ragoonanan & Ors.	Costs not yet paid
6.	3050/87	Conrade Forgenie vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1987</b>			
7.	2813/87	Brian Honore' vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
8.	626/87	Ralston Walters vs University of the West Indies & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
9.	S-1518/87	Sookhandaye Ramdhan vs The Attorney General & Ors.	No order as to costs
10.	4201/87	Bajnath Ramgoolan vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
<b>1988</b>			
1.	S-69/88	Krishna Dubay vs The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
2.	1039/88	Carson Haynes vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	342/88	Mayor, Aldermen & Burgesses of POS vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
4.	1096/88	Ramnath Guptar vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
5.	S-1146/88 1256/88	Patrick Jagessar vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
6.	5895/88	Endell Thomas vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
<b>1989</b>			
1.	2227/72 CA #68/76	Endell Thomas vs Privy Council	Taxed costs in the sum of \$11,168.70 paid State Solicitor on 20/01/89

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1989</b>			
2.	CA 88/89	Nankissoo Boodram vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
3.	S-214/89	TUTTA & Anor. vs Minister of Finance & Economy & Anor.	Taxed costs in the sum of \$118,931.30 paid Chief State Solicitor on 29/04/93
<b>1990</b>			
1.	S-193/90	Gerald Quinton vs The Commissioner of Police & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
<b>1991</b>			
1.	435/91	Farouke Warris vs The Attorney General & Ors.	Costs not yet paid
2.	S-1019/91	Florence Hosein vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
<b>1992</b>			
1.	S-155/92	Learie Alleyne-Forte vs The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
2.	143/92 164/92 Privy Council Appeal	Seunarine Dwarika vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	1277/92 CA159/94	Lalchan Deodath vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
4.	132/92	Roodal Harilal vs The Commissioner of Police & Ors.	Costs not yet paid



No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1992</b>			
5.	2901/92	George Phillip vs The Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago	Costs not yet paid
6.	S-1094/92	Evangeline Heeralal vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
7.	S-1131/92	Frankie Mohammed vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
<b>1993</b>			
1.	S-630/93	Gookharan & Parbatee Mahadaie Jabar vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
2.	1639/93	Azard vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	S-1020/93	Indranie Basarath & Anor. vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
4.	1140/93	Petrolam T'dad Ltd. vs Min. of Finance & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
5.	S-192/93	Ulrick George vs The Attorney General	
6.	S-242/93	Andre Maharaj vs The Attorney General & Anor.	No order as to costs
7.	951/93	R.K.A. Development Corp. Ltd. & Anor vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
8.	1319/93	Miguel Joseph Babuah vs The Commissioner of Police & The Attorney General	No order as to costs
9.	2524/93	Deryck Rodney vs The Commissioner of Police & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
10.	S-1365/93	Randolph Mills vs The Attorney General & Anor.	No order as to costs

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1993</b>			
11.	S-1325/93	Deo Ramdath- vs The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid

**2.10 p.m.**

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1994</b>			
1.	1695/94	Vashti Sankar-Saith vs. Compt. Customs & Excise & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
2.	CA 173/94	Nankissoon Boodram vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	S-883/94	Sharon Pierre vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
4.	800/94	Harridath Balchan vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
5.	S-454/94 CA 66/95	Prakash Dubay vs. Beechan Maharajh Prakash Dubay vs. Bissessar Maharajh	Costs not yet paid
6.	1814/94	Ramsingh Jairam vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
7.	2578/94	Idris Williams & Anor. vs. The Attorney General & Others	Costs not yet paid
8.	CA 51/94	Lincoln A. Guerra vs. The Attorney General & Others	No order as to costs
9.	CA 66/94	Lincoln A. Guerra vs. C. Baptiste & Others	No order as to costs
10.	S-910/94	Fitzroy Marcelle vs. The Attorney General & Others	No order as to costs

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1994</b>			
11.	4128/94	Vashti Sankar Saith vs. The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
12.	2359/94	Arkanson Trading Co. Ltd. vs. The Attorney General	No order as to costs
<b>1995</b>			
1.	S-236/95 CA 142/95	Fabian Pegus vs. The Commissioner of Police & The Attorney General  Fabian Pegus vs. The Commissioner of Police and The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
2.	S-20/95	Peta Mary Bain & Anor. vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	S-835/95	Lystra Gopeland vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
4.	S-495/95	Aliam Mohammed vs. Jules Bernard (COP) & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
5.	S-525/95	Vijai Ramai vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
6.	3374/95	Curtis George vs. The Attorney General & Others	Costs not yet paid
7.	S-581/95	Odai Mathura vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
8.	S-1567/95	Cyracius Liverpool vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
9.	800/94 CA 46/95	Harridath Balchan & Anor. vs. The DPP & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1995</b>			
10.	1097/95	Naresh Boodram & Others vs. The DPP & Others	No order as to costs
<b>1996</b>			
1.	1561/96	David Callele vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
2.	495/96	Nankissoon Boodram vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	1713/96	Lennox Williams vs. The Attorney General & Others	Costs not yet paid
4.	101/96	Lennox Ottway vs. Director of Public Prosecutions & Others	Costs not yet paid
5.	2187/96	TNT News Centre Ltd. & Others vs. The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
6.	280/96	Ronald Rackal vs. Director of Public Prosecutions & Anor.	No order as to costs
7.	4035/96	Ramnarine Maharaj vs. The Attorney General & Anor.	No order as to costs
8.	624/96	Lorris Ballock vs. The Commissioner of Police & Anor.	No order as to costs
9.	5193/96	Dharam Ramlogan vs. The Attorney General & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
10.	CA 65/96	Nankissoon Boodram vs. The DPP & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
11.	CA 17/96	Naresh Boodram & Others vs. The DPP & Anor.	Costs not yet paid
<b>1997</b>			
1.	333/97	Ramraj Kanhai vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1997</b>			
2.	2343/97	Jeffrey Dyett vs. The Commissioner of Police & Others	Costs not yet paid
3.	2344/97	Daniel Bruce vs. The Commissioner of Police & Others	Outstanding
4.	S-58/97	Seechan Ramdeen vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
5.	S-575/97	Azim Alladin vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
6.	S-809/97	Stephen Mahabir vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
7.	S-668/97	Rajkumar Ted Ramkissoo vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
8.	S-976/97	Zorida Khan vs. Eucibio Cooper & Commissioner of Police	Costs not yet paid
9.	S-34/97 1000/97	Patrick Manning vs. The Attorney General & Others	Costs received on 07/06/99 in the sum—\$125,000.00
10.	S-1164/97	Colbert Straker vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
11.	2150/97	Gordon de Gannes & Anor. vs. The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
12.	793/97	Rupert William Phillip vs. The Attorney General & Others	Costs not yet paid
13.	3034/97	Joseph Rojas vs. The Attorney General	No order as to costs

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, in keeping with Standing Order 19(7), questions which have not received an oral answer by 2.15 p.m. should be answered in writing. I direct that the rest of the answer should be given in writing.

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, could I just ask a question? Looking at that Standing Order, I assumed questions not yet answered—

**Mr. Speaker:** We are not doing it like that. It is 2.15 p.m., we have taken enough time on this topic, the time allotted for the answering of questions is up to 2.15 p.m. I am ruling that the rest of the answer should be given in writing, as set out in Standing Order 19(7).

**Mr. Valley:** [*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Speaker:** You could always come into my Chambers and have that clarified. [*Interruption*] I beg your pardon! How dare the Member for San Fernando East suggest that I do not have to carry on like that?

Next item, please.

*Vide end of sitting for written part of answer.*

**DEFINITE URGENT MATTER**

**Siparia Regional Corporation  
(Delayed election of Alderman)**

**Mr. Hedwige Bereaux** (*La Brea*): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 12(1) and (2), I hereby ask leave to move the adjournment of the House at its sitting today, Friday, July 23, 1999, in order to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the failure of the Chief Executive Officer of the Siparia Regional Corporation, Mr. Raman Mahabir, to convene the meeting of the Siparia Regional Corporation for the purpose of electing aldermen of the said corporation.

The matter is definite because it refers to a specific and identifiable failure of the administration, namely the holding and pursuing to its conclusion the requisite meeting provided for in section 13(1) of the Municipal Corporations Act, No. 21 of 1990.

It is urgent because section 13(1)(c) of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1990 provides that:

“...the election of Aldermen shall be held at a meeting of the Council convened for that purpose on the third day next following the day on which the Councillors were elected to office and at this meeting, of which the Chief Executive Officer shall be the chairman, the business to be transacted shall be, *inter alia*:

(c) thirdly, the election of Aldermen.”

At the meeting which was called on July 16, 1999, the chairman adjourned the meeting without completing the election of aldermen and without stating any date upon which the meeting is to be reconvened. Seven days have elapsed and the meeting has not been reconvened nor has any statement been made as to the date when it will be reconvened.

All attempts to locate the Chief Executive Officer/Chairman have proven futile. Neither the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government nor any senior officer of that ministry is able to account for the whereabouts of the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Siparia Regional Corporation.

In the circumstances, the Siparia Regional Corporation has not been able to begin its operation because it is not properly constituted.

This matter is of public importance because the Siparia Regional Corporation is a public one, electors have voted for persons, to wit councillors, to become members of that Corporation and to carry out the legitimate business of those electors and citizens.

Any hindrance to the effective functioning of the Corporation is a frustration of the rights of the people and constitutes a naked attack on democracy.

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to advise the hon. Member that I am not satisfied that this qualifies under Standing Order 12 for emergency debate. However, I advise him that under Standing Order 11, he could give three days’ notice and have the matter raised as a matter in this House for answer by the relevant minister. I so advise.

**PROJECT EXCEL (INC’N) BILL**  
**Select Committee Report**  
**Adoption**

**Dr. Fuad Khan** (*San Juan/Barataria*): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion standing in my name.

*Be It Resolved* that the House adopt the Report of the Special Select Committee appointed to consider and report on a private Bill entitled “An Act for the Incorporation of Project Excel and for matters incidental thereto”.

Mr. Speaker, could I just say a small piece on behalf of Project Excel. Project Excel is a group which has been in existence for a while. They deal with the prevention of drug use rather than rehabilitation. It is a group of dedicated

*Project Excel (Inc'n) Bill*  
[DR. KHAN]

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individuals made up of police officers and other people whose sole design is to prevent the youths of this country from engaging in drug use by telling them of the evils and the consequences of drug use. I would like to pay special mention to two people who impressed me on the executive: they are Ms. Lalsingh and Officer Sharbodie. They give much of their time to help youths in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

*Seconded by Mrs. Eulalie James.*

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report adopted.*

*Question put and agreed to, That the Bill be now read the third time.*

*Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.*

**STATE AGENCIES  
(UNSATISFACTORY AWARD OF CONTRACTS)**

[THIRD DAY]

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question [May 28, 1999]:*

*Be it Resolved*, that the House condemn this Government and the State Agencies for the unsatisfactory manner in which they have awarded contracts and engaged personnel within the last three years. *[Mr. C. Imbert]*

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The Member for Tobago East was the Member who was speaking when this matter was adjourned, and he had utilized some five minutes of his speaking time. I now call upon him to continue.

**The Minister of Tobago Affairs (Dr. The Hon. Morgan Job):** Mr. Speaker, I have to congratulate the Member for Diego Martin East for once again bringing to the public's mind the issue of corruption and, indeed, I have his own words which I shall quote for the benefit of the citizens of this nation and this Government of which I have the honour to be a part. Using the tendering process avoiding bidding to facilitate corruption, he says the Panday Administration is using Cabinet to facilitate the abuse of the public's purse, that Cabinet is the facilitator of corruption and he gave details which I would get into as I proceed.



Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the national community will agree with what is evidently obvious, that Trinidad and Tobago is not a paradise, we do not live in heaven. I have a speech which was delivered sometime in September 1996 and I quote with your leave:

“...Ever since the Spanish invaders arrived in Latin America more than five centuries ago, offering lavish gifts to the local Indian chieftains, corruption has been as integral to daily life as the Spanish language and the Catholic Church.

Corruption has been institutionalized since the conquistadores arrived with one mission: spread Christianity and send us gold, minus ‘any operating expenses’.”

**Mr. Manning:** Quoted from where?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I see here, “*Latin Trade, September 1996, The Other Face of Business in Latin America*”.

Mr. Speaker, I quote that merely to emphasize that I agree with the Member for Diego Martin East that we ought to be very mindful, careful, and diligent in the way we pursue and act on this very important matter of corruption. I am not standing here to presume or pretend that we do not have a real problem on our hands, but in the real world in which I live, it is indeed the myopic man whose world encompasses only Trinidad and Tobago in terms of the panorama of issues with which citizens of this country must necessarily deal. We are a part of the global economy, we are on to the Internet, we have ambassadors abroad, or citizens who travel, live, and do business abroad and, indeed, the influences that come to us are very often sometimes of our own making.

I have heard it said that crack cocaine was invented in Trinidad. I do not know. I know that Trinidadians have invented pan and they beat pan all over the world. The “Roaring Lion” sang calypsoes and called this country the land of the calypso and has influenced people all over the world and, indeed, our carnival is influencing people all over the world. In a similar fashion, Mr. Speaker, the question of corruption is not a local thing, and it did not start three years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we have suffered in this country from that kind of myopia, that kind of moral blindness, that kind of parochial, provincial, partisan peculiarity which prevents us from getting to the genesis and to the bottom of things, thereby we limit ourselves in terms of our potential and our prospects to deal with the matters that haunt us.

Before I sit this afternoon, I would demonstrate to you quite clearly that while the substance of the allegation and the presentation merit our concerns, the methodology, the way it was presented has vitiated, has in fact corrupted it, Mr. Speaker. So therefore, we will now take excerpts from the presentation of the gentleman and I start where he ended. He said on July 12, 1999: the people of this country would have to intervene as the first hurdle to check this gang of people who have been abusing the authority of Cabinet; a gang. Who is going to protect the people of Trinidad and Tobago from the Panday Administration and the Panday gang?

**Mr. Imbert:** Who said that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Member for Diego Martin East, I appeal to you. It is boorish behaviour to be interrupting things like that. Let the Member speak. Let him speak, you would have an opportunity to talk. You may not agree with what he says, but let him speak. It is really childish to be acting like that. If that is intended for the press, it does not really work. Let him speak.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, ever since I came here I have tried my best to use the time I have on my feet to the benefit of the people who sent me here in the first instance, and the people of the country in general. If I would be allowed to continue, the word “gang” in the dictionary which I have in my hands says:

“a group of people who associate together or act as an organized body for criminal or illegal purposes.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to say quite clearly that ever since I came into this Government, I have not associated with anyone for any criminal endeavour, or any criminal purpose. I have not heard it described in my presence. I know of no conspiracy to abuse the authority of the executive for any criminal purpose. So therefore, I take objection to the allegations that I am part of a criminal conspiracy abusing the privilege of Government in Parliament. There are other things which I would go into because the Motion dealt with the question of tendering and before I sit, again I promise you I will quote from the budget speech from the Rt. Hon. Dr. E. Williams, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; a speech which he gave to the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago on Friday, December 1, 1978.

The reason I would do this in the context of this speech is because the question of tendering, implementing projects, the question of serving the public’s interest, of delivering services to people when you have a tendering process that is

a burden on the citizens of this country was dealt with quite elegantly by the then hon. Minister of Finance, Dr. Eric Williams. I know as a matter of fact—because I am a diligent student of Dr. Williams' work—that many of the allegations that have been drawn at his door were not necessarily of his making. I remember one eminent, profound intellectual said, so it is said of him, that you cannot have the 40 thieves without Ali Baba—a reference to Dr. Williams. You know the story of Ali Baba and the 40 thieves. As President Nixon or someone of them said, the buck stops there. So that Williams is blamed for the corruption of many. In fact, as I did say, corruption has been endemic in Latin America as indeed in the world in which we live ever since mankind started walking on two feet. You would find it in the Bible.

If I would be allowed, I am just trying to point out that this issue with which we are dealing is a consequence of the negligence of the hon. Member for San Fernando East, of the delinquency of the Member. The dereliction of responsibility and duty of his party is that they have left this country naked and unprotected from international and endemic corruption. They have built no institutions, they have passed no law, no rule, no regulation. They have nurtured no culture which was subversive to corruption in this country.

It is not true, as the Member for Diego Martin East is alleging, that what you need is a Prime Minister to save this country from corruption. He said it here, I have it here. That is the most preposterous, a most ludicrous, a most absurd conclusion for anyone to draw in the context of the reality that human beings have a nature which is not changed, has not changed, and would never change, that is why we need law. We need law not because we need protection from bad men, we need law to protect us from the good men who would turn bad when they get the opportunity. To be tempted is one thing, to fall, another, and many of us do fall. We become weak in the face of the temptation. That is why we need law.

Mr. Speaker, this document I have here to emphasize what I said when I started, while I agree with the entirety, I agree without reservation with the Member for Diego Martin East that we need to deal with corruption because of its consequences and cost; costs to democracy, liberty, freedom. The potential to subvert the correct order of mankind is so great when we allow corruption to run rampant, that we need to empathize with and support the Member for Diego Martin East and this is what I did. I am supporting him. All I am asserting—and I know before I sit this afternoon, that the audience and the court would agree with me that his argument was irreparably damaging, corrupted, subverted, and vitiated

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[DR. THE HON. M. JOB]

by his concentration and partisan politicking and ignoring the fundamental substance of the issue, which is, that we need to have laws and the institutions and the wherewithal to ensure that those who are corrupt must be brought to justice. You cannot deal with corruption in this country if you are going to look at it as a problem that emerged in Trinidad and Tobago three years ago. That is wildness. That is intellectual irresponsibility, it is chicanery and sophistry.

**Hon. Member:** What is that?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Sophistry. You know like the sophists.

**“The Caracas Convention**

The Inter American Convention Against Corruption

Excerpts of final text adopted in Caracas, March 29, 1996.

ARTICLE III

...the States Parties agree to...create, maintain and strengthen:

4. Systems for registering the income, assets and liabilities of persons who perform public functions in certain posts as specified by law and, where appropriate, for making such registrations public.
5. Systems of government hiring and procurement of goods and services that assure the openness, equity and efficiency of such systems.
8. Systems for protecting public servants and private citizens who, in good faith, report acts of corruption, including protection of their identities...”

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that:

“8. Systems for protecting public servants and private citizens who, in good faith, report acts of corruption, including protection of their identities...”

**2.40 p.m.**

I happen to know that I am part of a Cabinet that is in the process of passing a Bill which came before Cabinet. I cannot remember if it was approved—I think it was approved—dealing with this very same issue. Until that Bill comes to this House, Mr. Speaker, there is no law here. These people were in Government for 34 years. They never thought it fit to do that—never thought so! The Opposition comes in here and talks about “three years ago we started to have corruption in Trinidad”. Three years ago! So, we are going to stop corruption in Trinidad by

going to the “marish and the parish”, from Cedros to Charlotteville, expressing nonsense to innocent children. Some of the calypsonian trade union leaders and poet laureats in the house of PNM—to mischievously, and in the way of the sophists, mislead the minds of the simplicity of the problems and the simplicity of the solutions.

Mr. Speaker, Article VIII again goes on to deal with the question of law and the legal system. I quote:

“Subject to its Constitution and the fundamental principles of its legal system, each State Party shall prohibit and punish the offering or granting, directly or indirectly, by its nationals, persons having their habitual residence in its territory, and businesses domiciled there, to a government official of another State, of any article of monetary value, or other benefit, such as a gift, favor, promise or advantage, in connection with any economic or commercial transaction in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of that official’s public functions.”

Law, getting here as is customary, using Parliament to gallery, informing innocent children that the question of corruption is that we need an honest Prime Minister and, if we get an honest Prime Minister we are not going to have any corruption. That is not true!

Dr. Williams knew that. Dr. Williams complained on sundry occasions. I can stand here in any event and quote page, paragraph after paragraph of Dr. Williams dealing with this question of corruption and the question of institutionalized corruption in Trinidad and Tobago under his stewardship. He complained about that. He put Permanent Secretaries—I do not want to call names to embarrass them—I think one of them is now deceased so I can probably call his name: Eugenio Moore, with the George V Park matter. There are so many others. On the question of corruption, it was perceived as the allegations made.

Mr. Speaker, I am here not to condemn, not to criticize but to encourage the Members from Diego Martin East, West and all the others who want to come here and raise issues of corruption to do so in a manner that is beneficial to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and not in a manner which is going to cloud the issue and prevent us from dealing with it.

Dr. Williams in his 1978 Budget Speech—page 809 on this print out—talks about implementation and the consolidation of projects. At the 17th Annual Convention—this is a note I took, not from this place, but from another place to put here so that I would be able to combine them—Dr. Williams said:

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“We are part of a concern that is widespread over the world: that integrity of persons holding public office ...”

and in a context of

“mounting evidence of corrupt practices.”

Corrupt practices, Mr. Speaker, this is not Job it is not anybody here, it is Dr. Eric Williams: the one and only, the eminent. That band of epigoni sitting there, imitators. Never ever equal. As John the Baptist when he was touching Jesus said: “There comes after me one, the latchet of whose shoes I would not be able to unloose.” *[Interruption]* Mr. Speaker, could we have some decency, some decorum, some order?

That race of epigoni: not understanding that they can no longer afford to merely bask in the sunshine of greatness; that they must reflect their own light and illuminate their own destiny. Unable to do that, they resurrect the dead as often as there is an election; the better to deceive the innocent to believe that their creed and their message is synonymous with, is identical to, is equal to the purposes of that eminent and great, late citizen of this country. This is what Dr. Williams was saying: evidence of corrupt practices in Trinidad and Tobago. It did not start three years ago.

This man—the Member for Diego Martin West—comes here with a motion to deceive the public and to mischievously prevent us from coming together as a common polity to marshal our thoughts, to marshal our efforts and our energies to deal with corruption and corrupt practices in Trinidad and Tobago. One of the most monumental disasters that has ever hit this land is the corruption that was encouraged by the PNM, that has devastated, destroyed thousands of lives. You can sell off a state enterprise, you can close it down or dismember its assets. But, when you destroy a human being through the corruption of government by incompetence and neglect, you destroy a man, his children and his grand children even unto the third and fourth generations.

It is written in Exodus: the sins of the fathers will visit the children, even unto the third and fourth generation to them that hate me. That is what they do, and they did it with eyes wide open. They corrupted the process of textbook writing. They turned it into a—should I say—fountain of filthy lucre. It became—in the hands of these monstrously mischievous distributors of patronage and sinecures—a tool to degrade and injure and to corrupt the lives of thousands of our citizens.

I am quoting from Dr. Williams here:

“This large investment in human resources must be protected. The first attempt at the standard O-Level examinations has resulted in an extraordinarily large failure rate.”

We are talking about corruption from the Latin *corrumpo, corrumpere, corrupti, corruptum*; to spoil, to vitiate, to destroy, to undermine. Corruption we are talking about, Mr. Speaker. He is the one. I quote:

“These schools were not meant to be just another outlet for O-Level and A-Level graduates. They were meant to provide a large element of the technical, commercial and craft resources to support the industrialization programme. Everyone will be aware of the initial difficulties with which students attending these schools were faced: the shift system, delays in getting the schools started, staff problems, students in one end of the country having to attend a school at the other end of the country.”

Poor little dears. The first time they left the little village school, take them from Cedros and carry them 50 miles away: exposed to all the wiles, dangers and vagaries of a country, of a life and of the world. Many of them were destroyed, through no fault of their own, because of the corrupt, neglect and mismanagement and the abuse of power. Talking about the abuse of power, for partisan and particular purposes.

**2.50 p.m.**

Dr. Williams went on in his mourning and pleading:

“But it will be useful to review the situation of both Junior Secondary and Senior Comprehensive Schools...”

That is what you call the non-traditional system:

“and take such corrective action as needed. In pursuit of this, the Government will establish a review team to meet with the Principals of these schools and other interested parties. The team will be headed by Dr. N. Masson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and will consist of:—

—Dr. C. V. Gocking

—Mr. V. Bruce

—Mr. F. Rampersad

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—Dr. A. St. Clair King

—Sr. Francis Xavier

—Dr. Beddoe”

And he gave the terms of reference.

Why am I quoting this in the context of corruption? These people went on, year after year, telling people in a corrupt and deceitful manner, that we were 99 per cent literate. Well, if you go to the prisons or anywhere in this country, there are reports—I have them—done under his government and they tell you that crime, social decay and deviance in this country have to do with the failure of the PNM education system.

Last week, Wendell Mottley who was his Minister of Finance—he could not get along with Wendell Mottley. He was one of my contemporaries. I think he was a year ahead of me at Queen’s Royal College. He was bright and he could not deal with Wendell Mottley, so they had to part company. But Wendell Mottley said the same thing here. He is quoted in both the *Newsday* and the *Guardian*. I have the *Guardian* comment on what Mottley said, that you cannot develop Trinidad and Tobago; you cannot stop crime; you cannot deal with teenage pregnancy; you cannot control AIDS; there is nothing—social morbidity and dysfunction in this country is a direct consequence of PNM neglect; the corruption of the education system.

They come here talking about how the executive in this land has been mischievous in the last three years. When I heard the Member of long-standing this afternoon talking about the Member for St. Augustine, that the problem which arose at the National Flour Mills with the purchase of rice from India had to do with O’Halloran, who died a long time ago, it tells me that this Government has now given up the ghost in providing any credible defence for its own misconduct.

I want to link that with another statement he made here concerning the Miss Universe contest when he said that we do not have any benefits from the Miss Universe contest. What I am trying to point your mind and the minds of Members of this honourable House to, Mr. Speaker, is the misunderstanding. I said the cause was not properly presented; the cause was vitiated; the cause has been damaged; the cause is fatally flawed, because it was so partisan and so parochially and provincially stated, that the substantial message and issue was lost in a swamp of rhetoric and prolix. That is what I am saying.



So when we talk about the Miss Universe thing not giving any result; Mr. Speaker, a man has sex with a woman; nine months after, you get a baby. There is what is called a gestation period. There is antecedent. Nine months after that child is born, you feed it well and care for it good by giving it doctor's medicine, good bush and things like that, it lives. Eleven years after, you get a bright Common Entrance child going into Form I and if you give it care and treat it well, another 15 years after that, you get somebody who is an engineer, a doctor or something like that. [*Interruption*] There is a question in the world. Everybody knows about it. Time! Why do you not be patient and understand? Be patient and understand and you will be wise. Paul said—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please!

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Paul, in his perambulations through the old and ancient world, used to tell people; it can be read it in Acts. [*Interruption*] “I am credible because I sat at the feet of Gamaliel.” Why do you not sit at the feet of a master and listen? You will learn something. [*Desk thumping*]

**Dr. Rowley:** You went for nine months or 14 months? Imagine, somebody carried you for nine months.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am saying that this argument here does not have substance because it is bereft of the understanding of how institutional viability is an explanation for much that you see in the real world. It did not happen three years ago; it takes time for things to gestate and, indeed, the institutional character and culture prevails.

When you talk about the Ministry of Works and Transport—he spoke about that—that you should not give the Minister of Local Government anything to do with respect to fixing schools. He does not understand the question of institutional character and inertia, that if you have three weeks to go to Common Entrance and there is something to do, before you go through the procedures, processes and the whole behemoth, like the Ministry of Works and Transport, you might better serve the interests of children by having a methodology that would deliver in quick time. Therefore, that was done.

Dr. Williams had the problem and many people do not understand because they do not read. In other words, the Member for San Fernando East was part of a process to push us backward to make us a preliterate society, so that people do not read anymore and it serves them well, because when people do not read, they do

not have a frame of reference; they do not think logically; they are animated and moved by mere raw, naked passion. Feelings; that is the foundation and the resource of allocating a fascist man.

**Mr. Valley:** Especially now with the one book, the same book.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, could I appeal that we distinguish between platform or street corner jibes and the Parliament, the highest court of the land. Please.

**Mr. Bereaux:** We need a bipartisan, impartial judge.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I do not find a great deal of favour with the editors who report from Parliament, otherwise the public would understand what is going on here, every time I get up to speak.

Dr. Williams went on to say, in complaining about implementation, about methods of sourcing international financing:

“...and, most important of all, of having in place, procedures for accountability and firm commitments for investments and public capital works that will avoid any possibility of ‘squandermania’ or corruption.”

In retrospect, we have to sympathize with the good man because his intentions were in the right place but, apparently, I say this with great trepidation, not with the timorousness that characterized the presentation of the Member for Diego Martin West, not with the rashness of that Member, that Dr. Williams apparently did not understand what I am trying to say here, that institutional culture and the inertia that goes with it, is something that governments must necessarily deal with, and you deal with that in a political way, by bringing the public to understand these things.

Dr. Williams went on to explain what he was talking about under the heading “New Approaches to Implementation” and one of the consequences coming out of this was the government to government arrangement. It is all here; the reason for the government to government arrangement was because Dr. Williams was frustrated that he could not get the tendering process to work.

“It is easy to propose that there be greater dependence on local consultants and contractors.”

And, by implication, the tendering process.

“What is not easy is to persuade these consultants to remove the rigidity that now is basic to their fee structure.”

He went on to explain that the tendering process apparently is not working. He said:

“Here is a partial summary of the response to invitations to tender in respect of such national priority areas as housing, water, health and roads.

Public Notice calling for tenders

- (1) Flats to Port of Spain and San Fernando—one tender received
- (2) Decanting centres in San Fernando—one tender received
- (3) Housing in Mootoo Lands, Arima—one tender received
- (4) Testing Station, Valsayn—one tender received
- (5) Renovation of St. Augustine Reservoir—one tender received.

Selective Tendering

- (1) Housing of John John Fire Victims—3 firms invited—no tender received”

Apparently, they always have fire victims in John John.

- “(2) Construction and repairs of garbage chutes in San Fernando—3 firms invited—no tender received
- (3) Town Houses in Diamond Vale—10 firms invited—one tender received
- (4) Construction of hard surface courts’ fixtures—7 firms invited—one tender received...

In this record Tobago, as always, had the roughest time. One contractor has advised that he would not be prepared to work in Tobago under any conditions.”

Dr. Williams went on and he was building up his case to alert the public that if you want to deliver service, you must have alternative methodologies to this question of the Central Tenders Board. It is here. I did not write this; I did not listen to his speech; I was not around at the time, Mr. Speaker.

He went on to give examples:

“But consider the facts in respect of one such successful bidder, where the tenderer obviously proceeded to recruit his staff after he won the contract. Of 61 people recruited, only 16 had prior experience with the firm; only 3 had prior experience in the type of project involved; only 33 had prior experience

in a similar position; in the key construction group only 3 out of 26 had previous experience with the successful firm; seven key positions were vacant. The contract was eventually and inevitably terminated.”

Dr. Williams asked the question:

“What, then, are the solutions?”

Next line, government to government arrangement.

Where does the Central Tenders Board come into government to government arrangements? That is Dr. Williams, because when the Member for Diego Martin West is regaling the country and seeking to poison the minds with his sophistry that the elixir, the solution to all our problems and delivering services is to follow his methodology, which Dr. Williams agreed at that time was so bad, and when the Member for St. Augustine was a Minister of Works and Transport, he himself said so, that in order to get the drains cleaned, he had to develop alternative methodology and, subsequently, came to Parliament to have the Central Tenders Board Regulations revised in Parliament in order to backdate, or to validate, after the fact, what was done.

Mr. Speaker, I am going through all this because I want the citizens of this country to understand that this Parliament, while it is legitimate so to do, must never be allowed without a contest—and as long as I am standing here, I will do everything in my power to ensure that this abuse of people’s intelligence by these sophistical arguments are met with a correct and proper challenge. That is what I am here for. It is not sufficient to get up and say that this Government is corrupt; there is a gang over here; they are “tiefing” money and three years after, everybody is talking about corruption in this country. No. It ought not to be allowed to go without challenge.

While I am on that subject about the institutional rigidity and the question that we must have law, you do not go and tell people; you do not get up in Parliament—it is here in his presentation—and say that you want a Prime Minister and he said that Chambers stopped the Caroni Racing Complex, so the PNM was against corruption.

I want to emphasize without ambiguity in the most clear language that I can, that is not even sophistry; that is public mischief; because when the little children hear this kind of thing, it is like listening to some calypsonian who bought a song. He does not know what he is singing and little children who do not know better—

because that is the way children learn—they internalize the rubbish and nonsense as if, in fact, it is true and, in the same way, I am asserting, clearly, that it is public mischief to get up here to lead the minds of innocent people to believe that the way to deal with corruption is to have a good Prime Minister. It does not work that way and I am going to quote a bit of Shakespeare because I like Shakespeare.

### 3.05 p.m.

People have corrupted and undermined the education system. Mr. Speaker, most people who are alive now and are less than 40 years, who did not go to school in my or your day, cannot read Shakespeare, they do not understand it. I used to read Shakespeare in primary school because it was in the textbook, so that the methodology that the gentleman is pointing our minds to is captured by this Shakespearean. I think this is from *Measure for Measure*:

"My unsoil'd name,  
the austereness of my life,  
My vouch against you and my place i' the state,  
Will so your accusation overweigh, that you shall stifle in your own report  
And smell of calumny."

Angelo said that in the book, *Measure for Measure*.

The Duke went away and left Angelo, a trusted and loyal servant, to run the state and he tried to seduce this little girl whose brother he had condemned to death. The charming, little girl came in to plead for the brother's life and the Duke got infatuated; his mortal and carnal nature overwhelmed him. When the girl understood what was going on she said, "If you rape me, if you try to make any exchanges with me for my life, I will tell people." The Duke told her, "Nobody is going to believe you, I am the respectable man, everybody understands me; who are you to go against me, who knows you?" This is the point of this great man and this good man: you must have law, institutions, regulations. The People's National Movement neglected—they do not even understand it.

If you get up in Parliament and say that Mr. Chambers was a good man, and he stopped the racing complex, and that what you need on this side is a good Prime Minister who is going to stop corruption, you are crazy. It is either you are crazy or you are indulging in public mischief. [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The speaking time of the Member for Tobago East has expired.

*Motion made*, that the hon. Member's speaking time be extended by 30 minutes. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, "if dey tief dey tief" sounds like a calypso, maybe next year we will see some other people in the tents; Lord Baldhead, perhaps. I am not given to calling people's name. "Their own misconduct, shame and misbehaviour in office." [*Crosstalk*] "Siphoning off the state's resources in their private pockets." We have Venezuela next door as an example of what happens in a country. I am going back to where I started when I said that I agreed with the Member for Diego Martin West that no efforts must be spared, no time is too precious, no opportunity ought to be neglected, for us to do what we must do to deal with corruption in this country. I am saying in this that—because Dr. Williams recognized it—every decent citizen in this country—

Mr. Speaker, this Government has done such yeoman service to the citizens of this country; look at the Ramdhanie enquiry. What is that telling us about corruption? That enquiry is still going on so I cannot give any details because I do not want to vitiate the legal process. What that enquiry is telling us is that we have this monstrous problem which did not start three years ago. He is talking about three years ago. These policemen who were recommended to be fired, censored and locked up, by one of the members of the commission, did not get into the police service three years ago! Dole Chadee did not start a monstrous apparatus of murder three years ago, he was incarcerated five years ago. This Government was not in power then!

I understand that the Member for San Fernando East came in here and boasted—I heard him myself—that it was under his regime that Dole Chadee was locked up. I do not know if he was the Prime Minister now whether Dole Chadee would be where he is today, that is a matter of conjecture. It is a metaphysical question, but I do not think it is a metaphysical question devoid of merit. [*Laughter*] Therefore, everywhere you look, everywhere you turn, you are seeing the consequences of the abandonment of executive responsibility, the lack and delayed consequences of PNM mischief, the mephistophilian damage they did to institutions and of the culture they created that supported, nurtured and nourished corruption in this country! The facts are there, abundant and clear!

When he said, "if dey build the airport, good, build the airport, that will be a monument to UNC corruption". Imagine that! When you go through the *Hansard* you can see the admissions of the monuments to PNM corruption that exist all over this country. Mr. Speaker, if you go to the jails in this country most of the people there are monuments to PNM corruption, abandonment, delinquency and neglect, if not in deed, of egregious ignorance; that is what you see!

They do not even understand what they mean by "symbol". A symbol is a word, a picture or a thing. Man is a symbol-making creature. A gesture could be a symbol. If you do that [*gesture of passing the hand under the neck*] somebody might interpret it to mean that you are going to kill somebody. Do you understand that, Mr. Speaker? A symbol, a gesture. So when you are using these words so capriciously and carelessly—you know the old parable which says that when you point a finger four will turn at you; think about that. Think carefully about how you use language, because very often you are condemning your own self by your own words.

Do not say, "Mr. Speaker, when I tell you that the Prime Minister is leading a band of thugs in and out of Government, they are raiding the Treasury and removing the protection of the people to facilitate corruption, these are the facts as recorded in the documents of Trinidad and Tobago." Apparently, the implication is that the documents of Trinidad and Tobago started three years ago, because that is his Motion here, "within the last three years." So we have documents here going back into the 19th Century, there are the National Archives and all places like that.

There are all kinds of corruption: Caura corruption, Caura Dam corruption, Gene Miles and the gas station racket, and he himself admitted to O'Halloran. We have to be informed by the facts. We cannot be informed by the facts about corruption and start looking at the facts from three years ago! What kind of narrow-minded, insufficient allegation is that? What of kind of spurious construction can that be, when the focus of this Parliament ought to be on doing those things, constructing those laws, those institutions, attitudes, and patterns of behaviour that would serve the public good, that will serve as an instruction to the youth, as a guide to those who are not already old perhaps, in years, in months, in corruption; we have to do that.

We have to use the law as a task master, a railroad, a guide, a map to moral behaviour, that is why you have Leviticus and Manu. That is why the ancient Greeks invented law. If you go to Nigeria, the Congo or ancient Egypt, there are

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books of laws. Failing in understanding, they come in here and say, "What we need is a good Prime Minister!" Do they want a good Prime Minister who will go to Hong Kong and say he fire a fella so that he will promote him? That is the kind of person they want to stop corruption! Why did he fire the man? "Well, I wanted to give him a bigger job." He has not gotten the bigger job as yet. He wanted to lock up a lady so he closed down the whole country! If you were outside you could not get back on your estate; that was my fate. That is the good man to stop corruption!

We have a school system turning out illiterates by the tens of thousands, everybody knows that, but the good man tells us that we are 98 per cent literate and Morgan Job goes on the radio and says, "If we are, indeed, 98 per cent literate, then the other two per cent has to be in the Cabinet!" Everybody knows that the most fatally flawed institution in this country, was the Ministry of Education under the PNM; that is what we are burdened by now and suffering from. Wendell Mottley knows that. It is a pity that he did not know it when he was close to the Member for San Fernando East in his Cabinet. If he had known it then and had listened to me then, as Paul did at the feet of Gamaliel, he would have heard me crying as John in the wilderness, pleading with them, "Please, please, refocus your mind, reorder your priorities, so that you will treat with the pain, the anguish, and hurt of the little black boys and girls who have been put in jeopardy, to great disadvantage and their prospects ruined by the PNM!" That is what we have to deal with in this country.

There is nothing wrong with anybody in Laventille, except for the corruption that cost them resources which were misallocated. When they thought they were doing them good, they harmed them by setting up systems and signals that canalized the mind, attitude and behaviour in certain perverse directions, that lead us to understand the full meaning of the Greek word, "pyrric" as in "pyrric victory".

We saw them in the oil-boom days "gallerying" with ineffable hubris! Where are they now, Mr. Speaker? How are the mighty fallen! Where are they now? Yet they come here "gallerying", as if we must forget these instruments of destruction that they have manufactured; the people who they claim to care for, those they claim to love! Corruption, Mr. Speaker! [*Interruption*] I gave you the Latin origin, do you want to hear it again? [*Crosstalk*]

Do you understand, Mr. Speaker? They do not seem to appreciate that when you come into Parliament and talk these things: "How many nurses will \$100



million pay? The average annual budget for medicine in this country for all the hospitals is approximately \$50 million. If this was a singular event we could have said that it was a full moon fantasy approved of by my friend from St. Augustine, but it is not that. It is the permanent pattern of behaviour of the UNC Government. Nobody is saying that the tendering process is perfect, but it is the protection against wanton corruption. It is the avenue by which we get the best price and value for Government money”.

Mr. Speaker, we have this absolutely, amazing statement by the hon. Member for Diego Martin West that "the purpose of government is to spend money". Have you ever heard anything more preposterous, ludicrous, absurd, otiose and out of place? The purpose of government is to spend money well! No, no, no! Government was instituted among men. We have a Constitution in order to direct the relationship between citizen and citizens, in matters that have to do with property, morals, and how you arrange your family; all the multifarious aspects of life in our sphere of existence; that is what you have government for. The Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago did not originate merely because the people and citizens of this country knew that they had to spend money. Where from comes this crazy doctrine that I read in this contribution, that one of the most important things any government can do is to handle public money?

I quote from the Member for Diego Martin West:

"I thank him most sincerely for the clarification which he has provided on the matter before us, which has to do with the Motion calling on this House to voice its objection to the way this Government has gone about handling the public moneys...the most important function for which people elect members of a government, is largely to manage money."

They are only thinking about money! Man shall not live by bread alone, Mr. Speaker! That is the problem here: too many little children believe that this life, this existence, is about money, and when they hear it from Members of Parliament that the reason you have government is to spend money, many of them go around saying, "You did not give me a 10-days, so I must sell marijuana." "I did not get a 10-days so I must sell cocaine." "What do you want me to do?" "Do you want me to stay hungry and dead, I have no money so I must go and be a drug mule!"

**3.20 p.m.**

That is because they are being instructed by these kinds of rubbish, Mr. Speaker. Nonsense! They did not have a Constitution here—we did not put Mr.

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Ellis Clarke and all these wise men who walked up and down this country with a Constitution Commission—so that we might spend money and spend it well. What kind of madness is this, Mr. Speaker?

This is the presentation I am quoting from here:

“...the most important function for which people elect...”

Which people? PNM people. It cannot be the people from Tobago East. My mother did not tell me that. My father did not tell me that. I did not read that in the *Bible*, Mr. Speaker. I was reading it since I was a little boy and I did not read that there. In *Leviticus*, the book of laws you read it there. *Deuteronomy* talks about how to run a government. The *Book of Kings* says all of that.

“Man shall not live...”

Then:

“All these things will I give thee...”

when Jesus was taken up into the mountain and shown the kingdoms of the world and all the riches and all the wealth and he said:

“All these things”

money:

“will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Member will give way—

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I will not. I do not have much time left. I will not give way. Money, Mr. Speaker; it is of profound importance that we understand—*[Interruption]*. You did not wait until I finished my sentence. Mr. Speaker, it is of profound importance that we understand—listen to the clause—that the purpose of government has more to do with ethics and morals, living according to law, than merely to manage money. You cannot go and tell children that because what you do is to create a race of monsters—as indeed we have people who will kill you for a pair of sneakers. You have these little primary school children robbing each other and taking away pocket money because money, money, money—again listening to the Member for Diego Martin West; the most important thing is money. You understand?

Mr. Speaker, this presentation, as I said, is suffused with contradictions, it is replete with ideas that deflect from the substance of its principal argument. It is

internally contradictory. It is indeed oxymoronic. *[Interruption]* Wait until I am dead, “nah”, and then say, you know, this is a “Jobism”. I know it will come, you know, with your help. The argument, the topic, the subject matter I am in agreement with because this is the purpose of Parliament.

Parliament is here to attend to the honest and just grievances and even those that are not so honest and just, because if you were to say that Parliament must necessarily be an inquisitor, Parliament must be some board of censorship, I do not think that will serve the public purpose. I think every legitimate grievance that every citizen brings is good for Parliament, so I have absolutely no problem with collaborating with the Member for Diego Martin West, the Member for San Fernando East, the Member for Diego Martin Central, all of them, individually and collectively, in the national quest to unburden ourselves from systems that very often were not created by the PNM.

The PNM came and met a lot of these things here as indeed I quoted from this gentleman who said since the Spaniards came down here they met corruption. And if you read the Ramayan, you read Kautilya, the Arthashastra, the *Bible* and all the ancient documents and spend the time that I have spent you will glean from them the understanding—*[Interruption]*—of course, I started with the *Kama Sutra*—you would glean from all of them the essential substance, what you would call in German, the leitmotiv. The essential and necessary reason for government has to do with regulating the behaviour of man to man in a polity.

It is why Plato said in *The Republic* that man is a political animal and when you read on the rest of the sentence he says man is the only animal who will make laws and live under a government. People who do not do that, you understand—this statement that you made here and which is written in the records is mischievous, Mr. Speaker. It is deceitful, insubstantial, sophisticated and dedicated to partisan, parochial and provincial purposes. It has no necessary message except to canalize emotions and mobilize the minds of people who are responsive to sloganeering and not to thinking, to believe that corruption started in Trinidad three years ago and therefore if we have a good man sitting there, if we have a good man as Prime Minister at the head of the Cabinet table, our problems will be solved. It would not be done that way, Mr. Speaker.

I looked through the speech. I read it through and through. I tried to get something in the nature of a recommendation. You know, Mr. Speaker, we live in a society and a country where it is evident that one of the reasons we have not

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achieved more, one of the reasons we have achieved so little with so much that has been bequeathed to us is that the leadership has lived according to the principles enunciated in this presentation. They have glibly and mischievously used the emotions of the masses to carry them to their mountain top of power and, having reached the summit and crowned themselves in glory, proceeded to throw the scraps and the bones from the table to those same people and left them in dereliction, in a swamp of squalor.

That is what we see in this country today. After 34 years of PNM rule we do not have a single law, a single rule, a single regulation as recommended by this—what is the paper I was reading; not a rule recommended to end corruption or to reduce it. You cannot end it because as long as you have people around, you are going to have corruption. The Caracas Convention of the Inter American Convention against Corruption—corruption is not a Trinidad problem.

There is an organization called Transparency International that was set up by somebody who used to work at the World Bank. I read from the Internet one of the pronouncements which said Nigeria and India are always competing to see who is going to be the number one most corrupt country in the world. Venezuela next door is somewhere high up, maybe number three, four or five. You come to this Parliament to mislead little children into believing that if we put a good man there—where is this good man? Mr. Speaker, none of us: we are all flawed and fall short of the glory. If he is not honest enough to understand that we are mere mortals, and when Shakespeare said, to be tempted is one thing, to fall is another, he is speaking to every one of us here. I understand that.

This is why I want to encourage everybody to join with the Member for Laventille East/Morvant and the Member for Diego Martin West to collaborate in this noble purpose that has been abandoned and neglected by the Member for San Fernando East who thought that he was the greatest gift to mankind after Machiavelli. He thought so, you know, and still thinks so. A few seats in a local government election will energize his hubris to heights unimaginable. I know it. I can sense it. I can sense the aura and the panache. I can feel it in the air. I feel it like a miasma enveloping me. Do you understand me, Mr. Speaker?

Focus your mind on justice. You know that you read the *Bible* and claim that you go to church as often as you can. You remember when in the book of Amos he said, “let justice roll down like the waters of righteousness, like an ever flowing stream”. That is what we are dealing with here. We want to set up those

rules. Amos was talking because he was standing on the firm foundation of laws that were there and were ancient which the kings, high priests and people of Judah were violating. He said that those laws and that justice was for everybody. There were poor people in Judah when Amos was talking. You do not think so?

When Jeremiah was about the world there were poor people. They had rich, they had high, they had kings, they had priests and there was separation of powers too. All of that was there. I have read it, studied it diligently, and they all understood when they said righteousness and justice, they meant dealing with the laws that applied equally to high and mighty, to poor and lowly. That is what we are about. We are not about here to come and fool people, to tell people corruption began three years ago. You understand. That it is not what we are here for.

Deceitfully misusing the emotions, the shame and anguish of people who perceive that the ambience and the environment in which they live is one where—remember last year when I told these journalists that since Mr. Panday became Prime Minister I have read more rubbish than I have ever read in my life in Trinidad about Indian this and Indian that and Hindu this and Hindu that. These kinds of attitudes have created a kind of distress and distrust and uneasiness which is easily exploited by people who try to tell people, “Look, you see dem fellas, since dey come into power all dey doing is t'iefin'.”

When you do statistics—you are a geologist you must have done some statistics—you will see that it is association. Association is not causation, you know. [*Interruption*] I do not know. We did not do the same test so I do not know how you can claim that you know more than me. I suspect that you will learn a few things if you associate with me but that is another matter. Association is not causation; you understand. So that even if indeed there were certain political changes which took place three years ago and even if indeed we live in a society where we have inherited certain attitudes, certain cultures, certain institutions, there is no necessity logically to say, as is being asserted in this presentation, that it all began three years ago. It did not.

You are subverting truth and this prevents people from coming to a reasoned and reasonable conclusion concerning what we must do, what we ought to do, what we have neglected to do and what you have neglected to do. That is the mission of this Parliament. It is the mission of everyone sitting there. We have to do that collectively.

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That textbook racket where you have—you know, yesterday a policeman told me he went to buy a book for his son and then they say you have to buy the updated version. So he is looking at these two books. What is on page 8 in the updated version for which he has to pay more money is on page 6 in the older one. You understand.

That is what they were doing. These people supervised that racket ever since they came into power sometime after 1956 or 1962. They are spreading out among their friends hundreds of millions, perhaps billions of dollars, and in the process the children of this country became more “duncy”, more stupid, more illiterate, more innumerate and they became less competitive with the countries of the world.

I went back to my village and was asking my peers—I met my cousins who returned home from abroad—we were in class together. I said, “Winston, Purcell, did you know anybody in our time who could not read or who could not write?” None of them said “yes”. Some of us could have written more than others but everybody could read and write. My mother and father if you see them write you would think they went to university. I used to teach at university and the most agonizing time was correcting people's test papers. You cannot read what they wrote.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

These people have come to this country, imposed themselves just like an Abacha regime, like a junta, and destroyed thousands of children with their corruption of all the institutions of the state. They corrupted the police service. When the British were here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have family, about seven or eight first cousins and near cousins who are policemen and I remember there is one of them, my uncle's son, when he wanted to join the service I had to give him a recommendation. I had to talk to people. There were all these kinds of arrangements. In those days you had to get the head-teacher to give a certificate; the priest had to give a recommendation in order to join the police service. These people came and scrapped all that and instead put people in the police service who committed all kinds of rape and crimes, give them gun and things like that, undermining the whole institution.

Dole Chadee built up his gang here when the Prime Minister was an African descended person. Let us talk about all of that. They are saying three years ago when a certain set of people came here the corruption started. The Prime Minister was looking like Job; he was an Afro-Trinidadian. The Commissioner of Police

was Randolph Burroughs. I did not think that his ancestors—all of them or some of them might have come from Calcutta or somewhere but not all of them.

You can go on like that, all police, everything and Dole Chadee built a monstrosly efficient killing machine in this country under the eyes and nose and teeth of all these people with impunity. I am saying that because the institutions of the state, Mr. Deputy Speaker—*[Interruption]*

*[Mr. K. Valley rose]*

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am not giving way.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Member for Diego Martin Central, order, order. Member for Tobago East—*[Interruption]*

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** My sincere apologies, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but you know I am being interfered with from that side.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** One should not be interfered with from such a distance.

**Mr. Valley:** Tell him that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** You are given one more minute to wind up.

**3.35 p.m.**

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, they do not understand what they are about when they use words like “corruption”. The Motion was not about corruption. The Motion was about everything to do with the tendering process. They spent the whole hour and a half talking about corruption and then when I am dealing with corruption in all its forms, giving a synoptic inventory of all the episodes of corruption in which these people indulged in this country, the institutions that they corrupted, the minds they depravely destroyed and subverted—I told them *corrumpo, corrumpere, corrupti, corruptum*—they do not understand these things. Corruption!

The meaning of the word is very wide. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I have made my case properly. I rest my case to the audience of this country that the Motion as moved was a proper Motion, it dealt with a proper purpose, but the whole argument was vitiated and flawed by nonsense, pettiness, stupidity and conundrums that I cannot unravel.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. *[Desk thumping]*

**Mr. Jarette Narine** (*Arouca North*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support this Motion on the Order Paper by the Member of Parliament for Diego Martin East which says here:

BE IT RESOLVED that the House condemn this Government and the State Agencies for the unsatisfactory manner in which they have awarded contracts and engaged personnel within the last three years.

Apparently, it is the last three and a half years. We have sat here for 75 minutes and heard nothing of contracts according to this Motion. We have heard a lot of talk about how Dr. Williams was a good man—having said every time he got up here since he got into Parliament that Dr. Williams was the worst person who ever came to Trinidad and Tobago. Today I am satisfied that Dr. Williams came here on time to have the Minister and all of us educated through the PNM! *[Desk thumping]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister actually insults all of his colleagues on that side who have an education today and can credit the People's National Movement. Apparently, the Member for Tobago East never read the report of the Auditor General. This is what I thought he would have come here today and dealt with—the last report of the Auditor General. I am amazed that this is the same person who is speaking about Indians and Africans today, because he said that the Indian people in this country were the most ignorant people on the face of the earth!

**Mr. Bereaux** He said that?

**Mr. J. Narine:** He said that! Mr. Deputy Speaker, Trinidad and Tobago has anti-corruption laws imbedded in our Constitution—laws in Trinidad and Tobago to deal with corruption, but what has been happening is that the Minister is agreeing that they are corrupt and is trying to make it known that PNM caused that. Like the Member for St. Augustine a month ago was the laughing stock of Trinidad and Tobago to say that Johnny O'Halloran was involved in the rice transaction coming from India for \$30 million. We caused that!

The Member for Tobago East stands here today and says that the Prime Minister cannot stop corruption. The Prime Minister is the leader of his Cabinet and the leader of the Government. That could not have happened under the Member of Parliament for San Fernando East when the PNM was in control! *[Desk thumping]* What has happened during the last three and a half years is that every Minister here can do what he wants and it is okay with the Member for Couva



North. "We only have five years and we only have one more year to go. Go ahead and enjoy yourselves. Next year we will deal with that."

The Minister has to tell some of his colleagues on that side about Exodus. According to one fellow, he said like apparently it is All Stars or Desperadoes. Exodus is in the *Bible*. The sins of these people will follow them up to the third and fourth generations. The sins have now started to fall on them. Ask the Member for Arima how two Mondays ago his sins fell on him! Ask the Member for Point Fortin how his sins fell on him! [*Desk thumping*] And it still has to go to the third and fourth generations. This is why the Member for Tunapuna and myself are still on this side, and soon to be on that side.

Can one believe that he blamed the PNM for this entire situation in the country today, and we have progressed a long way since 1956? A 10-year old in 1986 is now 23 years old. He was ready for an education in the same system we left—the common entrance. Forget the bad books and corruption, but a 5-year old at that time, now entering primary school, is today 18 years old! He got his education there!

**Dr. Griffith:** You could count?

**Mr. J. Narine:** I could count better than you. I do not know where you got your certificates. The people are asking that in Arima. [*Laughter*] Mr. Deputy Speaker, is this the same Member of Parliament for Tobago East who worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and did not report for duty for three years but got paid for it? Is this the same Member of Parliament, when I worked at the Ministry, brought produce every Friday to sell on working time in the Ministry—pork and other things? Yet he is talking about corruption today, going all over the place and not dealing with the Motion on the agenda?

**Hon. Member:** What about the loan?

**Mr. J. Narine:** Forget the loan. I do not know if he repaid it yet, but that was made available to him by the PNM—a caring Government. Today he can talk fart here about education in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Dr. Nanan:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On what point of order?

**Dr. Nanan:** Improper motive. Standing Order 36(5).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I will have to overrule that.

**Mr. J. Narine:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If they could blame anybody and blame the PNM for not having a proper education system, it is proven by the Member for Tobago East and the Member for Tabaquite. [*Desk thumping*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Standing Order 36(5) might not be correct, but 36(4) is what we are looking at here now: insulting words, lack of education and calling the members' names will not be permitted.

**Mr. Bereaux:** Lack of education is a normal thing.

**Mr. J. Narine:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do not have to use insulting language in Parliament. They have gone all over the country and done it. It is important that people know that the People's National Movement, since 1956, has created systems in this country where we did not have this type of corruption that is taking place today under this UNC regime, having broken off from the NAR.

The Member for Tobago East says that today he belongs to this Government, having won his seat on an NAR ticket. No wonder persons in Tobago are dissatisfied with him and his. We will deal with that in a couple of months. We are here to deal with an issue raised by the Member of Parliament for Diego Martin East in that over the last three and a half years—I would like to extend it—we have had a Government that does not follow the financial regulations, does not follow the laws of Trinidad and Tobago, and I am going to point out some of these instances.

It was really clear in 1996 when I took up the newspaper one day and saw that they were stale-dating cheques in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. The Minister never answered that question when it was raised here. UNC party groups were to collect cheques at the Ministry. I raised that matter here. They were going to be stale-dated and they had an advertisement in the newspapers asking them to collect their cheques before the six-month period should expire. Two cheques—their quoted numbers are in the *Hansard*—that two UNC party groups were to collect at the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. That alone tells that this was the action that was going to take place over the next five years.

I am saying today that my colleagues have dealt with all the national corruption that is taking place, like the National Flour Mills. Do not mind that the DPP says there is no fraud in NFM, but we are \$30 million poorer. Do not mention Piarco, Maritime Life Insurance—\$52 million to a private company to bail them out of some situation up in Balandra—

**Hon. Partap:** National Fisheries!

**Mr. J. Narine:** Do not interfere with me. The Member went to Cumuto junction and cursed the people on a microphone for elections. Stay quiet! He is not fit to represent the people. My family reported to me that he is obscene and there is a bag man who lives in Cumuto in his Ministry. We will deal with that another time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the first time that a Government bought old buses for the people of Trinidad and Tobago and spent \$30 million for storage. Those things are known to the general public of Trinidad and Tobago. Do not talk about the pageant business! This beauty contest was held in Trinidad, I think that my colleagues—

**Dr. Griffith:** Did you go?

**Mr. J. Narine:** I went to see what was taking place. I sat on the chairs that were rented for \$1 million and they cost \$800,000 to build. I sat on those chairs that were advertised for sale and the rest have gone to the Centre of Excellence for FIFA to pay again. I sat on them, but I also know what took place because Doc Engineering did the chairs. They tendered for the contract to build the chairs, but they got it through the back door. Somebody who does not even have a hacksaw blade got it. That is the situation here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will deal first with some of the small things taking place, that when we add them up, they can compare to the Piarco scandal, the book fiasco, NFM and most of the road building that is done in Trinidad. Maybe I might talk about that when I get there along with the Mosquito Creek situation where the Minister was building a rubble drain to stop the sea water from coming in. I will first deal with the Auditor General's Report.

**3.50 p.m.**

I would like to turn to page 78 of the Auditor General's Report where it starts with the Arima Borough Corporation which states:

“8.06 A cash book and a Daily Abstract of Revenue were not produced for audit.”

under the Unspent Balance:

“The amount of \$341,363.00 was released to this Corporation on 1998 September 30 to meet expenditure on projects during the period of account

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1998 January 01 to 1998 September 30. The amount was received by the Corporation on 1998 October 09. As at 1999 February, this unspent balance was not deposited with the Comptroller of Accounts as required. Paragraph 8.04 refers.”

What I am saying is during this period, the Minister of Local Government issued instructions to the Arima Borough Corporation stating that the accounts are to be removed and they are to be placed under specific persons and this came from Kent House, Maraval. I have the correspondence here with the Minister’s signature, which states quite clearly:

“I am to inform you that by virtue of the powers vested in me as the Minister of Local Government by section 269 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1990, I have undertaken the following decisions with the view to ensuring that the policy objectives of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, with respect to the operations of the Unemployment Relief Programme are met without any disruption by the executing agency, the Arima Borough Corporation.”

This is what they are speaking about. The Minister of Local Government went on to say:

“In reference to these objectives the Town Clerk and Treasurer is hereby authorized:

- (1) To open a Bank Account in the name of the Town Clerk and Treasurer; Arima Corporation;
- (2) The Bank Account shall be designated Unemployment Relief Programme for the Arima Borough Corporation;
- (3) To transfer the said account of any existing balances from the previous designated Unemployment Relief Programme;
- (4) The authorized signatories to the accounts shall be the Town Clerk and Treasurer and the Accountant II as main signatories.”

**Mr. Singh:** That is normal.

**Mr. J. Narine:** Normal what! There is an elected body in Arima but the Minister went about doing this, so that he is responsible today when the Auditor General is saying that his Ministry—

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I say, the Auditor General's Report, which was laid recently from January to September of last year, is actually telling us that this is the worst Government that ever came into being and did not follow the financial regulations and so on which are recorded in this report.

The newspaper quite rightly went ahead and published one of the headlines: "Where the \$\$ gone?" because throughout the Auditor General's Report for this year and last year it indicated that none of the unspent balances in most of the corporations went back to the Consolidated Fund.

So that you will have a headline like this in the *Independent* dated Friday, May 28, 1999, and I was not surprised because we were making this point and asking questions in Parliament. By the time the Minister answered, we got the answer here in the Auditor General's Report.

**Mr. Hart:** The Bible.

**Mr. J. Narine:** I will come to this as I continue another part of this newspaper clipping which had the headline: "No tenders for \$217,119.00 in contracts" and you will remember Jogie Contractors—the Minister's favourite contracting firm in Couva/Talparo/Tabaquite—and this was in contracts. I will tell you again another headline here states that the "Auditor General slams \$4m Couva Pool"—swimming pool in Couva. They could have built a new swimming pool for that money and they spent \$4 million to repair a swimming pool in Railway Street in Couva.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying when you go ahead and read the report, you will understand why throughout the report the Auditor General is saying that the procedures were not adhered to.

**Mr. Singh:** On a point of clarification.

**Mr. J. Narine:** Look! I try to give way to you on July 12, 1999 and you got blown out. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that we are saying that there is a situation here where the Minister was aware of what was taking place by correspondence from the Arima Borough Town Clerk and I will come to these matters as I go along.

We talked about May 4, 1999, where the Town Clerk was indicating to the Minister and his Ministry that there was corruption taking place in Arima and he sent it to Mr. Keith Denalli, Programme Manager (URP).

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“In response to your letter of May 3, 1999, I wish to state that I am totally disappointed in receiving such a letter...”

This is a reply.

“since the three matters raised in your letter were discussed and an agreement reached during our meeting on Monday April 26, 1999.”

The first issue-

The Northeast Sanitation Gang for the period 12 - 23/4/99”

which was April last year.

“You would recall that at our meeting on Monday April 26, it was agreed that Mr. John Baksh, Sanitation Foreman III, with the Arima Municipal Corporation, had to visit the areas where the gang worked in company with the Project Supervisor, Mr. Farrier. After which he would certify the claim, which would then be taken to the URP Sub-committee covering approval.

Mr. Baksh was informed in writing by Mr. Farrier of the areas where the gang worked. However, when they visited the sites, Mr. Baksh could only report in writing that there were no signs that a gang worked in the said areas during the fortnight.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it meant that these matters continue. I do not want to burden you with all these letters but I am saying that the Town Clerk wrote to the Minister on May 12, 1999, and the subject matter was “Unauthorized Payment”. The Town Clerk was indicating to him that he had made unauthorized payment to certain persons and it states:

“I am to inform you that Ms Christina Abraham, Checker, employed on the Arima Health Center, Sanitation Gang has made an official complaint to me this morning, Wednesday May 12, 1999.”

**4.00 p.m.**

Mrs. Abraham had complained that two workers employed on the gang, who are responsible for timing, Mr. Anslem Lewis—who went for screening for the UNC to contest a local Government seat, who they put to contest another seat and then left it because he knew that he would have been beaten two to one in Arouca North—and Mr. Martin Hollingsworth, who was also—

*Adjournment*

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Attorney General (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know the Member would continue on the next day. By agreement, there are some motions on the adjournment, so we would take the adjournment at this stage.

I beg to move that the House stands adjourned to Monday, July 26, 1999 at 10.00 a.m. But before we take the adjournment, apart from the motions, there are two Private Members' Bills.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the last occasion I had indicated to the honourable House, and I will repeat it again: that on Monday we will do the Regional Health Authorities Bill, the Trinidad and Tobago National Steel Orchestra Bill and the Minister of Agriculture has to wind up the Forests and Sawmills (Amdt.) Bills. We will attempt to complete the Legal Aid and Advice Bill and probably start the Domestic Violence Bill, then there is a Land Acquisition Motion.

**LITTLE FLOCK CHRISTIAN MISSION (INC'N) BILL**

*Order for second reading read.*

**The Minister of Information, Telecommunications, Training and Distance Learning (Dr. The Hon. Rupert Griffith):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move,

That a Bill to provide for the incorporation of the Little Flock Christian Mission and matters incidental thereto, be now read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am quite familiar with the Little Flock Christian Mission. The aims and objectives of the organization, as stated in clause 3, are:

- “(a) to promote and encourage religious, social, educational and cultural activities so as to improve knowledge, strengthen discipline, generate love, peace and unity among members and the public at large;
- (b) to give assistance to the needy and underprivileged through humanitarian services and charitable ventures;”

Also, this organization has helped many organizations, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but also in the Caribbean region.

I am familiar with the charitable work they have given to Christian organizations such as the Abundant Life Ministries, The People's Church and several other ministries.

*Little Flock Christian (Inc'n.) Bill*  
[DR. THE HON. R. GRIFFITH]

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The Little Flock Christian Mission also assists tremendously with many private organizations. They are involved in rehabilitation and halfway houses. So, this objective, I know, is fully met by this organization. The clause continues:

- “(c) to provide support to other Organisations with similar aims and objectives;
- (d) to assemble its members together in worship of Almighty God for mutual edification and Christian fellowship in Christ Jesus;”

So the aims and objectives are clear and I know they have fulfilled these objectives.

I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

*Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1 to 9 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Preamble ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Question put and agreed to, That the Bill be reported to the House.*

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.*

**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (INC'N) BILL**

*Order for second reading read.*

**The Minister of Trade, Industry and Consumer Affairs and Minister of Tourism (Hon. Mervyn Assam):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move,

That a Bill to provide for the incorporation of the Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago and for matters incidental thereto, be now read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a relatively simple Bill, but very important to the Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, a society which has been in existence for a long time and has represented Trinidad and Tobago very proudly abroad at some of the most important flower shows like Chelsea and Birmingham.

They continue to make a very important contribution to development of horticulture in Trinidad and Tobago and, as a matter of fact, gives impetus to the



*Horticultural Society (Inc'n.) Bill*

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export development of the horticulture industry. As a consequence of this, we have been approached with a view to having the society incorporated in order that it can conduct its affairs in a manner that is more befitting such an organization.

The Bill is very simple because it merely sets out the procedures for the incorporation, how it should conduct its affairs and what is required of it in terms of its dealing with the Registrar General and change of address and how it is going to conduct itself in terms of its offices and so forth. In short, the Bill merely indicates how the Horticultural Society will operate as an incorporated body.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

*Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1 to 9 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Preamble ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Question put and agreed to, That the Bill be reported to the House.*

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** We have two matters on the adjournment. The Member for Toco/Manzanilla.

### **Misspending of Funds (Monte Cristo Park)**

**Mr. Roger Boynes** (*Toco/Manzanilla*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to discuss the matter on the motion of the adjournment, which is the misspending of funds at the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation in relation to the recent opening of the Monte Cristo Park in July, 1999.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when this said park was opened—and we were blessed in Sangre Grande with many distinguished gentlemen—what the then chairman sought to do was to ensure that at all and any cost the Member of Parliament for Toco/Manzanilla should not be there. So what one found had

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happened was that they deliberately failed and refused to invite the Member of Parliament for Toco/Manzanilla to the opening ceremony of that park. What one finds happening is that apparently, they do not understand that if anything has to be done in a Member of Parliament's constituency, the people should be invited to that. But since one cannot accommodate all the people from Toco/Manzanilla at that particular opening ceremony, what one finds is that the representative of the people would be invited.

But, you know, they decided to play cheap politics at the launch to try to see if they could dominate the proceedings in that particular area in the run-up to the elections, so they opened the park, they wanted seven out of seven, but that was not to be. So much so, that they planned a lavish celebration at the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation so that they could feed the "marish and the parish". Well I tell you, they had rum, they had dumplings, they had fish, wild meat, and scotch flowed like water that very day.

**4.15 p.m.**

As a matter of fact, while I was walking through the streets of Sangre Grande, I met this fellow who stopped me. He had a bag, and in the bag he showed me four bottles of scotch. I asked him where he got that. He said, he just took it from the table of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation. Scotch flowed like water that day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I did my investigation, the cost of that whole celebration for a few hours came up to the tune of over \$91,000.

**Hon. Members:** Ooh! Rum and whisky.

**Mr. R. Boynes:** When I did my investigation yesterday I understand that \$55,000 was paid already, and there is a balance of the difference from \$91,000 still to be paid as a result of that celebration. I did further investigation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because the person who they took to prepare the meals and from whom they bought the rum and scotch is a fellow named "Horse". Everybody knows "Horse" in Sangre Grande. He is not a licensed caterer, but he is the Chairman's—Mr. Verne Richards—personal friend, so he was given the contract. So what he did—and this is coming from "Horse", the horse's mouth—he told me that yesterday he subcontracted the work and charged them bar prices. That is what he did. He charged them bar prices, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

They could have gone to Economy or Budget Foods Supermarket in Sangre Grande and bought the rum and scotch from the grocery and get grocery prices,

but oh no, that was not to be in Sangre Grande on the 22nd day of June in the year 1999. They went by “Horse” and paid bar prices for drinks to the tune of \$55,000 for the whole celebration with tents and all kinds of things coming up to \$91,000.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the number of roads—Jacelon Bridge in Vega De Oropouche—still need repairing and I can go on and on, but the people of Sangre Grande have spoken and this is something which I want Parliament and the national community to appreciate because there is a situation of which I would speak in the next Motion where the Sangre Grande Hospital does not have money to buy blood, but yet we could spend \$91,000 to have a celebration for a few hours.

Thank you.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**Dr. Rowley:** Start to wine.

**Hon. D. Singh:** Bring “yuh” wife.

**Dr. Rowley:** Start to wine, start to wine.

**Hon. D. Singh:** Bring “yuh” wife.

**Mr. Hart:** “Weh yuh” powder?

**The Minister of Local Government (Hon. Dhanraj Singh):** Mr. Speaker, the Monte Cristo Park was formally opened on June 22, 1999. The Sangre Grande Corporation is responsible for the maintenance of parks, among other things. On that day, after many years of waiting for that park to open, and the history of that park, the corporation did have a public opening in which I was invited to attend as the Minister of Local Government. I am not aware of the invitation not being extended to the Parliamentary Representative for Toco\Manzanilla, but I saw him there sitting in the front row of the reserved area.

**Hon. Member:** He stormed the party. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please.

**Hon. D. Singh:** Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Member for Toco/Manzanilla, out of spite and malice, has come here today to raise this question of the cost of that function. I am advised that the cost of the function was being financed or assisted by the business community of Sangre Grande. The business community will be bearing the brunt of the bill for hosting the function, and according to

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information supplied to me, the cost of the function was approximately \$39,000 for the formal aspect of the function.

Mr. Speaker, I could understand the Member for Toco/Manzanilla being quite jealous that we were able, after so many years, to open the facility which is an "A" class facility. The Member speaks about misspending and misappropriation of funds with regard to the opening, but he must not forget when they gave illegal contracts to Mr. Mootilal Deosaran to undertake works on the Monte Cristo Park. Up to this date he has not been able to collect moneys of over \$330,000 which he is requesting from the ministry because of illegal contracts given by the Chairman of the Corporation. That is the true misappropriation of funds and they must speak about it.

On June 22, 1999 the people of Sangre Grande had something to celebrate. The park was long overdue in coming and now they have the park. The people of Sangre Grande and the corporation, the people who manned that corporation were voted by the people of Sangre Grande and they decided to have a function to celebrate. The Member, out of spite and jealousy, has raised that and come to speak about the function. Do not forget Mr. Mootilal Deosaran. He is still waiting on the \$330,000 for works he did in the park and cannot get it. The Solicitor General's Office has ruled that the contract is illegal and we cannot pay him. It was done under PNM time and they sit there as Pontius Pilate and casting aspersions on people who are trying to do their work.

Thank you.

**Mr. Bereaux:** And you drank, you got drunk, and you wined.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I appeal to the Member for La Brea who does not have my leave to raise a matter on the Motion for the adjournment. I have not given you permission to raise any matter but you are having a lengthy conversation with the other side. I suggest to you that is not the way to proceed.

**Mr. Bereaux:** I take your point, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thanks very much.

The Member for Toco/Manzanilla on the crisis situation that obtains at the Sangre Grande Hospital as a result of the non-payment of moneys due and owing to suppliers.

I am sure, hon. Members, that Members both on his side and on the other side would allow him to make his presentation in silence, as indeed, they would allow the other side to answer in silence.

**Sangre Grande Hospital  
(Crisis Situation)**

**Mr. Roger Boynes** (*Toco/Manzanilla*): Mr. Speaker, this is a sad, sad tale that obtains in Sangre Grande with respect to this particular crisis situation at the Sangre Grande Hospital. Over \$2 million is being owed to suppliers of the Sangre Grande Hospital and when the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation can spend \$91,000 in rum, scotch and wild meat, it pains the people of Sangre Grande that the Friends of the Sangre Grande Hospital about three weeks ago had to give the hospital \$7,000 to buy blood. That is what took place.

The T&TEC van in the space of the last two months came three times to cut the electricity at the hospital. On one such occasion, the Member of Parliament for Toco/Manzanilla had to leave court where he was practising and run down the van, begging them not to cut the electricity at the Sangre Grande Hospital because a man was undergoing surgery.

Mr. Speaker, this is where we have actually reached. I ask the question: where are we now? I took TV 6 up to the Sangre Grande Hospital about two weeks ago. They saw several of the wards were closed down and I understand there are a few additional doctors supplied to the hospital now. On the said day TV 6 was there, they interviewed everybody in that hospital. Could you imagine the patients were eating rice and a few strips of vegetables. The hospital does not have money to even buy fresh meat, eggs, or tissues. The suppliers are calling me now. That is what is happening you know. The suppliers of the hospital are coming home by this Member of Parliament for their money and that is why I am saying we have a crisis situation at the Sangre Grande Hospital. I raised it a long time ago. I called U&T Electrical Company Limited, about 20 minutes ago and they are still being owed their money.

Suppliers from Arima are being owed money. They took a cheque of \$4,000 to carry to a particular supplier about two weeks ago, when the workers went to take the cheque to the supplier in Arima who has been owed \$240,000, he chased them out. What they are doing is going from creditors to creditors, if they are owing this bunch of creditors, they develop new creditors and they are trying to limp along until October when the new budget is out. That is what is going on, but it has caught up with the Eastern Regional Health Authority and people do not want to supply them and, as a matter of fact, the suppliers are threatening. They have indicated to me that they want to go to court for their moneys. Is this the stage we have reached at the Sangre Grande Hospital?

*Sangre Grande Hospital*  
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We have a major hospital in Sangre Grande of which all of us are proud. Do we have money for oxygen, and the ambulance? Some of the workers who drive the ambulance have indicated to me there are times they carry patients to Mount Hope or Port of Spain Hospital without oxygen in the ambulance. Drivers sometimes borrow tyres to put on the ambulance in order to take them to and fro. This is the stage we have reached at the Sangre Grande Hospital and I am saying, for a hospital with a history as the one in Sangre Grande, it should not be allowed to reach that stage.

Mr. Speaker, when the supplier goes to the hospital they look for the manager who has to hide. She is on leave now—and there is an acting manager at the hospital—because she cannot take it anymore. This is what is taking place and we have been danced all over the place. When I call the CEO he is in a meeting, and no one could account for the non-payment of goods and materials taken by the Sangre Grande Hospital, but yet you have suppliers coming to my office and to my house for their money.

This is something we have to be mindful of, it cannot continue this way. The nurses are crying for their increment. Could you imagine that the nurses do not have their uniform allowance? They do not have their shoe allowance and they are threatening to come to work barefeet. This is what is taking place. They get their pay late at the hospital and that is why there are a number of them looking to go to England now. There is a brain drain on the system, but yet \$91,000 is spent on scotch, rum and wild meat in Sangre Grande. That is what is going on.

**4.30 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, I would not mention the amount of money for the Miss Universe show, I would not mention that. I am mentioning the immediate thing that affects the people of Sangre and environs.

**Mr. Hinds:** They are campaigning with public money.

**Mr. R. Boynes:** They are not getting the type of services that they require; which is a right. It is not a privilege, it is a right. Good health-care in Sangre Grande is a right to the people of Sangre Grande and environs. I am saying that it is imperative that this matter be addressed as soon as possible.

In closing, let me just reiterate and, ask the Hon. Minister of Health to deal with this problem as soon as possible. If the Minister does not know, I am asking him to speak to the Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Regional Health

Authority. They go in the red every month by over quarter of a million dollars. They go in the red every month, and that is a fact. If it is that they have to solve the problem, the Ministry of Health should sit with the Eastern Regional Health Authority and let us see who is paying for what. I do not think that was ever done. It was never done! Sometimes you have to understand the poor Eastern Regional Health Authority, as well, because they are given the liability, but then they are giving other liabilities like electricity—T&TEC and that sort of thing.

So you have to understand, Mr. Speaker. There is a new amount of moneys that they have to pay from the \$15 million. The sum of \$2.1 million has gone towards the administrative arm of the Regional Health Authority to administer it. That was money that could have been spent, normally, on taking care of goods and services. They have pulled out \$2.1 million to administer the Regional Health Authority and that has not been replaced. They will be going in deficit each and every month. We the people of the Sangre Grande and environs, from Matelot to Manzanilla, are suffering. I am asking that this matter be given the urgent attention it deserves. I am kindly asking the Minister of Health to treat with it as soon as possible.

Thank you svery much, Mr. Speaker. [*Desk thumping*]

**The Minister of Health (Dr. The Hon. Hamza Rafeeq):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the opportunity to clear the records on some of the allegations and accusations that have been made by the Member for Toco/Manzanilla.

Mr. Speaker, there is no hospital in this country, including the Sangre Grande Hospital, that buys blood. If the Member says that \$7,000 was given by the Friends of the Hospital to buy blood, that is something that is totally untrue. Hospitals do not buy blood. [*Desk thumping*]

The Eastern Regional Health Authority has the responsibility for the Sangre Grande Hospital, and for the past four years, the allocations for the recurrent expenditure have been as follows:

1996—\$8,320,000;

1997—\$12,850,000;

1998, that was nine months, \$11,250,000

1998/1999—\$15,000,000.

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[DR. THE HON. H. RAFEEQ]

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As I mentioned, this is the recurrent expenditure. In addition to this there is money that is allocated for the Development Programme and there is staff in the Eastern Regional Health Authority that is paid by the Ministry of Health as well.

Early in 1999—that is in February 1999—the Authority felt that they would have problems later this year in dealing with their financial allocations. That is in February of this year. The Ministry met with the Board of the Eastern Regional Health Authority. We asked them to manage their business prudently, but some time in June, in our review at the Ministry, if we had savings we would make an additional allocation to the Eastern Regional Health Authority, but we could not make a commitment at that time.

In June we received a letter from the Chairman of the Eastern Regional Health Authority saying that their needs would be approximately \$3 million for the rest of this fiscal year. Even so, during the year, the Eastern Regional Health Authority was able to introduce new services within the region. There are many new services which they have introduced but, in the interest of time, I would not go through those. They have been able to maintain most of the existing services.

At the end of June, at the Ministry of Health, when we did our review, we identified \$3.5 million for virement from the Ministry of Health to the Eastern Regional Health Authority. We approached the Ministry of Finance and on July 16 a release of \$1,310,590 was made to the Eastern Regional Health Authority: the cheque, which they collected just today. They have been allocated \$3.5 million by virement. The letter of release was made on July 16, long before this Motion came. I just want to place this on the record. On July 16, the release was made and today the cheque was issued. Within the next two months we will be approaching the Ministry of Finance for the rest of that virement.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. [*Desk thumping*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I take it that the third matter on the Motion for the Adjournment is deferred for one week.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*House adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 4.36 p.m.*



*Written Answer to Question**Friday, July 23, 1999*

**WRITTEN PART OF ANSWER  
(QUESTION NO. 72)**

No.	Matter	Parties	Comments
<b>1998</b>			
1.	2796/98	Samaroo Lochan vs Minister of Labour & Co-ops. Com. For Co-op Dev. El Dorado	Costs not yet paid
2.	205/98	Medina Subratee & Anor. vs The Attorney General & Caroni (1975) Ltd.	Costs not yet paid
3.	S-276/98 S-910/97 Consolidated	Clinton Forbes vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs
4.	2036/98	Dileni David vs The Commissioner of Police & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
5.	1409/98	Wayne Clarke vs The Commissioner of Police & The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
6.	S-1055/98	Johnson Jackman vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
7.	1131/98	Hubert Frank vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
<b>1999</b>			
1.	S-98/99	Una Seuradge vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
2.	S-19/98	Wendy Edwards vs The Attorney General	Costs not yet paid
3.	1175/99	Joey Ramiah & Anor. vs The Attorney General	No order as to costs