

*Leave of Absence**Friday, March 10, 2000***HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES***Friday, March 10, 2000*

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I wish to advise that I have been communicated with by two honourable Members of this House who have asked to be excused from today's sitting; they are the Member for La Brea who has asked to be excused up to the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month—he is in fact attending a Parliamentarians' Conference in London—and the other is the Member for Arouca South who is unable to be here. The leave of absence which they both seek is granted.

**PAPERS LAID**

1. Report of the Supervisor of Insurance for the year ended December 31, 1997. [*The Minister of Finance, Planning and Development (Sen. The Hon. Brian Kuei Tung)*]
2. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Tobago Regional Health Authority for the year ended December 31, 1996. [*The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj)*]
3. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Tobago Regional Health Authority for the year ended December 31, 1997. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
4. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Tobago Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 1998. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]  
*Papers 2 to 4 to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.*
5. Second Annual Report of the Police Complaints Authority for the period May 01, 1997 to April 30, 1998. [*The Minister of National Security (Sen. Brig. The Hon. Joseph Theodore)*]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Speaker, the Government can answer all the questions with the exception of the questions to be answered by the Minister of Social and Community Development and Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs. I would ask for a deferral of one week to answer questions No. 31, 32 and 33.

**Lack of Pipe-borne Water  
(Hubert Rance Street, Vistabella)**

**25. Mr. Barendra Sinanan** (*San Fernando West*) asked the Minister of Public Utilities:

- (a) Is the Minister aware that the residents of Hubert Rance Street, Vistabella, San Fernando are not receiving a regular supply of pipe-borne water?
- (b) If the Minister is so aware, what action does he intend to take to remedy this situation?

**The Minister of Public Utilities (Hon. Ganga Singh):** Mr. Speaker, the residents of Hubert Rance Street, Vistabella, receive a scheduled service as follows:

Monday 6.00 p.m. to Tuesday 5.00 a.m.

Thursday 6.00 p.m. to Friday 5.00 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, this scheduled supply of water has been in place for many years, is very stringent and the supply situation is sometimes made worse when there are disruptions to water production due to problems at the treatment plant and/or on the transmission network. The main source of supply to this area is from the Navet Waterworks via Chacon Reservoir and/or the Big Tree Off-Take.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to (b), the South and Central areas of Trinidad have traditionally suffered from severe water shortages. However, to bring about significant improvement, the Government is implementing a number of projects, namely:

- the South Water Project;
- the Desalination Plant; and
- the refurbishment and rehabilitation of the San Fernando Booster Station.

Under the South Water Project, the Caroni Water Treatment Upgrade Project, when completed, will substantially increase the water being pumped into the South transmission mains. The source of supply to San Fernando will then be changed from the existing Navet Waterworks to the expanded and more reliable Caroni system. Additionally, the refurbishment and rehabilitation of the San Fernando Booster Station, when completed, would result in an increased flow of water in the system, thus guaranteeing an increased and more reliable supply.

In addition, after the commissioning of the Point Lisas Desalination Plant later this year, about 12 million gallons of water per day will be redirected from the Point Lisas Estate to areas in South and Central, thereby further increasing the supply to these areas.

With the imminent completion of all these works, the entire area of San Fernando can expect a much improved service. Specifically, the duration of supply to the residents of Hubert Rance Street is expected to be increased incrementally from the existing class of supply between four and five, that is, between 0 and 84 hours per week to classes one and two, that is, between 120 and 168 hours per week.

To continue the improvement of service to these customers, the upgrade of the transmission pipeline along Crawford and Hubert Rance Streets, from Pointe-a-Pierre Road to King's Wharf, that is, the installation of 2 kilometres of 12-inch pipelines, at an estimated cost of over TT \$3 million, is also planned. This new pipeline will not only increase the transmission capacity over that of the existing line, but will also reduce water loss due to leakage.

**Mr. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, a supplemental question, please. I wonder whether the hon. Minister would inform the House when it is expected that a desalination plant would be on stream.

**Hon. G. Singh:** The contractual date, Mr. Speaker, is October 01, 2000.

**Mr. Manning:** Supplemental question, please. Is there any slippage in that date as of now?

**Hon. G. Singh:** Mr. Speaker, I am advised that everything is going as planned. *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Speaker:** It would not be picked up by me and by the *Hansard*.

**Mr. Manning:** I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

**National Housing Authority's Apartments  
(Repairs)**

**26. Mr. Barendra Sinanan** (*San Fernando West*) asked the Hon. Minister of Housing and Settlements:

Would the Minister state which, if any, National Housing Authority apartments in the constituency of San Fernando West will be repaired this year, and the nature of the repairs?

**The Minister of Housing and Settlements (Hon. John. Humphrey):** Mr. Speaker, the following repairs in the San Fernando West area have been earmarked for the 1999/2000 financial year:

- Floors in Carlton Lane where the floor joists and floorboards have to be replaced.
- Roofs in Roy Joseph Street and Embacadere buildings A, P and Q. At Roy Joseph Street, the removal of the rotted roof, all the timber and sheeting and replacement with a new roof. At Embacadere buildings A, P and Q, application of waterproof coating to the concrete slab.
- Windows at Ramsaran Street, where the awning windows have to be removed and replaced with louvre windows.
- Water pumps at Embacadere, Lady Hailes, installation of water pumps to provide adequate water supply.

Giving effect to these projects is subject to the availability of funds.

**Palmiste (1975) Limited Housing Development  
(Road Repairs)**

**27. Mr. Barendra Sinanan** (*San Fernando West*) asked the Hon. Minister of Local Government:

- (a) Would the Minister state whether his Ministry will be undertaking any road works in the Palmiste (1975) Limited Housing Development situated in the constituency of San Fernando West?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, would the Minister state the name of the roads and/or streets which will be repaired and the nature of repairs to be undertaken?

**The Minister of Local Government (Hon. Dhanraj Singh):** Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Local Government, through the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation, will be undertaking road works in the Palmiste (1975) Housing Development, situated in the constituency of San Fernando West.

The Palmiste Boulevard is programmed for repairs in the second quarter of 1999/2000. The nature of the repairs to be undertaken includes strengthening and filling of depressed areas with aggregate material, to be followed by spot paving. It is anticipated that the Dumfries Road will be repaired subsequently and the nature of the repairs will also involve surfacing works.

Finally, the Ministry will be monitoring the situation and, if necessary, will be prepared to consider using the Road Improvement Fund to alleviate the situation.

**Mr. Sinanan:** Mr. Speaker, is the hon. Minister stating that only the Palmiste Boulevard and the Dumfries Road will be repaired this year?

**Hon. D. Singh:** I am not stating that, Mr. Speaker. As you know I said earlier, this area falls under the Penal/Debe Corporation. The Councillor responsible for the area will prioritize the needs of the area and it is up to the Council to determine what roads will be paved.

**Dr. Rowley:** Since the Minister has mentioned that funds would be accessed from the Road Improvement Fund, could the Minister indicate to us when he intends to report to the Parliament on the Road Improvement Fund?

**Hon. D. Singh:** Mr. Speaker, that is a new question.

**Hon. Member:** It is not new.

**Dr. Rowley:** Mr. Speaker, could I ask—*[Interruption]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, the Member did mention the Road Improvement Fund, but the question is not a natural follow on from the original question that was asked. I think this is what the Member means. You could ask another question on that, but I deem it to be a different question.

*The following questions stood on the Order Paper in the name of Mr. Martin Joseph:*

### **Stadia**

#### **(Engagement of Specific Financier)**

- 31.** (a) With respect to the four (4) new stadia for the 2001 FIFA World Youth Championship, will the Minister indicate whether the action of the Cabinet in engaging the services of a specific financier to undertake the

project is in accordance with the provisions of the Central Tenders Board Ordinance?

- (b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister indicate the relevant section of the Ordinance that vests legal authority in the Cabinet to act on its own behalf in awarding a BOLT Contract to the specific financier?
- (c) If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister identify the authority or the law under which the Cabinet acted in awarding this contract?

### **Stadia**

#### **(Project Manager Appointment)**

- 32.** (a) With respect to the four (4) new stadia for the 2001 FIFA World Youth Championship, will the Minister indicate whether the Cabinet's decision to appoint FIFA as project manager is in keeping with the provisions of the Central Tenders Board Ordinance?
- (b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister indicate the relevant section of the Central Tenders Board Ordinance that vests the Cabinet with the legal authority to enter into this contract without reference to the Central Tenders Board?
- (c) If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister identify the authority under which the Cabinet is authorised to act in its own behalf in engaging the services of FIFA as project manager?

### **Stadia**

#### **(Agreement with Financier)**

**33.** With respect to the four (4) new stadia for the 2001 FIFA World Youth Championship, will the Minister provide the House with the following details relating to the agreement with the financier:

- (a) The name of the financier;
- (b) The capital sum involved;
- (c) How that sum has been or will be determined;
- (d) The time frame within which the payment is to be effected?

*Questions, by leave, deferred.*

**1.40 p.m.**

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (No. 2) BILL**

[Third Day]

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question* [February 18, 2000]:

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr. Speaker:** When the adjournment was taken, the Member for Diego Martin Central had, in fact, been speaking. He had spoken for some 28 minutes and, therefore, has some 17 minutes of normal speaking time.

**Mr. Kenneth Valley** (*Diego Martin Central*): Mr. Speaker, when the adjournment was taken on the last day, that is February 18, 2000, I had attempted to make the point that, in fact, the Bill before us was really developed in a vacuum. As a matter of fact, the Minister in presenting the Bill had stated that the tourism policy was now being formulated and also that he had some people working on a five-year strategic plan. We on this side wondered what was the basis, the underpinning, and the philosophy, which informed the Bill.

Looking at the Bill, we concluded that really, it was rushed into this House with the sole intention of providing a benefit for one project, namely, the Tobago Plantation Project. We supported that argument by quoting from the Bill itself where one saw that the tax holiday period was reduced and the other benefits were merely palliative. The main benefit in the Bill was a tax exemption granted to gains on the sale of land or on the villas out of that Tobago Plantation Project. We have concluded, therefore, that this is not, in fact, a Tourism Development Bill; it is really a hotelier's bill as there is a complete absence of incentives to develop a quality tourism project. Because of that absence of focus we see that there is a concentration on the provision of rooms and villas rather than the development of the project.

One sees that the Bill is absent of any incentives for the actor, the pan man, the mas' man, the chutney singer and even the calypsonian. We really want to counsel the Government that hotels or villas do not a tourist make. What is required is a development of the tourism project. I want to compare what has happened in this "vaps" approach to the policy position taken with respect to tourism by the last People's National Movement government.

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The Minister in his contribution mentioned the Tourism Master Plan. When we came into government at the end of 1991, one of our early acts was to commission this Tourism Master Plan. There were drafts; the final document is dated August 1995, and the copy that I have here, I think it came to the library in early 1996, so the Government has had possession of this document now for roughly some four years. As a matter of fact, I borrowed this copy from the Minister of Tourism, so he had the benefit of this, so one has to wonder why up to this day, having this document, the Government does not have a tourism policy as he stated.

Mr. Speaker, the Government also had the benefit of a paper, *Policy Position on the Development of the Tourism Industry in Trinidad and Tobago: The Tourism Development Act*. This is a paper which was left by the previous government. In other words, this was an inheritance of the present Government. Just simply to look at some of what this policy paper stated in the introduction:

“The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has identified...”

Meaning the PNM government at the time.

“the Tourism Industry as a critical cornerstone in the future economic development of the country and has declared the industry’s development a strategic economic priority into the next millennium.

*The Industry has been asked to assist in the fulfilment of specific national economic objectives, which are as follows.*

- To lower unemployment
- To increase foreign exchange earnings
- To increase foreign direct investment
- To build strong, beneficial linkages with other economic sectors, particularly agriculture and manufacturing

In the process of building a successful tourism industry - an economic force in the country’s sustainable development - it is imperative that an environment is created which will facilitate such progress and by extension achieve the stated national objectives. One element of this environment is Legislation. Such legislation must of necessity be simple, comprehensive, revolutionary, facilitative and supportive of private sector initiative and growth.



The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has agreed that the existing Hotel Development Act (1962) cannot adequately support the vision for the development of the Tourism Industry and that this Act should be replaced by an Act which embraces all areas of the Tourism Industry and which seeks to more effectively integrate tourism planning and development with overall national planning and development.”

The final point made in the introduction is that Trinidad and Tobago had the opportunity, given its infancy in the tourism industry, to really develop legislation that is going to set the industry apart.

Based on this position paper and, of course, the Tourism Master Plan, the People's National Movement in its 1995 manifesto outlined its objectives for the next five years in the area of tourism. Quite quickly, looking at the manifesto—  
[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not really permissible for two Members to be standing at the same time.

**Mr. K. Valley:** Thank you. In this manifesto, on tourism it talks about “Public/Private Sector Partnership:

It is recognised that the development of the Tourism Sector cannot be effectively undertaken either by the Public Sector or Private Sector working alone. This can only be done through an effective working partnership of both sectors. The foundation for this partnership has been laid and the new Government will continue to work on building and strengthening this partnership.”

It also talks about the Tourism Master Plan:

“The Tourism Master Plan will be implemented over the next five (5) years...”

That is from the end of 1995 to 2000.

“and the IDB will be approached in 1996 for a loan of US \$30M to implement this Plan.”

Obviously, the first question we would like to ask is whether the IDB has been approached for that funding for the implementation of the Tourism Master Plan but, perhaps, that is jumping the gun because if they do not even have a policy

position after five years, well, then it is unlikely that there would have been any such approach.

The manifesto continues:

“Priority projects to be implemented under the Plan include:

- Improvements to access roads to the Chaguaramas Peninsula and development of a ferry system to augment road access to the Peninsula.
- Development of the Port of Spain and Scarborough Waterfront areas as tourism attractions.
- Establishment of a system of National Parks in Trinidad and in Tobago which would be used for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors and which would enhance our capabilities for preserving and protecting the environment. These parks would be both land-based and marine.
- Development of the North Coast of Trinidad as a prime tourism area for tourism investment with due care being taken to preserve the natural environment, beginning with the upgrade of the Maracas Bay facilities and including upgrading of the North Coast Road.”

Under “Legislative Reform”, Mr. Speaker:

“To undertake a programme of reform of the legislation governing the tourism industry with the following objectives...”

Coming directly from our position paper:

- “a. To reduce, simplify and make transparent the process for the approval of, and the administration of incentives to hotels and other tourism projects.
- b. To establish clear minimum standards for hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfast and other tourism projects.
- c. To establish clear simplified procedures for registration, certification and inspections.”

Mr. Speaker, there was the Tourism Master Plan, a position paper, a manifesto position and then in this document at page 10 it outlines some of the amendments that we thought important. The point I want to make is that whereas the current legislation deals merely with hotels, villas and so forth, without dealing with the tourism product, one sees that in this position paper one looked at the

development of the product. Quite expertly, if I can just run through some of these, it talks, first of all, about the development incentives:

“In order to facilitate growth of the sector, stimulation of investment both internationally and locally is desirable. The Government is committed to support such investment with a consistent and aggressive tourism marketing campaign, provision of necessary infrastructure and a competitive system of incentives for tourism projects.”

It also talks about tax credits:

“A tax credit, equivalent to 25% of the capital investment, and claimable over a period of three (3) years.

It talks about tax holidays. While this Government is talking about reducing the period of tax holidays—and this is really the bone of my contention—I am saying that a new tourism project would take about three or four years minimum to get into a profitable state. Therefore, when you reduce the tax holiday period you are not really providing an incentive to that investor.

With respect to tax holidays, this position paper says quite clearly:

“A tax exemption up to a maximum of twelve (12) years in respect of gains and profits from operation of the facility.”

It talks about the normal customs duty refunds and so forth. It talks about local input. So we talked, first of all, of a 12-year tax holiday, but it says that to the extent that the tourism project uses local input:

“In this regard, dependent upon the size and projected benefits of the tourism project, an extension of 3—5 years on the tax holiday...will be granted to tourism projects which utilize in excess of 70% local inputs in the construction and outfitting of the project.”

### **1.55 p.m.**

We are saying that tourism is human resource intensive, and while we have the energy sector that is capital intensive, we want to develop the tourism sector to create employment, and if we want to do that, we do not want to “chinks” on the tax incentive. We believe that we can get our tax from the energy sector, and also from the fact that persons employed in the tourism sector will pay income tax.

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I am making the point that one has to be clear, in designing policies, as to exactly what is the bottom line. What do you want to achieve? If one wants to achieve a high level of employment, then perhaps one has to give up some of the short-term tax take. One cannot be stingy with that because one has to allow the industry to grow, and as long as the industry grows then it means GDP and tax takes would grow over time.

**Dr. Nanan:** Mr. Speaker, that is a total contradiction to what the Member for Diego Martin West said in his debate. He spoke about giving away the gems of the country and its resources and now the Member for Diego Martin Central is talking about more incentives.

**Dr. Rowley:** What are you talking about? Why “yuh” don’t sit down! Did I say that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please! Order please!

**Dr. Rowley:** You heard me say that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please!

**Mr. K. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, I am going to touch on some of the headlines, other than the major issues. We spoke about the right to import motor vehicles—that is in the legislation—accelerated depreciation and so forth, but an important one that is absent from this Bill, is the tourism development zones. What does the policy position paper say?

It says:

### **“3.5 Tourism Development Zones**

In order to facilitate the well-managed, sustainable development of the Tourism Industry in Trinidad and Tobago, Tourism Development Zones will be established. These are areas possessing unique tourism value, which will be granted special incentives to stimulate investment and development in these areas.

Recognising that the liberalisation of our social and economic borders will be critical to the future economic development of small states like Trinidad and Tobago, the Tourism Development Zones will be used to encourage the development of international communities, where people, capital, and information flow freely between Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the world.

Tourism Development Zones for Trinidad and Tobago will be located in the following areas:"

And a number of them are identified.

"Chaguaramas...North Coast" and so forth.

That is completely absent from the legislation, Mr. Speaker.

### **"3.5.1 Duty Free Zones**

Duty Free Zones will be established in specific areas of the destination to promote business development. This initiative should be used as a catalyst for growth in such areas, e.g. Downtown Port of Spain."

Making a connection between the cruise ship development and the Duty Free Zone in downtown Port of Spain.

### **"3.5.2 Renaissance Districts**

Renaissance Districts are defined as areas of historic, heritage or cultural value, for which development will be encouraged, which seeks to highlight, preserve or enhance their value for the community and tourists alike."

Again, Mr. Speaker, the point is, if we are really speaking about the Tourism Development Bill, it cannot speak simply about incentives or tax incentives for hotels, villas or the integrated project. We really have to look at developing the product that is tourism and provide incentives required to do so.

It goes on to talk about ecozones and the point I am making—

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the speaking time of the Member for Diego Martin Central has expired.

*Motion made*, that the hon. Member's speaking time be extended by 30 minutes. [*Dr. K. Rowley*]

**Mr. K. Valley:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues in the House. The point I am making, if we are really talking about a historic Bill, an earth-shattering Bill, then it really ought to deal with tourism and not simply hotels, villas, guest houses and so forth.

They had the benefit of this position paper which talks about the "Science and Research City" on page 18 and it deals with the product. It says:

"In keeping with the vision of Trinidad and Tobago as an intellectual capital within the region, consideration should be given for the establishment of 'The Science and Research City'.

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The area bounded by the Aranguez River to the west, the Orange Grove Road to the east, the Churchill Roosevelt Highway to the south and the Eastern Main Road to north is the area recommended for The Science and Research City, given this area incorporates the Mt. Hope Medical Sciences Complex and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

The application of incentives within the City will be designed to strengthen the existing universities and research centers and encourage the development of other major research facilities and ‘Think tanks’, emphasizing scientific discovery in the following areas:

- The Steelpan
- Indigenous music and musical instruments
- The Entertainment Industry (Music, Film)
- Multi-ethnic Training
- Business Development
- Gender Studies
- AIDS
- Computer Technology
- Agriculture
- Clean Energy
- Regional Integration Studies

Moreover, the application of incentives within the City’s limits will be applied to the development of support tourism facilities.”

Mr. Speaker, the point is, we were really looking at doing something that’s worth taking apart, earth-shattering; our industries in the infancy, we want to develop Trinidad and Tobago as a tourism place and, therefore, we need to go further simply to providing a benefit—taking the short cut and providing a benefit to the plantation estate. That could have been done very simply in any Finance Act and my suggestion is that the Government should take another look at this and come to the House with a true Tourism Bill.

One notes that this is in keeping with the “vaps” operation. On the last day I recalled that what the Cabinet had before it was the Tobago Plantation Project, to

which they agreed to take an equity position. They had the committee look at it to provide certain incentives and the next thing we knew, the Attorney General came with a note recommending that the Act be amended.

Of course, somebody told him that the Act was up for amendment in any case, but rather than doing the job that should have been done, they used a short cut, providing incentives merely for one project and losing a golden opportunity, wasting five years—having this document now for some five years and doing nothing with it. I will be correct; four years and six months doing nothing with it. Five years after receiving this document, the present Government is still to develop a policy position on tourism in Trinidad and Tobago, it is still to develop a five-year strategic plan, but in that vacuum, somehow, they are able to come to the Parliament with a programme of incentives for the tourism sector which, when analyzed, seems to have only incentives for one project.

Mr. Speaker the happenings of this Government are becoming extremely bothering to some of us. This is not an isolated example, we have to put this against the background of what is happening with our LNG project, for example, which is so critical to our future. I was a member of the energy sub-committee which was chaired by our Prime Minister at the time, who is now Leader of the Opposition, when we took that decision to go into LNG, when we fast-tracked that decision knowing very well that we were going into trains 2 and 3. The current happening there is that the Cabinet has approved the project: my understanding is that the Ministers have signed off on the project, but here you have, I understand, a chairman of a state enterprise saying, “I not signing that.” Political investors—“I not signing that.”

One cannot understand what is happening in Trinidad and Tobago today or for that matter, we have this “pappy-show” that went on the other day with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Local Government. The Prime Minister writes the Minister of Local Government to get rid of the criminal elements in the Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) and the Minister of Local Government is then writing every Tom, Dick and Harry to identify the criminals in URP. It is either the Minister of Local Government is “pappy-showing” his Prime Minister, or the Prime Minister and the Minister of Local Government are “pappy-showing” the whole country. I do not know which is which. I think we have had sufficient of this and when, on top of that, the public is faced with the embarrassing situation of the Prime Minister and the President having a little tit-for-tat in public and the Attorney General is having his little thing with the Chief Justice, one wonders what is happening with our institutions. And the icing on the

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cake: last night on television, you hear that the former acting Prime Minister is no more—we now have a new acting Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, this is related to what is happening because the point I am making is that we have a Government that is in power at present that seems hell-bent on undermining our institutions, and if this is not a clear case of undermining the institution of Prime Minister in Trinidad and Tobago, I do not know what is. *[Desk thumping]*

Some people may laugh and think it is a joke, but I consider it a very serious issue and the country considers it a very serious issue. It is the undermining of the institution of Prime Minister; we are seeing the undermining of the institution of the Chief Justice, the head of the Judiciary; the undermining of the institution of the Presidency and I ask, where do we go from here? *[Desk thumping]*

It shall not be long. I am saying it shall not be long, but there is another issue on the economic front now. In a period when there are increasing foreign reserves, when oil prices are at an all-time high, do you know it is difficult to get foreign exchange in the market? Simply because the Government which is a major earner of foreign exchange, is hoarding the foreign exchange in the Central Bank and starving the market. The net effect is that the business sector is having difficulty paying its bills, unable to get foreign exchange. It has to join a queue, putting pressure on foreign exchange, artificially keeping interest rates quite high while your foreign exchange is increasing.

### **2.10 p.m.**

In a land of plenty, there is none. Where are we going, Mr. Speaker? And I am saying that this Bill, the misnomer, which says that the Tourism Development (No. 2) Bill merely mirrors the “vaps”, the lack of any philosophical underpinning of this Government. I do not know. To me, it is just really very sad.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Member for Tobago East (Dr. The Hon. Morgan Job):** Mr. Speaker, this is a country of many contradictions. It is two islands of great opportunity, but, indeed, it was Isaiah who said, “without vision the people perish”. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there was a yesterday—we do not live, we do not exist in the moment. Each and every one of us is a bundle of private and collective memories, and our past does, indeed, influence our current attitude or behaviour.

So many of the things that the previous speaker has been complaining about did not happen yesterday. We need to focus on that truism in order to understand



that the institutions of the state did have a history. There was a lifetime of circumstances that have been impinging on what is going on. I think before I get into my substantial debate on the Bill, I want to take the opportunity, with your permission, to congratulate the Mighty Shadow for being the Calypso King. *[Desk thumping]* A fellow Tobagonian that he is, and to make an observation that, I think, is germane to the tourism issue we are talking about—the question of culture. Someone commented that the Mighty Shadow could not win the crown because he was not “cussing” the Government; he was not trying to put his hand in Pamela’s bladder.

I saw on television the former Prime Minister grinning from ear to ear when Sugar Aloes was singing that calypso in San Fernando. Totally obscene and abusive! A disincentive to everything that is decent and right. These kinds of people became the poet laureates of the PNM. Another one of them was there telling little children that they must say a prayer for Abu Bakr; one wants to put his hand on Pamela’s bladder and one wants to say a prayer for Abu Bakr. Those are the people who they hold up as icons, as paradigms of virtue. So thanks that we have a few people like the Mighty Shadow even though he was treated badly by them and their judges for quite a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote here from the *Hansard*—I would use a lot of the *Hansard* record this evening because it is essential that the national audience understands the mischief that is afoot, especially in this season of unreason—that is an election season—where people would try to rub out from the collective memory those things that have been said, that we need to put in the balance to understand what is being said currently. I want to quote from the *Hansard* on the National Museum and Art Gallery Bill. I am quoting from the statements of the Member for Diego Martin West where he was making some irrelevant comments but, in fact, substantially good for me, in that it gives me an insight into the minds of those people:

“Except for the handful of you who made your living out of politics, misrepresenting our ethnic differences and exploiting it to the hilt, the people of this country, of whatever race, creed, class or religion, if the truth is told, under Dr. Eric Williams and the PNM opportunity for all was the hallmark and progress and success came to every race, creed and class in this country *[Desk thumping]* whether you were Chinese, Syrian, Portuguese, Afro-based or Indo-based. The people of Trinidad and Tobago progressed under Dr. Eric Williams and PNM in a way that they cannot aspire now.”

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I am quoting that, Mr. Speaker, because I heard a while ago that the institution of the Prime Minister or Prime Ministership has been subverted because Sen. Gillette is now the acting Prime Minister: A man of Chinese ancestry or descent who is in the Senate—I do not know the entire story—is put to act as Prime Minister, and that act, in the minds of the gentleman from opposite, subverts the institution of the Prime Minister. I would have thought that that was another symbol that is consistent with the Member from Diego Martin West who said that “under the PNM, whether you were Chinese, Syrian, Portuguese, Afro-based or Indo-based, polkadot, mongrel, mustafina, quadron, that, in fact, you can be anything: you can be President; you can be Prime Minister; you can be anything. I think this is a visible evident symbol that anybody can—and this is the incumbent. *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Manning:** Why did he not put Kuei Tung?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, Hon. Kuei Tung is a half-white not a real true Chinese. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Speaker, I am making this point because I think we cannot be too scurrilous, we cannot take this thing with too much levity. The question of symbolism, that little children are growing up and they are hearing things—like I have said before, children in Trinidad and Tobago do not learn about good hair, bad hair and nice complexion from Sydney Knox, Sabga and Jennifer Franco, they hear it from their mothers, fathers, teachers and politicians who refuse to understand that they are agents of mischief when they say things that can be decoded to ingrain in the minds negative perception and to give value to skin and hair where it should not be. So what should it matter whether Sen. Gillette is the acting Prime Minister and Hon. Humphrey is not?

The question of the Chief Justice versus the Attorney General, and the President versus the Prime Minister, I thought that this country is such an eminent example of what the freedom of the press and the freedom of the individual is, that the Constitution guarantees everyone in this country the freedom to express his or her thoughts and if you thought that the police system was not working properly you could have written an article to the Editor of any newspaper and nobody was going to come and knock on your door, and no policeman was going to shoot you; if you thought that the Chief Justice was not doing his job properly you could have done the same thing; if you thought that the Attorney General—I heard some calypsoes over the season about the Attorney General and some other people; in other countries those calypsonians would not have reached home that night. This is freedom. I do not understand. I have been here for three years and I

am hearing that they are going to close down the press; they want to deny people freedom and people are saying all kinds of absurdities in this country and nobody is being harassed for it.

So the question of the Chief Justice versus the Attorney General and the President versus the Prime Minister, I think that these things, evidently, are the manifestation of a society that understands its constitutional guarantees of freedom to express itself and, in fact, it is a sign of maturity that within Parliament and without Parliament there is so much discussion about institutions.

Today, there was an editorial in the *Trinidad Guardian* dealing with the question of the police and the fact that Sumairsingh's killer has not been held, and the *Trinidad Guardian* editorialist could have gone on to all the other unsolved murders like Selwyn Richardson and all like that. They talked about if this Cabinet did not set up a Commission of Inquiry into the Ramdhanie escape, would the police have done anything about it? And the *Trinidad Guardian* editorialist used to say, "thank God that the Government did set up the Commission of Inquiry into the Ramdhanie affair so that we did get something out of it." There were some policemen who were charged for delinquency of duty in that matter. So that this is indeed a free country and a free society, I think the institutions are working well and I think that when people are discussing these matters openly it says something about what we have in this country.

**2.20 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, let us get back to the substantial matter. I want to quote again from the Member for Diego Martin West because it is important that people appreciate, as I said and I want to repeat, the mischief that is afoot. In Tobago there is what I would call a cultural crisis—it cannot be called less than that—and in order to deal with that cultural crisis we probably need a cultural revolution which I am trying to instigate.

Tobago has been suddenly thrust into a situation where, for many, many years, for generations, the population of foreigners in any one-month or six-month period was a trickle of people. Suddenly a jumbo jet would arrive from Berlin or somewhere in Germany twice per week, another two would arrive from the United Kingdom twice per week, people would come in from the United States via American Airlines. We also have BWIA, Liat and other airlines getting in

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there. So every day in Tobago, therefore, there are thousands of people who do not belong there. Many of them have been living there and have become resident in Tobago.

This influx of population has indeed imposed a tremendous burden and cultural strain on the population of Tobago and they are not dealing with it because they were not properly prepared for it, Mr. Speaker. So, therefore, the Member for Diego Martin West was quite right when he said that in Tobago tourism means more to the people than it does to the people in Trinidad. Just like the Member for Diego Martin Central in his contribution, they did allude to the fact that recently there was a crisis between the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and the President of Trinidad and Tobago.

As fate would have it, this crisis had to do with tourism and the Tourism Bill and we need to look at the meaning of that. I will try to link in the mind of the national audience the mischief, the deception, the duplicity and the exploitation of credulity that is afoot in this House. When I am finished quoting from the *Hansard* record, Mr. Speaker, there should be no doubt in any reasonable human mind that the promises that have been and are being made in a subtle, subliminal way in this House are nothing but vacuous political chicanery.

I want to quote from *Hansard* in order that there be no doubt as to the substance of my allegation, Mr. Speaker. When the Member for Diego Martin West alleges that this Government is denying Mr. Hochoy Charles and the Tobago House of Assembly their freedom to veto tourism projects in Tobago, I wonder if these very gentlemen remember that there was a debate in December 1996 having to do with the Constitution (Amdt.) Bill to incorporate the Tobago House of Assembly into the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago and then the Tobago House of Assembly Bill. Have they forgotten that the debate took place? So I quote from the *Hansard* on the Tourism Bill here where the Member for Diego Martin West is saying:

“In terms of its importance to our people, tourism is far more important to the people of Tobago than it is to the people of Trinidad and, therefore, any treatment with this whole issue of tourism, most certainly should have the views of people of Tobago and their aspirations in the forefront. Any person who looked at what happened in the last few weeks would have come to the conclusion that this Bill has been the root of contention in a coalition

government that threatens the stability of the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago.

By the Government not acknowledging or accepting where tourism lies in the minds of the people of Tobago and, if you attempt to run roughshod over them, what can happen to the people of Trinidad and Tobago—we ended up with fights like we have never seen in Trinidad and Tobago. The Prime Minister promising to kick the President. We have Senators in the House with more seats than we have for them. We have all kinds of things, that we never dreamt could have happened in Trinidad and Tobago, happening as a result of the way the Government approached the Tourism Development (No. 2) Bill. The Archbishop is begging for peace. The President says, ‘let peace begin with me’.”

He goes on:

“...because this Government is provoking the people of Tobago and getting their puppy dog to tell the people of Tobago, ‘if yuh doh like it, we would offer you secession and you could go!’ So they are going, and I am warning the people of Tobago, if they think that these people will not give them independence and push them out of the union, they have another thought coming.”

Mr. Speaker, I have here before me the *Hansard* report of the debate on the Tobago House of Assembly (Amdt.) Bill. I quote from page 46 where the Member for Toco/Manzanilla was saying:

“That aspect, Mr. Speaker, I wish to deal with because it was not the PNM Government in 1982 that laid this resolution before the Tobago House of Assembly. It was the Member for Tobago East;”

I want to quote because the Member for Diego Martin West is telling people in this country that because I said that the Constitution should be amended to give Tobago the right to secede—and I did say so, Mr. Speaker, and I intend to pursue the matter—I am following instructions like a puppy-dog to “mash up” Trinidad and Tobago to the benefit of the UNC and, by implication, an ethnic hegemonic confederation. The Member for Toco/Manzanilla has said in Parliament that he is quoting the Member for Tobago East saying:

“Be It Resolved that this House of Assembly take all proper and necessary steps to terminate the present unjust union of Tobago with Trinidad and to secure either its replacement with a union based on terms and

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conditions acceptable to the authorised representative of the people of Tobago...”

And note carefully, Mr. Speaker:

“...or the full independence of Tobago with secure territorial boundaries.”

That is the Member for Tobago East, now President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, not Morgan Job. So that mischievous publicity and propaganda that I am Mr. Panday’s puppy-dog and I want to “mash up” the thing has nothing to do with that. They have to deal with reality. The issue that we are dealing with, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the PNM’s failure to support the Member for Tobago East in increasing the Senate to 37 so that Tobagonians can have representation in the Senate as of their own right.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall—maybe you would not recall but I will remind you—that when this issue of the Senators and their not voting first came up, I said to the press that I was not going to take sides and I was not going to say anything at that time. However, I went up to President’s House and put my hand on a Bible in his presence and swore to uphold the Constitution and the law. I said that before because I knew in my own mind where I stood on the matter. I did not want to add pitch-oil to fire by saying anything as everybody wanted me to say something.

Subsequently when the matter was resolved I said this, Mr. Speaker—that I am not for the hon. President, His Excellency, neither am I for Mr. Panday, the Prime Minister, in this matter, I am for the law and the Constitution. That is what I swore to do. I further said that no arrangement made in a back room with two or three people, or however many people, can subvert or impose itself on the Constitution. I said that and I still stand by that. I said on television that there is a folklore in Tobago that Pamela Nicholson and Deborah Moore-Miggins, Lennox Denoon, Dr. Winston Murray and Horace Broomes rode on the back of Mr. Robinson to rise to eminence and then kicked him in his butt. I do not want to be added to that list but I want to make it absolutely clear that, when I took my oath to uphold the Constitution and the law, I intended to do that. You understand? So that, I have no problem with the people who are confusing the Constitution with politics—and I know that I live in a world of politics and realpolitik—but I have a problem with the Member for Diego Martin East saying things here that have nothing to do with honesty and sincerity.

I will quote to you, Mr. Speaker, from his own contribution to demonstrate to you in an unambiguous manner that this is a very spurious, facile and mischievous concoction to try to lead the people of Tobago to believe that the Member for Diego Martin West and the PNM are going to give to the THA and Hochoy Charles what this Government and Hochoy Charles are not giving them with respect to the Tourism Bill. I quote the Member for Diego Martin West from the *Hansard* debate on the Tobago House of Assembly Bill.

“I spoke at length on that and I am happy today, to see in the amendments that the Government has very clearly spelt out how section 75(1) of the Constitution will relate to section 25(1). We spoke at length stating what section 75(1) says with respect to Cabinet authority over Trinidad and Tobago. Clause 25(1) of the Bill before us sought to dilute that responsibility and authority of Cabinet, given to it under section 75(1) of the Constitution. Clearly, somebody told the Attorney General something because he has put forward exactly what we were suggesting in the amendment. The original Bill has been amended to take that into account. The Member said we did not support it. We did not support it because we were of the view—and we say so again, as loudly as possible—that to have supported it in the way that it was before us, was to create two separate governments without a nexus as to how section 75(1) will apply.”

Quite clear, unambiguous language yet they come here telling people that if they were the Government they were going to give Mr. Hochoy Charles and the Tobago House of Assembly the power to veto the Cabinet in Trinidad and Tobago. You know, sometimes I am so enraged by this kind of foolishness. He goes on:

“While we understand the intent of clause 25(1) to give the Assembly as much latitude as possible to do for Tobago what the members of the Assembly feel is best, we have a serious concern about how that will apply *vis-a-vis* national policy. We said it is not desirable to have us going in two directions. Insofar as we are supporting the position to give Tobago autonomy, we would like to see that autonomy within the context of national policy. This has been a bug-bear for quite some time because there was the question of who sets national policy and how would one know what national policy is. I do not think that is a problem so far. If there is a country called Trinidad and Tobago which cannot define its national policy so that a body like the Assembly can understand what it is, then we have a real problem. What it has to acknowledge is that there is a body called the Cabinet, there is the Parliament and responsibility for the entire country, Trinidad and Tobago, is that of Cabinet, which is accountable to Parliament.”

I am not fabricating this. This is the Member for Diego Martin West talking and he comes in here with this mischievous, absurd, ludicrous lie. The press would not report what I am saying, you know. You will see in the press tomorrow one set of foolishness about Job said something about, "Gillette is a 'Chinee'", or something like that, and, "Why a 'Chinee' cannot be Prime Minister". I do not understand why the media is here. It is not that I object to them, Mr. Speaker, but should they not say, when they are reporting, "This is my opinion", write an article about that and then write another article and say, "This is what Dr. Job said", so that the people outside, my constituents and the people in this country, can know what I am saying?

The media is not telling people. I do not know what is to be done about that. Do I have to go into the editorial offices and quarrel or make a noise or something with my copy of the *Hansard* record? They are not printing anything I say. For three years I have been here and they have been writing all kinds of scurrilous, stupid nonsense. I am trying to make it abundantly and absolutely clear, without any shadow of doubt, that the contribution of the Member for Diego Martin West on the Tourism (Amdt.) Bill is totally mischievous and dedicated to no purpose which is in the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, he goes on, talking about land now:

"I raise this because in the context that the Assembly is not going to follow national policy, in a case like this, one could end up with some persons in the country of Trinidad and Tobago being made to pay for a piece of state land, and another policy can apply to Tobago where it could simply be: 'as long as one is a Tobagonian, one is entitled to one acre of land.'"

### **2.35 p.m**

"In some countries that is a right, or the rate could be one per cent, where in Trinidad and Tobago it is two and a half per cent. I do not think that the people of Trinidad and Tobago at this time said that is what they want, that there could be that kind of disparity in policy.

I am comfortable in believing that when we put the land policy before the national Parliament, saying that for distribution in Trinidad and Tobago it would be two and a half per cent for agricultural land, and six per cent for residential land, the people of Trinidad and Tobago could live with that.



What we were doing with the original Bill was creating an opportunity for a separate arrangement to be effected in Tobago simply by the Tobago House of Assembly saying: ‘I have given due consideration to national policy, but I believe that Tobago’s land should not be so distributed.’ We are saying that is not what the objective is, so that is why we need to reword and restructure that bit to ensure that whatever is done in Tobago at this time, that the national policy should be the umbrella policy under which the actions are taken.”

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Diego Martin West gets up there in the Tourism Development Bill and says one set of irrelevant propaganda, concerning how this Government is denying Mr. Hochoy Charles and the Tobago House of Assembly the right to veto Government policy. You cannot make these statements consistent. This is the *Hansard* I read. They accuse me of reading too much, but I rather read more, and get up here and speak sense, than not to read like they do, and get up and talk a lot of rubbish and nonsense, and every time they say something, it contradicts what they said the week before.

**Mr. Assam:** Dishonest all of them.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Wasting my time in here.

**Mr. Assam:** And they have Judy Raymond reporting it and she too—  
[Laughter]

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I do not know why they are here, if they do not know how to report what is said in Parliament. Do you understand!

**Mr. Assam:** “Yeah!”

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, on this question of the law and the Act—which is the reason that caused this whole problem—the Member for Tobago East when he was Minister Extraordinaire, a name that I gave to him, brought a Bill here, the Constitution (Amdt.) Bill. They all were there in committee, and in that committee, there was the proposal to give Mr. Hochoy Charles, or whoever is the Chief Secretary in Tobago, the option to advise the President to appoint two Tobago Senators—

**Mr. Assam:** And they opposed it.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:**—and the minority leader would appoint one, and the President would appoint three and they opposed it.

**Mr. Assam:** “Yeah!”

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** So that there was no *locus standi* in law—before Mr. Hochoy Charles or anybody else—to order the Prime Minister’s two Senators to do what the Prime Minister did not want. *[Interruption]* There is no such situation in law and you have to deal with that reality. They are the reason that they have the problem, because if they had supported the Government at that time, Mr. Charles would have had his two Senators. He could tell them to come to Parliament, do not come, sit down, vote or do what they want. They did not want it so.

**Mr. Assam:** They opposed it.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, I am on record as saying—and everybody in Tobago who supported me—they went up and down in Tobago and told people not to vote for me and the people still voted for me. The people in Tobago know that I am not going to get up in Parliament and tell any lies. They know that anytime I get up to speak, I will speak what is sincere, honest and the truth as I understand it, and I have said they should write into the Constitution, the right for Tobago to secede and how they must do so. How the election must take place. What voting process and everything. Write it down there! They must also decide whether the people of Trinidad and Tobago agree to go back to the original proposal of the then Member for Tobago East and Minister Extraordinaire, and give the Chief Secretary his two Senators, or three, or four, or five, or how much he wants. I am not opposing that.

Mr. Speaker, I also said—for the benefit of everybody—that if it is the case that the Chief Secretary wants to be a Member of Cabinet, let us debate that too. If it is good for the Member for San Fernando East—whenever or if ever he becomes Prime Minister again—to have Mr. Hochoy Charles in the Cabinet, write it in the Constitution. I have no problem with that. I cannot speak for everybody in this country. I cannot speak for people in my village.

**Miss Nicholson:** Why are you personalizing it?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am not personalizing anything because there are lies being told here. *[Interruption]* Lies, mischief, wickedness, do you understand!

**Mr. Assam:** You voted with the PNM now. *[Interruption]*

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am not personalizing anything. Everybody knows me before I came in this Parliament. One thing you can say about me, you do not like what I say, but do not tell me that what I am saying is not the best thing that I know from my knowledge, from my feelings, that I must say. That is what I am

doing. I am not personalizing anything. You came in here calling me “puppy-dog” when the facts of the matter are quite different!

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Tobago West is on record in *Hansard* as having said that the Minister of Tobago Affairs is the “Minister of Residual Affairs” and you want a Minister of Tobago Affairs? It is in *Hansard* here. I did not make myself Minister of Tobago Affairs. The Government of this country, by the Constitution and by section 75(1), decides who they want to do what. Well, the Attorney General is written in the Constitution but the Minister of Trade & Industry and Consumer Affairs is not written there; the Minister of Tourism is not written there, so who the Prime Minister decides he wants to manage his matters for Tobago, it could be himself, it could be the Attorney General or it could be anybody, do you understand!

So I have no problem if constitutionally, you write a clause inside there saying, you do not want anybody except the Chief Secretary, who shall be a Member of Cabinet to see about Tobago affairs. That is okay with Morgan Job, but I deal with the matter of law, just like the Member for Diego Martin West. On that we are totally agreed—that if you do not want to obey the Constitution, you want to go back to the bush. That is what you want to do. I do not know anybody in Tobago who will disagree with what I am saying.

**Hon. Member:** Nobody.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** We have to deal with the law as it is. *[Interruption]* Until you change the law, you deal with the law and the Constitution as it is. That is what I am saying.

**Mr. Assam:** He has not left the bush; how could he go back?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, so to show malfeasance, the mischief, the evil, the inherent and indubitable wickedness of these people, hear what the *Hansard* says. *[Desk thumping]* *[Laughter]* Every week there is a question they are asking about Ringbang. I do not want them to ask because I know that when I get up here I have no information. There are a lot of people in Tobago who believe that this Parliament has no jurisdiction over what is going on in Tobago. Now all of that was promised and the PNM opposed it. As I am saying what the Member for Diego Martin West said “Not on your life”. I cannot believe that there is anybody in Tobago so silly, so lacking in the use of their cranium and their grey matter as to believe that anybody over there would be willing to allow moneys to be spent in Tobago the way they are being spent now.

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Mr. Speaker, now, I want to make it quite clear, I am not saying that it should not be the way it is being done now, but there are laws there, so I am in agreement with that. I want to quote here from *Hansard* because every week they are forcing me to get up in the Senate to answer questions; in the Lower House to answer questions week after week, okay? The same people are coming here now to say they want to give Tobago the right to do as they please. Hear the Member from Diego Martin West again.

“If I were in Tobago in the Assembly, I might have argued for that...”

And “that” is the clause in the Tobago House of Assembly Bill which says they can retain funds. When you do not spend money in one year, you keep it and next year you could do what you want—anything you want—Ringbang anything. So, the Member for Diego Martin West is a bright man, I admit that. You are not going to get a Ph.D. in geology if you are not bright.

**Mr. Assam:** In rocks?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** That is all right. The Member had to do calculus and all kinds of things to do that. I know that, I did geology myself. I did it for three years, so I know. You have to do all that.

“If I were in Tobago in the Assembly, I might have argued for that, but from where I stand I cannot support it and I will tell you why. It has the potential for creating mischief.”

**Hon. Member:** You see the Member ran away.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am reading from *Hansard*—

“What is likely to happen—and I am not saying anyone here will do that—is that there will be unexpended moneys for whatever reason. The best way to get unexpended moneys is to advance a project in a fiscal year knowing full well that there is no intention of executing the project. Having been given \$1 million, \$10 million, or \$100 million for the project, one does not execute it, and what it means is that the following day after the financial year, all that money will be available for one to retain, and since it is not going to form part of the allocation for the following year, basically what I am seeing here, is the potential to create a pool of money separate and apart from what the Parliament would appropriate for Tobago.”

The Member says this but every week they are coming here—I have the answers to questions there. In the Senate, question No. 11; in the Lower House, question No. 15, they want me to tell them what Mr. Charles is doing and where he is getting money from and all of that. *[Laughter]* You see, I do not understand these people.

Mr. Speaker, I have here, Sen. Prof. Spence's contribution in the Upper House—where did I put that—on this same question of the Tourism Development Bill on clause 11. Clause 11 deals with this question of how the process must go to get a project approved. Sen. Prof. Spence was of the opinion that the Chief Secretary should have a veto. Obviously, there were Independent Senators who did not agree with that, for the very reason that these people have argued and I quoted the *Hansard* here. I did not make it so. I did not write the Constitution, neither was I here when the Tobago House of Assembly Bill and the Constitution (Amdt.) Bill were passed.

**2.45 p.m.**

So that the Independent Senators who agreed were of the opinion that you cannot have a lower body, as is said in the Tobago House of Assembly Bill and in the Constitution, having a veto over Cabinet. So that the Bill, at clause 11, says that the Tobago House of Assembly must send the people who want a project in Tobago:

- “(1) Where a project is contemplated in Tobago having the minimum capital expenditure prescribed in Schedule 9 any person who owns or operates projects in Tobago, or intends to own or operate the tourism project contemplated which the project is contemplated may apply to the Corporation in the form prescribed, to have the tourism project approved for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Upon receipt of an application under subsection (1) the Corporation may require the applicant to submit such information and plans as required, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Corporation shall submit the application to the Assembly for recommendations. The Assembly may require that satisfactory evidence be submitted to it with respect to any matter relevant to the application, proposed project, ownership of the tourism project or proposed tourism project or lands to be used in connection therewith, or to the estimated expenditure on the project, or the source of funds thereof.
- (3) The Assembly upon receipt of the information, plans, evidence or estimate requested in accordance with subsection (1) shall examine the application and upon consideration of the approved criteria and guidelines in accordance with this Act, shall make the necessary recommendations to the Minister no later than thirty days after the receipt of the application.”

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This is not inconsistent with what the *Hansard* says the PNM wanted. If you read what the Member for Arouca South said they wanted, it is the same thing concerning the relationship between section 25(1) and section 75(1) of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I quote again from *Hansard* at page 146 when the Tobago House of Assembly Bill was going through the Parliament:

“**Mr. Chairman:** There is an amendment to clause 25 circulated by the Government and, indeed, one by the Opposition. The Government’s amendment reads as follows:

‘A. Delete subclauses (1) and (2) and substitute the following:

‘(1) Without prejudice to section 75(1) of the Constitution, the Assembly shall, in relation to Tobago, be responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy in respect of the matters set out in the Fifth Schedule’...

Is there agreement on this?

**Mrs. Robinson-Regis:** Yes, we have agreement on this, but we just wanted a clarification with regard to exactly how this section would work. What does it mean, in essence?

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Chairman, it clarifies the position which the Member for Arouca South was concerned about in relation to section 75(1) of the Constitution, and we make it clear that it does not affect section 75(1) of the Constitution.”

That is not Morgan Job speaking. It is the man who is now President, then Minister Extraordinaire with responsibility for Tobago Affairs. As he finished saying those words, Mr. Imbert got up and said:

“**Mr. Imbert:** Mr. Chairman, does this mean that section 75(1) would be superior to this?”

That was section 75(1), and this is what Mr. Robinson said:

“**Mr. Robinson:** Obviously. It was very clear. Instead of getting yourself into the semantics about policy you have a clear constitutional provision.”

Morgan Job was not there.

They come here making all kinds of bogus promises and, indeed, if I can find the contribution of Mrs. Robinson-Regis—because it might be good to put it into

the record again so that the public, and when I give this to children in Tobago to read, will know exactly what was going on—she did, in fact, make a whole issue and that was the substance of her contribution. The relationship between section 25(1) of the Tobago House of Assembly Act and section 75(1) of the Constitution. I am saying that the record is clear, so that when they come here to say they would give Mr. Charles and the Tobago House of Assembly the right to do this and the right to do that, the evidence is not there supporting it.

Recently, when I was in the Senate replying to a question, I said that I had done the best that I thought I lawfully could, to get information from the Tobago House of Assembly, and this is what Sen. Montano said:

“Mr. President, I would have thought that at least the goodly Minister...”

—which is me—

“...could, at this point, instruct perhaps the Auditor General to make an inquiry. After all, he has unlimited access. He can at least extrapolate the information for us because I find it unacceptable for a Minister to say that he cannot get the information. That is in breach of the Constitution, Mr. President.”

They bring in the Constitution when it suits their purpose. When it does not suit their purpose and they want to mystify and create mischief, they say all kinds of nonsense to people. I cannot tolerate that. It reminds me that I said here before, there are some people who, like they believe in obeah. The first thing one fellow did when he became Minister of Works and Transport, was that he climbed up on the Red House to change the piece of metal up there and put a defecating corbeau.

They used to have an official position in ancient Rome called augur. The augur used to look at the entrails of birds, or the flights of birds and prophesy. They are like that; they believe in obeah; leading people into obeah. I cannot understand these people and that is why they have no interest in the truth. That is why they come here to mischievously deceive people with the support of the press that absolutely refused, for three years, to tell people anything I say here.

I am showing clear, logical arguments. I do not come here to *mauvais langue* people as they do. The last time on the debate on the National Museum and Art Gallery Bill, they spent the whole evening abusing and maligning me, when I never said—the *Hansard* record is there—Eric Williams was a racist. I am not crazy to say that.

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In fact, I wrote a book where I said that one of the things we need to be grateful to Eric Williams for, is that until he died, for the 25 years he was Premier or Prime Minister of this country, Trinidad and Tobago stayed out from the worst excesses of ethnic violence and ethnic strife that there was in Africa, India, Sri Lanka and so many other places. I wrote that in black and white and I repeated it many a time.

After I wrote that, I stand by my words. How could I go and say Williams was a racist? Mischievous, propagandist, evil people, dedicating to using every little opportunity to push this kind of racist "dotishness" on people. Believers in obehah. Two-faced people. You do not know when they are talking the truth and when they are lying, from which corner of the mouth they are lying. They are so Ianus-faced. I should say Janus-faced, but the Romans did not have a "J" sound, they had a "Y" sound, so it is Ianus-faced, like *ianus partulkus* and *ianus procedius*—the gods of opening of doors and the gods of closing of doors. You never know. They are very Ianus-faced, very two-faced.

These epigoni; these epicene; these little men have nothing to say that is of any substance on any matter. No vision; no understanding; just basking in the penumbra of the glory and the greatness of Eric Williams. [Interruption] Epicene little men, I said, epigoni, basking in the penumbra of the greatness and the collective memory of Eric Williams. They have no ideas of their own. They could never get up and say anything sensible on their own and say, "This is what I believe. That is what I say. That is what I stand for. This is the substance of my 40 or 50 years of research or reading."

I can do that. I do it all the time. I am doing it now. I am telling you what I have distilled from a lifetime of scholarship and study. I do not have to quote Williams and if I disagree with Williams, then I disagree with him and I disagree with him on substantial grounds. I never said Williams was a racist. They spent the whole evening here wasting people's time saying I said Williams was a racist. They are just using history for their own stupid purposes.

It reminds me of Edmund Burke, that history should be a magazine to instruct us of the foibles and stupidity of mankind. Instead of that, they use history as a magazine to foment ethnic strife and fratricide. That is what they use history for, not to edify, not to educate, not to illuminate, but to lead into corridors of darkness. That is their purpose, a kind of fascist purpose, to distort. That is the point I was making, Mr. Speaker.



**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, 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. [*Mr. P. Manning*] [*Desk thumping*] [*Dr. Job rises*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Just because the Leader of the Opposition does it, that does not give you the right to rise.

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, I am indeed grateful to the hon. Member for San Fernando East because he must recognize that he gets some benefit from my being on my feet. [*Laughter*]

**Mr. Hinds:** No beers, but happy hour.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to spend some time to advise the Member for Toco/Manzanilla, the Member for San Fernando East and all those over there, that we have suffered a lot in Trinidad and Tobago and, indeed, in the Caribbean, from misguided ideas. People look up to calypsonians; they look up to politicians; they look up to preachers, and we have a situation in Trinidad and Tobago and, indeed, throughout the Caribbean, where people are very insecure. They have to believe in somebody. They have to be led. That is the nature of the world, like Aristotle said in *Politics, Book I*, Section 3-5, "They cannot take the responsibility to make decisions and lead somebody else".

Many of us do not understand that. I have had occasion—and I repeat this afternoon that the politicians in this country ought to look at themselves and the things they say. When you are ignorant, seek advice. Do not get up and talk as if you know what you are talking about. I used to teach logic to graduate students and I made a particular effort, when I was doing that, to have a whole class on the genetic fallacy and the fallacies in logic where you give authority to a statement merely because of the respect you have for somebody who says it. That is why many women get ravaged by conmen because they respect them; they believe they are talking the truth and the "fella" is talking so nice, they follow them to their own destruction and disaster. As I said in Tobago recently—

**Mr. Manning:** I must caution you. It is the same position.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Well, I always advise people where they can go to look for the evidence to controvert anything I say. I never say anything *ex cathedra*. I say it on the condition that I could be refuted and I tell you where to go to look for it. I am quoting from the *Hansard* here to make a plea because the Member for Diego Martin Central spent a lot of time advising the public and this Parliament that this Tourism Bill is not about tourism, that the law should legislate about the product. I do not know how that is to be done. I know that there are all kinds of tourism products; you can even say an infinite amount of tourism products.

I used to live in East Africa and there was a tourism product down there where people from Europe used to take a jumbo jet and go down there looking for little boys. That was a tourism product. There was a big industry in Thailand, an infinity, a similar kind of tourism project. In Brazil, all over the place, all kinds of tourism products. I am trying to focus the mind on the impossibility, whether it is legitimate or illegitimate, of a government, in law, defining “tourism products”.

You see, what you have to do in law is to set up the condition, the environment of law, that would allow the transactors in the market to most efficaciously and efficiently exploit the opportunities that are there that they can create for themselves. That is what you want to do. The law should be the umbrella; the law should be the defining boundaries of what is acceptable in the market. If the Government finds it purposeful and to its advantage to create certain kinds of incentives that will accommodate that process, that is what the law should be all about.

The law cannot define what the products are. The law does not know. No Cabinet Minister or Government Minister is sufficiently wise, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to define tourism products. They should not do it. They cannot do it even if they should.

### **3.00 p.m.**

I want to quote from another statement in the Senate which would be of edification to all these people. One of the problems that we are burdened with is that generation after generation of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago are bombarded with ignorance from politicians coming over as economic sense. Hear this, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

“Mr. President, the point is that we have significant talent and resources in Trinidad and Tobago where we need very significant government policies to harness that talent and learning.”

I am quoting from Sen. Philip Marshall on Scientific Research and Policy Guidelines in the Senate just recently.

“The hon. Member for Tobago talked about the immutable laws of economics and, again, I would like to add here that some of these laws are changing in the knowledge economy.”

That is not true, Mr. Deputy Speaker but the ignorance is propagated as wisdom.

“...some of these laws are changing in the knowledge economy.”

Hear this most bogus and absolute bit of ignorance here.

“I would like to add here...”

*[Interruption]* I am quoting from the *Hansard*. My God!

**Miss Nicholson:** “Doh attack de man!”

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I continue:

“I would like to add here that some of these laws are changing in the knowledge economy. Whereas in the...”

*[Interruption]* This is the problem that we have to deal with because the press is not dealing with it. Too much ignorance is being propagated as fact and truth and nobody is dealing with it.

“Whereas in the past we have laws of diminishing returns which basically say that the more you consume of something, the less valuable it is, the smaller the marginal contribution for each additional unit...”

That is not the law of diminishing returns. This has nothing to do with the law of diminishing returns. Absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker! Let me tell you what the law of diminishing returns is. I had to study these things. I had to do it at undergraduate level, MSc. level, Ph.D. level, in mathematics and topological spaces. Years of my life have been spent studying the law of diminishing returns. This bogus nonsense comes and is propagated to innocent little children who do not know better and the Member is telling me that I must not criticize. I am going to criticize it for as long as I am here, and you are going to hear more of this criticism as the months go by. Nonsense! This stupidity must stop!

The law of diminishing returns, Mr. Deputy Speaker, says that when one has a production process—in the scientific jargon one would say when one has a production function, one has a function of many variables. If one says Y is the output and one has X<sub>1</sub> to X<sub>N</sub> as the input, one has a multi-dimensional function. When one goes to O’level algebra one would say Y is a function of X. So one

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would have one variable as the function of another and one would be able to create a curve like  $Y = x^2 + C$  or something like that. One would have parabola and all these kinds of curves. When one goes to three dimensions one would have  $Y$  is a function of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , so one would have a three-dimensional space there. Normally, in production processes one would have an  $N$ -dimensional space. So one would have  $Y$  is equal to a function of  $X_1$  to  $X_N$ ; where “ $N$ ” is any number.

What the law of diminishing returns says is that if one keeps  $X_N$  minus 1 variables constant, and one only varies one variable—one may vary  $X_5$  or  $X_6$  or  $X_N$  minus  $P$ , whatever that is—and keeps all the others constant, one would have a curve, which is like a slice of that function, showing where at one point one would have increasing returns, then one would get a point of inflection, diminishing returns and one would reach a point where, in fact, one’s returns would decline. That is what the law of diminishing returns says. Do you understand?

**Mr. Imbert:** Wrong, wrong.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am willing to sit and let the hon. Member tell you what the law of diminishing returns is. *[Laughter]* Tell them. I am wrong. Tell the Members what it is. *[Laughter]* Do you understand? *[Laughter]* The law of diminishing returns has nothing to do with this bundle of ignorance that is being propagated on innocent people here. That is what goes on in the Parliament, the Senate, all about and the Member is telling me that I must not say it. Until the people vote me out of here, you are going to hear more of this kind of thing. *[Interruption]* That is all right. That is okay. If the Member knows me well, he would know that is okay. Do you understand?

Sen. Marshall goes on, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

“in the knowledge economy, in fact, we have the laws of increasing returns.

The more that you develop our product, for example, a software product, the more implemented is that product. The more pervasive the implementation of that product is throughout the world, in fact, the more valuable that product becomes, because that product becomes the platform where customers using that product are so going to install it in their business processes, that the switching cost to move from that product to another, will be far more expensive than even if somebody came along with a supposedly advanced component. In the new economy and the new knowledge world, what companies are really fighting for is that initial window of opportunity to

establish the platform to seek and maintain those customer relationships by being first.”

Again, utter, absolute, indubitable confusion!

There is a theory of economics, or a set of models, that have to do with product cycle theory—Raymond Vernon is the name I remember in the text that I used when I had to study that—that was dealing with this phenomenon and has nothing to do with increasing returns that is being articulated here. I do not want to spend more time on that. I think I have made my point: that the press in this country is not helpful to educating people. *[Interruption]* I am not giving way.

**Dr. Rowley:** I am not asking for way. Could the Member identify his quotation, please.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am quoting from the statement on Scientific Research Policy Guidelines, the contribution of Sen. P. Marshall in the Senate. I did say that.

What I am alluding to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, *[Interruption]* How much more time do I have, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** About 20 minutes.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I need to say these things because if I do not say them, nobody else will. I think in this period that we are getting into, I will get many opportunities to comment.

I want to make another comment on a matter that was also raised by the Member for Diego Martin Central where he spoke about the Government with oil price at an all-time high. He said that when reserves are high, foreign exchange is hoarded and starving business. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to comment on that. Again, the Member for Diego Martin Central wrote a book of essays with the late Morris Marshall. If I had thought that he was going to come with this bogus nonsense this afternoon I would have walked with that book so that I would quote again to point out how ignorance is being propagated as wisdom in this country, to the destruction of good sense and to the canalizing of emotions of tribal loyalties, to no purpose that is progressive or purposeful to the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago.

I do not know, I have not been talking to the people in Central Bank for the last couple of days, so I cannot verify that there is any, should I say, mischievous intent in what the Member for Diego Martin Central said. I shall repeat for you the model that he outlined there—when oil price is at an all-time high, when reserves are high, foreign exchange is hoarded and starving business people.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to remind you, as I started in my debate, that we did not just happen to be here. All of us have a past; we have a history. Many of us did not learn from it. I think it was Hegel or somebody who said: “what we learn from history is that men learn nothing from history.” I can see in this statement a total mental block, blocking out our past.

**3.10 p.m.**

In 1986, when the National Alliance for Reconstruction came into power they had a problem. They had a problem in the 1970s when the Shah of Iran, Gadaffi and these people escalated the price of oil. The real price of oil went up by hundreds of per cent, maybe thousands of per cent and Trinidad and Tobago went from an annual budget of \$50 million, in about 1969/1970—[*Interruption*]

**Hon. Member:** We have never had a budget of \$50 million.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Speaker, before the oil price, budgets in this country were \$50 million or \$100 million; that was the budget for the whole country.

**Mr. Assam:** When Williams came into power it was \$90 million in 1956. Shut up, you do not know. [*Crosstalk*]

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Suddenly, budgets started to be \$200 million, \$500 million, \$1 billion and then you started having reserves of \$2 billion or \$3 billion; reserves, yes. By 1983 they set up all these special funds, built up all these state enterprises and had subsidies for just about everything. By the time we got to 1986, not only did the country not have money, but it was totally, utterly, irrevocably bankrupt; it had no money. All those billions of dollars of reserves went. This Member for Diego Martin Central is getting up now and inciting the public to believe that we must go back there; that is what he is saying.

The oil price is high, so what we are supposed to do is give people money so they could buy more Mercedes Benzes, buy more cars and spend money on foreign goods so that, in fact, businessmen are going to make a lot of money and five years from now that money will end up in Miami, the Cayman Islands or anywhere else, and the poor people in Trinidad and Tobago would be hungry. That is what happened in the oil boom; the Syrians made a lot of money and they have it in New York and Miami and the people in Laventille are hungry. All over the corridor their own people ended up destitute and hungry, worse off than they were, and the people who took the oil money went away. That is what they did, they took the money and gave it to people to carry away. He is getting up here this afternoon to incite people to do the same stupidity!

**Mr. Assam:** Take it easy. [*Desk thumping*]

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I do not understand. You should be commending the Government, commending Mr. Kuei Tung and commending everybody who has anything to do with the prudent management of reserves, so that we do not have another cycle of leaving Laventille, Beetham, Pinto Road and Waterhole destitute and hungry, straddling their behinds on the ground, and all these people have the money all about the place. That is what they want, and they say, “We care”. We know the slogan, “We care”. Care to mislead, care to deceive, that is what they care about! Total deceivers and misleaders!

This question is linked to what I was quoting about the law of diminishing returns—people who do not understand economics. The question of the exchange rate is inextricably linked to what you do with your reserves, because if you allow people to just start to spend money “lablash”, given the difference in domestic productivity and price levels compared to that of our trading partners, you are going to have a situation where the money supply is going to increase in Trinidad and Tobago. You are going to get an outflow of the reserves, as the Member quite rightly does not understand. I say, as he quite rightly does not understand. The consequence of that is going to be inflation.

When you have inflation because of irresponsible monetary policy, who are the people who are going to suffer? The people who are on fixed incomes, the public servants, the poor who depend on DEWD and 10-days, and old-age pension. It is that mass of people who will end up bearing the brunt of the inflationary tax. That is a fact; that is the logic, that is what the law of the constraints of the economy would say. But the Member gets up here this afternoon flippantly and mischievously, inciting people to believe that this is a wicked government.

That is what they used to tell people—why we ended up with 1990: “The government is vindictive, wicked, malicious and do not like black people; it is a slave master government!” Then Marshall was up there marching with Abu Bakr and all of them, against this wicked, vindictive and malicious government, mobilizing hatred, ignorance and anxiety. It ended with people being killed; the whole town burnt down and the Syrians built it back and bought it over, and the poor people still hungry and destitute. They want that again; that is what they want! Talking a set of rubbish to incite people into dotishness and, at the end of the day, the same people are going to be worse off and the other people are laughing. [*Crosstalk*]

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I am not going to sit in this Parliament—and I am going to call names, whether I am in the Senate or the House, when they talk stupidity; I guarantee that, Mr. Deputy Speaker! We have to deal with truth. [*Mr. Valley stands*] I am not giving way!

**Mr. Valley:** I just want to make a small point.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** No! I am not giving way!

**Mr. Valley:** Because you know that you are talking stupidity. You do not understand economics.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Yes, I am talking stupidity, because I am quoting you! [*Desk thumping*] [*Laughter*] Nonsense!

**Hon. Member:** “Yuh” look for that!

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Always inciting. Mr. Deputy Speaker, look at this. [*Dr. Job shows paper*] Do you recognize this?

**Mr. Hinds:** This is Parliament’s “happy hour”.

**Mr. Assam:** When you are speaking is the “happy hour”.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** December 15, 1986; “Vote PNM”. The *PNM News*, December 15, that is the day before the election, propaganda from house to house. The most effective election campaign in this country is the house-to-house campaign. “Doh mind what yuh hear on the platform” I am warning the people on this side, if you think that getting up on a platform and spending money on television is going to be of any use to you, you are making a great mistake. The house-to-house campaign is the most effective destructive campaign you can have. [*Interruption*] It is the most productive too, I agree. I will hand that to you.

**Mr. Assam:** And how come they lose twice? [*Laughter*]

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Well, that shows you the level of mismanagement. The reason I am waving this is because I have something to say here. Again, in attacking me unfairly and unjustly, impugning and maligning my character without just cause, the Member for Diego Martin West had to make a statement—as I said, these epigoni, epicene little men basking in the penumbra of the glory of the late great Williams.

**Mr. G. Singh:** Ah, phrase boy!

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Always; they cannot quote anything of their own, except if they quote Williams. He said, and I quote again—maybe I should not



quote it because I quoted it already, I would just say what it said. He said that the People's National Movement—[*Interruption*—do you want me to quote it? He said that the PNM was the only vehicle for giving justice to all the people of this country, irrespective of creed, race, ethnic origin, or who is afro-based or indo-based.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they got up on December 15, 1986, and spread this thing house-to-house the night before the election. I am quoting here and I want anybody who has a reasonable modicum of English Language, I mean a good standard five English Language—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Assam:** Who has that over there?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Hear this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they talked about:

“The struggle is between the oppressors of the people and the PNM. To achieve all this the PNM has had to fight against our oppressors and would-be bosses for 30 years. These oppressors are always there using different strategies to regain power and position over us; power and position which the PNM took away from them and gave to the people, we kind of people, the descendants of African slaves and East Indian indentured labourers; we kind of people.”

This is their propaganda, and “we kind of people” are the people who are not the oppressors, like those who were in the POPPG or ONR or under any other name, like the UNC, for example.

**Mr. Assam:** But they send Syrians to fight me in 1995.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, listen to this. I am logical, you know. When I make my statements, there is a reason to what I am saying.

**Mr. Assam:** Are those the oppressors you sent to fight me?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I am quoting here from a document that many people do not know about—but I plead guilty, I have one problem, one addiction. It is not to women or alcohol, it is to books, anything in black and white, I hoard it; I am always reading something. When I read something or find out about something, I go and look for it wherever they have it. So I have many documents that nobody else has.

This is one document that everybody should have. This is the *Interim Report of the Commission of Enquiry into Racial and Colour Discrimination in the Private Sector*, dated October 1970, so that is many years after 1956. So if what

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the Member for Diego Martin West is saying here—when you hear this, you will hear a story that would make many people feel bad. They are talking about the “Central Bank and Racial Imbalance”.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should tell you who these Commissioners were: Lloyd Braithwaite was one of them, Rev. Boyd Reid, Mrs. Esmee Ottley, Dr. Martin Sampath and Aldwin Poon Tip, all honourable gentlemen, as far as I can grasp; all men whose characters are beyond question, that is, as far as I know. I do not think that they would have put their names and signatures to falsehood. [*Crosstalk*]

Here is what they had to say:

“The Commission in its investigation interpreted the phrase ‘private sector’ liberally as indicating all those institutions not directly controlled by the Government. In the case of the Central Bank, although colour discrimination did not seem to exist, there appeared to be a considerable racial imbalance as between Indians and non-Indians...”

This was a long long time after 1956.

I went to Queen’s Royal College and graduated with my O’levels in 1961. The ethnic composition of the school, as a matter of fact—and I am sure it was the same in Hillview College, St. Mary’s College, Naparima, Bishop Anstey, convents and all of them, just like the population, there was balance. So how come in the Central Bank they said that in the case of the Central Bank:

“...although colour discrimination did not seem to exist, there appeared to be a considerable racial imbalance as between Indians and non-Indians, with the Indians considerably under represented in comparison with their proportion in the general population. We believe that the existence of this imbalance indicates that all institutions such as we hope described should come under the scrutiny of the Race Relations Board.”

Lloyd Braithwaite, Boyd Reid, Esmee Ottley, all of them signed their names to that long after 1956.

I am saying that because when you come to 1986, 30 years after, and you go from house to house inciting people to believe that we kind of people look a certain kind of way. Gillette is the acting Prime Minister; it could have been anybody else.

**Hon. Members:** It could have been you.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** It could have been a Syrian or a local white. I would like to know that children are growing up in this country with the understanding and belief that they are not diminished because of their colour or the straightness of their hair. I would like to believe that. [*Desk thumping*] I really want the children who are in primary school now, whatever they look like, to know and feel that they could be Chief Justice, Attorney General, Prime Minister, President or whatever high office that this land has to offer. They must grow up knowing that. It must not be an unwritten thing that—okay, the Constitution says that it could be so, but we know, in fact, that even though it is *de jure* so, *de facto* it will never be so. That is the problem.

When we have political leaders and political parties instigating by word, action, deed, body language or symbols that this country is really a country where whatever the law says, whatever the Constitution says, the fact of the matter is that Prime Ministers should look a certain way or be a certain kind of person; that is wrong. I am not supporting it. [*Interruption*]

**Dr. Rowley:** Could the Member identify the origin of the document from which he is quoting?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** I have a document here published by PR Consultants, dated December 15, 1986. [*Crosstalk*]

**Hon. Members:** Who printed that?

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** You ought to know, you are the people who put this out. [*Crosstalk*] This is a PNM document. There is a balisier on the front. They want to disown it now. They went from house to house.

**Mr. Assam:** We have seen that they are dishonest already.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** The night before the election, from house to house, and they want to disown it now. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Assam:** The People's National Movement dropped it in my house.

**Hon. Members:** You gave it to him.

**Mr. Assam:** Yes, I gave it to him.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next time the PNM provoke me to deal with this matter I am going to quote a document that was produced by the late former Prime Minister. He spent about half a million dollars of taxpayers'

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money to give Selwyn Ryan to say the same thing that Boyd Reid and the others said in the 1970s, and they want to deny it, and they come here talking this foolishness about our President.

As long as I am in this Parliament you have to be careful what you are saying and do not call my name, because when you call my name all you do is to provoke me to go back in my library; that is what they do. So every time you call my name—[*Interruption*—let me deal with my self-importance, that is my problem, I will deal with that. Every time you call my name and you malign me—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Could the Member just wind up, please. You have about 30 seconds.

**Dr. The Hon. M. Job:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support this Bill wholeheartedly. I want to advise the people of Tobago to eschew every nonsense they heard the Member for Diego Martin West said concerning his and his party's wanting to give the Tobago House of Assembly the right to veto any decision that the Government makes. I thought that I quoted from the *Hansard* to make the point clear, that that is not on. It is not on at all.

Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to speak. [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Assam:** You are a doublespeak man. Totally dishonest!

**3.25 p.m.**

**Miss Pamela Nicholson (Tobago West):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope I will be able to bring back the discourse to the Bill before the House. I am very pleased to join in this debate on this Bill, “An Act to facilitate the development of the Tourism Industry by providing to investors incentives and concessions and to make provision for matters incidental thereto.”

The first concern I have relates to the Government and its interpretation of the phrase “devolution of power” to Tobago, and I concur with the Member for Diego Martin West in this debate, and secondly, its appreciation of the Tobago House of Assembly as an institution and its preoccupation with a personality that heads the Tobago House of Assembly and this is what is creating the confusion that we are having today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, devolution of power means delegation of power. When the people in Tobago struggled for the Tobago House of Assembly, they did so to have a body to make decisions. It is decision-making, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so I see contradictions. The Member for Tobago East said that there are many contradictions in the country and I agree with him because I see many contradictions between what the Government is saying in this Bill and other bills relating to the Tobago House of Assembly and I will give my example later on.

Under the Fifth Schedule of the Tobago House of Assembly Act, tourism was given to Tobago from a decision-making perspective. It was delegated to the Tobago House of Assembly, it is what we call devolution of power that was given to the Tobago House of Assembly. In section 25 it says:

“The Assembly shall, in relation to Tobago, be responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy in respect of the matters set out in the Fifth Schedule...”

So I cannot agree with the Government's position in this Bill when it states in clauses 11, 12 and 13 of Part 2, and I quote.

“11.(1) Where a project is contemplated in Tobago having the minimum capital expenditure prescribed in Schedule 9 any person who owns or operates projects in Tobago, or intends to own or operate the tourism project contemplated which the project is contemplated may apply to the Corporation...”

And here they are talking about TIDCO.

“...in the form prescribed, to have the tourism project approved for the purposes of this Act.”

(2) Upon receipt of an application under subsection (1) the Corporation may require the applicant to submit such information and plans as required, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Corporation shall submit the application to the Assembly for recommendations. The Assembly may require that satisfactory evidence be submitted to it with respect to any matter relevant to the application, proposed project, ownership of the tourism project or proposed tourism project or lands to be used in connection therewith, or to the estimated expenditure on the project, or the source of the funds thereof.”

Clause 13 says all the Assembly can do is make recommendations, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The state authority to which responsibility for tourism into Trinidad and Tobago is assigned, they have that power, so if you want to implement a project in Tobago, you have to apply to TIDCO which will send the information to the Tobago House of Assembly if it affects Tobago, and the Tobago House of Assembly can only make recommendations. So there is a situation that decision-making power has been given to the Tobago House of Assembly, but all it can do is recommend so the Minister can always overturn what the Tobago House of Assembly says, an institution that will be the most sensitive institution to any problem affecting Tobago.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are using a personality crisis today to address our problems. We are talking about the Tobago House of Assembly, an institution to address Tobago's problems and that is the difference. That institution has been given decision-making powers. Powers have been delegated to it, and tourism, under the Fifth Schedule, is one of the areas that has been given to the Tobago House of Assembly, so I do not concur with the nonsensical arguments that were just made by the Member for Tobago East. [*Desk thumping*]

When the Tobago House of Assembly can only recommend to the Minister, he can always overturn and we have always been having these problems. There is a problem with Four Seasons, Tobago Hilton there is a problem, our best wetlands are in that area, they can do anything with it, and nobody is listening to the sensitive arguments of the people of Tobago. There is a crisis with an individual, the Chief Secretary, and, therefore, they are saying; "we taking back our power."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is my view that if the Government had, first of all, produced a national tourism policy document where it would have worked with the Tobago House of Assembly which would have given its views, there would be a national tourism policy document guiding both the Tobago House of Assembly and the Central Government so that the Tobago House of Assembly would function in keeping with the national policy. That is what we should have had, a national tourism policy document first, and then the Bill or the Act.

The Tobago House of Assembly will be, as I said earlier, far more sensitive to Tobago's problems. For example, we have the sewer waste problem and there is another five-star hotel which is being constructed in Tobago. Who is going to monitor the efficient functioning of that plant? What impact will that be having

on the wetlands at Lowlands, the lagoon at Lowlands. We have our problems at the lagoon at Pigeon Point; today there is a crisis in Tobago where, yes you are the landowner, but the people of Tobago, the fishermen are being ignored, they are crying out for assistance. The Government can get involved and acquire lands and assist the fishermen in the area. You have big business in total control and that is what is going to be happening with tourism. Right now, we in Tobago do not want tourism to continue in the pattern that has been taking place in Tobago where you have the whole south-western district concretized with some ugly buildings destroying the beauty, the natural ambience of Tobago which is so important for tourists. *[Interruption]* Well, we want to stop it, that is what I am trying to tell you. Wait, shut up your mouth, you talked already.

**Mr. Assam:** Why are you protesting?

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not interfere when the Member for St. Joseph was speaking, I listened. I want protection, he is a rude “fella”. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is my view that a backward step is being taken because what is happening is that devolution now returns to centralization and all the decision-making powers return to the Central Government in Port of Spain. So what the Tobago House of Assembly Act is articulating and telling us, Central Government is contradicting it and saying, “I am not giving you that again, bring it back to Port of Spain.” That is what is happening. Look at the Act!

All that Tobago is doing is crying out for the decision-making power. If the Government believes that there will be problems based on insularity, pettiness and political bias, especially in the case of the Tobago House of Assembly, then there is another flaw in the Act in relation to the power of appeal. When one looks at this Bill, nowhere is there the power of appeal. If the Minister takes a decision and the individual wants to question the validity of that decision, there is nowhere in this Bill that talks about an appeal tribunal or anything like that to which one can go. Whether it is the Tobago House of Assembly, or the Minister in charge, the people who want to implement this project must be able to appeal some of the decisions. When a certain decision is taken for the Tobago House of Assembly, if the hotelier feels it is a negative position, one must have the power to go to an appeal tribunal. If it is in Trinidad, it goes before the Minister, it is the same thing; they must have the power to go to an appeal tribunal and appeal their case. This Bill says nothing about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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I am saying if there is a problem with the Tobago House of Assembly, this is one way we can address any flaws that might come up in the actions that would take place. You also could have a joint resolution body, if you do not agree with that. There could be a body made up of members, perhaps from the Tobago House of Assembly and the Central Government to take the decision. My argument is, tourism has been handed over to the Tobago House of Assembly and the THA should have a say, not to recommend but approve; because every time you recommend, the Minister can overturn what you recommend. We have been having that experience, and it is very clear in the tourism area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we in Tobago will not sit idly by and allow the Government to interfere with the institutional powers of the Tobago House of Assembly. Devolution or delegation of powers of which tourism is one, the Government must respond in that way to the people of Tobago. We say we want our decision-making power. You have your insular personalized problems, address them in the way they should be addressed and do not use personalized problems of an individual to interfere with the powers of the Tobago House of Assembly.

I see contradictions in the Government's approach. I do not see a consistent approach because if I understood what the Member for Tobago East was saying, there is an Act, I think it is the Squatter Regularization Act, where certain powers have been given to the Tobago House of Assembly, for example the administrative powers. In that Bill there is a situation too where the state lands have also been put in the Fifth Schedule under the purview of the Tobago House of Assembly. If one looks at the Squatter Regularization Act, one will see where to address that problem—under the Ministry of Housing and Settlements, there is a land agency to deal with squatter regularization in Trinidad, and the Tobago House of Assembly must address the squatter problem in Tobago.

**3.40 p.m.**

What I see today—Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member is not even waiting and listening—he is troubling me. The point I am making is that in 1998 the Government was saying one thing and in the year 2000 the Government is taking it away. In 1998, the Government said let the Tobago House of Assembly address it, this is decision-making power which belongs to the Assembly for state lands; squatter regularization should be under their purview. But today, the Government is saying that to give approval to the tourist projects must not be with the Tobago House of Assembly even though tourism is under the Tobago House of Assembly. So it is a backward step.



What we are saying is that the Government must be consistent in its actions. In the Squatter Regularization Act the Government said that the Tobago House of Assembly should address squatter regularization in Tobago. In the same way tourism should be addressed by the Tobago House of Assembly. Mr. Speaker, at least they should be able to approve it. After they have done that—well they could send the documents to the Minister so that he could determine the tax exemptions—Mr. Speaker, we are not so concerned about that part.

So what I am saying here is that the Government is inconsistent in its approach with powers given to the Tobago House of Assembly. I only hope that the Attorney General is listening very closely to what I am saying. I am saying that in one Act the Government gave the Tobago House of Assembly the powers defined in the Tobago House of Assembly Act and in the other Act—which is the tourism Bill today—they are taking away those powers and bringing it back to Port of Spain. That is the point I am making. This is one time that I concur with my hon. Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that this Bill should make it necessary for all persons who operate or intend to own or operate a tourism project in Tobago that their applications should be sent straight to the Tobago House of Assembly. The Assembly should look into all of the ramifications, all the problems, determine the compatibility with the environment and so forth, and approve. When they approve, they can send the approvals to the Minister for him to address the question of the tax exemptions and so forth. It can be done that way. The other way is that we can have a body made up of representatives from the Tobago House of Assembly and the Central Government to address the approval question. But I cannot see how the Government could give the Tobago House of Assembly tourism powers under the Fifth Schedule and then take it away and bring it back to Port of Spain.

Secondly, concerning linkages, I would like to raise that point. Mr. Speaker, on page 17, clause 7 (e) says:

“Tourism projects seeking to access benefits under this Act—

- (e) must show linkages to the agricultural, construction and furniture industries and other manufactured goods and services of Trinidad and Tobago.”

Mr. Speaker, I subscribe very strongly to that view because it is important to develop the economy in a holistic way so that the people can benefit from it. I want to ask a few questions: When the Government talks about that linkage of

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tourism, if a full investigation was done about it—because from what you see in Tobago I want to know if you mean that the hotelier who is putting down his plant in Tobago, will develop his own agricultural project so as to supply himself with all his fruits, vegetables, whatever he wants in the hotel.

I am asking the Government if that is what they mean, because there is a situation where the Tobago Hilton is being given all kinds of tax exemptions. They have a huge agricultural plant there. Is that what you mean, that the Tobagonians go back as agricultural workers to the plantocracy? Is that what we are saying? The hotelier now would be like the plantocracy that we had before when it was cocoa, sugarcane and so forth. Is that what you mean? Or, do you mean that funding should be given for the development of agriculture to the Tobago House of Assembly so that Tobago's agriculture would be revitalized; that the farmers and the people of Tobago must do the production and then sell to the hotelier? I want to know about that, because we have two very big cases in Tobago and that seems to be the trend; when the trend should be the people. The people should be the farmers and the farmers should be encouraged. We should not have a situation where the Minister of Finance does not give a single penny for agricultural development in Tobago. Agriculture is a link to tourism.

The Tobago House of Assembly needs funding from a developmental perspective to encourage, to revitalize, to bring back the Tobagonians to the lands so that the fruits, vegetables, the ground provision, everything will come from them and marketed to the hotels and the foreign exchange will trickle down to the people in the community. I think that is what the hon. Member is talking about and if that is what he is talking about we want to see and hear something more from you on that.

The next area, Sir, when I look at that same section with the linkages, I thought that you could have included compatibility with the environment in that area. Nowhere in the document have I seen that the projects that would be approved must function in a way compatible with the environment.

We have another serious problem in Tobago which is a small island that is very fragile even though it is beautiful; even though the eco-system still attracts people to the island, and you are putting up large Five Star Hotels. If we continue with that system we will no longer have tourists after five or 10 years coming to Tobago, because they would only be coming to see concrete structures. So I would like to know. For example, the Tobago Hilton—was an in-depth, environmental impact assessment demanded from that body? Was approval given against that background to that institution?

When they put down a sewage collection treatment system, which governmental institution would be monitoring to make sure that it is efficiently run. We have a situation in Tobago that most of us are very concerned about, because most of the treatment plants that we have in Tobago are non-functional and are polluting the waters of Tobago; left, right and centre. The major people in that area would be the National Housing Authority in the Buccoo Plant, and the Bon Accord Plant, all of them are totally inefficient and non-functional; polluting the waters of the lagoon; polluting the waters in the Buccoo area, the Buccoo Reef and so forth. We have that problem.

That is why we have been crying out in Parliament for several years that there is need for a proper sewage treatment plant in the south-western district of Tobago to protect our waters; to protect our beaches; to protect our reefs; to protect the wetlands in the area. Not the one that we have that is operating today, and a new one is now being constructed by the Tobago Hilton. We want to know if these people are concerned about the compatibility of the environment. I want to see something like that in the Act. I feel that in the section dealing with linkages one should have talked about the tourist project being compatible with the environment of the island.

**3.50 p.m.**

All you have to do is to give the Tobago House of Assembly funding so that they could employ people with the right kind of skills to run a proper tourism unit because the Tobagonian is far more sensitive to what is happening in Tobago as you will be far more sensitive to what is taking place in Trinidad. It is very, very important. What is happening in the island affects all of us. We want tourism to survive and if tourism is to survive you have to deal with that area, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In the same Hilton area they intend to put down a marina near Little Rockly Bay Beach and the lagoon borders that area. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is what we are talking about when we speak of the environment because it can be destructive as the engine oils and other kinds of things can flow into the borders of the lagoon where the fish and other marine life spawn and that whole developmental process—I am not a marine person. I believe that probably the Member for Tobago East will know everything about that, because he knows everything, and will know about the credibility of putting down a marina in that area where we have our beautiful lagoon that plays a certain role from a marine life perspective. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we talk about compatibility with the environment that is another area that we are talking about.

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The next point I would like to raise relates to Schedule 9. What rationale was used to arrive at the minimum size of investment? This is not known. When one looks at it one wants to know what rationale was used to say the minimum capital expenditure from the international investor's perspective should be \$18,600,000 and from the local investor's perspective \$2.5 million. I believe that figure is way too high. I believe that could be reduced to between \$500,000 to \$750,000. People could start with three and four-bedroom units because we are articulating the point that what is needed in Tobago is community tourism.

We also do not want to see the north and the north-eastern corner of Tobago destroyed as the south-western corner has been destroyed. We believe that funding is needed for the people in the community to raise their funds and to begin putting down three and four-bedroom units and, as they develop and grow, the plant will also grow. The Tobagonian would not want, as I said of development, a tourism thrust that saturates the east/north-eastern district, that has totally spoilt the south-western district of Tobago. We want the ecology, the nature level of Tobago East and the north-eastern corner to remain as is because that is what will attract the tourist coming to Tobago. Therefore, community tourism is recommended for the north-eastern corner of Tobago.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I remember reading *Tourism-Technology and Competitive Strategies* by Auliana Poon and that is the same argument that I see her articulating in this document. She is showing that in the old tourism thrust in New Providence Island, Nassau, there were the large five-star hotels, some 1,000-room hotels and today there is a situation where half of the people who used to go there no longer return. Instead they are going to the other family islands of the Bahamas and the people who go to the family islands are returning—they are repeaters—all the time. That is the same situation that exists in the north-eastern corner of Tobago. People will come January, come back mid-year and still come back in December.

The beauty of Man of War Bay in Charlotteville, in Speyside, the black coral reefs, attract them all the time—they are repeaters—and they are middle-class people. They are lecturers, professors and business people, coming and enjoying the behavioural pattern of the people who are so friendly. It is the same argument that Poon is making here. She says:

“The family islands contrast sharply with Nassau. These islands have a small-scale indigenous type of tourism. It is very laid back with a number of family operated establishments. In 1990 the family islands had just over 2,000 guest rooms.”

She then went on to show that the people come back as repeaters all the time.

“For a while, less people are going to New Providence, more and more people are going to the islands. They are going to see the longest barrier reef in the world. They are going for boating. They are going for big game fishing...”

Just as when they come to Tobago for scuba-diving and deep-sea diving, they go to see what is happening on the reefs. They want to experience the naturalness of the island where they could sit in the middle of Bay Street in Charlotteville and take in the beauty of Man of War Bay, a mile long. They never saw that in their lives. Some of them do not see that where they come from, when they could look at the flora and fauna of Charlotteville, Speyside and L'anse Fourmi.

Only recently a middle-aged couple got lost in Charlotteville. They went up Pigeon Hill to look at the animals and so on and, again, there is where the friendliness of Tobagonians came out. That night when the man came back he had to leave his wife in the bush. He took about six hours to get back and go to the police and a team of about 15 Charlotteville young men went out in search of the lady. They found her and the people were so happy. When they got back home they sent a nice letter, through the Commissioner of Police, to the Charlotteville police and sent cheques of US \$75 to each of those youngsters who found the lady—the friendliness of the island. This is what we are talking about.

You know, we have to save the north-eastern corner of Tobago because it is fragile. So when I looked at a document, I think it was some policy document, let me find it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a tourism master plan document and saw that Government is talking about putting a 1,000-room hotel in Charlotteville, we are going to resist that tooth and nail. We go for what Poon is saying. Let the tourism come from the people. The locals can handle 20 rooms and under. They can get the funding from the Government. Give them the tax exemptions on the loans, give them all the exemptions and they can do it.

There is no document on standards. I think I heard the Minister say that they will be coming with that soon. All of that should have been already prepared with the Tobago House of Assembly so that they can work with the people and allow the people to operate at a certain level. They will know, well, they are going to build the rooms, they must have their bath and toilet compact in them, well-kept; they will know they have to change every day or change every two days. The people must be equipped in that way and they can do it. They have the friendliness. There are already small restaurants in Charlotteville and in Speyside, and good restaurants too, so the people could buy their food. There are certain kinds of units where they can carry their stuff and do their own cooking. That is what we are recommending for Tobago.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

That is why we are saying that the Tobago House of Assembly must have a fundamental say in what is taking place as far as tourism is concerned in Tobago. No Minister in Trinidad, not in the year 2000—we have passed that stage. We have been given decision-making powers. Let the Tobago House of Assembly get the correct start. Give them the money so that they can have the specialists to work with and be able to function above board and give the approvals. That is what we want. [*Desk thumping*] We do not want any thousand rooms. “None not going down in Hermitage; we going to fight!” “None not going down in Charlotteville; we going to fight” because we want to save the fragility of Tobago, of the island, of the village. We want to save the beauty. [*Interruption*] We do not want that.

One of the most beautiful rainforests—again the Member for Tobago East will know more about that than I—the oldest forest reserve in Tobago, we do not want that destroyed. I think it is in the Main Ridge area between Roxborough and Bloody Bay. It is the oldest forest reserve in the west. We do not want that destroyed. He knows about that and that is why I came here today very anxious to hear him and I thought that he would have given us a great deal of information on the Bill and what he would like to see happening in Tobago. I was very disappointed. If it is one day I was disappointed in him it was today. He can use another day to—do not take up all your time dealing with people on waste. Do not do that. Deal with Tobago and Tobago’s business.

So, Mr. Speaker, the kind of tourism we are talking about has to do with conservation of the environment and therefore I cannot see—that is why I am arguing that I see a contradiction in putting tourism under the Tobago House of Assembly and then taking the decision-making power of approval back to Port of Spain. This is one time that I cannot subscribe to that view. I want to stress again the Government is allowing a personality problem to interfere with Tobago’s advancement and development through the Tobago House of Assembly and I object to that.

So, Mr. Speaker—[*Interruption*] Yes, I am going to ask that all the time. Nothing is wrong with that. [*Interruption*] Yes, but that one, you know, that is a different one. That is the money. I am coming in a rational way.

So, Mr. Speaker, Schedule 9 outlines the minimum capital expenditure and the types of tourism projects in which local investors may become involved. Many of the projects allowed to foreign investors should be reserved for locals only. I do

not know if the Minister did an in-depth investigation into this because I do not see why international investors will be entertained in setting up eco-lodges. That should be for local investors. For example, the waterfalls of Argyle, a local investor can be given the privilege to put up an eco-lodge there.

**4.05 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, there is a beautiful one in Moriah in the Runnemede area. Somebody, I think it is a retired public servant, has developed it in the Runnemede area where you can go in there and look at the birds, the animals and so forth. A nice eco-lodge is in that area. I am saying that we should not be entertaining international investors with the eco-lodges, watersports, charter boats, our historical landmarks and heritage sites. In my view, it is only the local investor that should address those areas.

The eco-lodge is a nature-dependent tourist-accommodation facility and can be successfully developed and managed by the local entrepreneur, who already has a knowledge of the flora and fauna of the environment. Their skills in management may need some upgrading and the Tobago House of Assembly, the Government or anybody can provide that.

There is a situation where people are coming into Tobago and these people know some of the forest rangers and so forth. They will keep them around for six months to show them A, B, C and D about the animals, rainforest and so forth. The next thing you are seeing is that person is a tour guide in Tobago. This is what we are questioning. We should have a tourism unit that has the capacity to encourage the locals who appreciate and know about these areas to be the tour guides in Tobago. They should be the people to set up the eco-lodge at the Argyle Waterfalls and Hermitage, in Speyside or wherever it is. In Belle Garden, where Dr. Job is from, there are lands that need that kind of thing. They must do that; that is what we need. Let the people of Belle Garden, the people of Charlotteville and the people of Roxborough be the developers.

In Tobago there are many skilled persons in watersports and scuba-diving. These activities do not require large capital expenditure and can be successfully owned and managed by locals, many of whom are already involved in these activities. We have charter boats such as those used in transportation of tourists to the reefs like Buccoo Reef and the Speyside Coral Reef, and we should not be entertaining any international investor coming in that area. Our people should be trained in that area. I cannot understand why an international investor should become involved in the exploitation of our historical landmarks and heritage sites for gain. Their knowledge of these areas would be limited and their involvement serves only to deny the local community an investment opportunity.

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Mr. Speaker, we have evidence of people who have come to Tobago in that same vein and just take away all the artefacts and so forth that they find, and go away with them to their own countries. We do not want that; we want them to remain in Tobago. I would not quote some of the names but I could quote two right now.

Mr. Speaker, the only projects in Schedule 9 reserved for local investors are destination management, ground tour operations and transport service. It will require stringent monitoring to ensure that this remains so. Already, there is a situation where a number of hotels—instead of giving that business to the taxi-drivers—have their own buses to go for the people at the airport, when that business should really be given to the people. There are taxi-drivers that run good systems. There is a Taxi Drivers' Association and everything in Tobago, so that should be well managed and monitored.

Mr. Speaker, the experience in Tobago is that many foreigners are already involved in these activities. There is a situation where a German used to drive a maxi-taxi in Tobago. “Yeah!” Presently, she has a hotel and I will talk a little about it later on, where the worst things, the culture shock that Dr. Job, sorry—the Member for Tobago East was talking about—the culture shock. Those are the people who are importing that culture shock in Tobago. When one looks at the Bill there is nothing to deal with the social problems, you are only seeing one thing, that is giving them money, tax exemptions, tax this and tax that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the speaking time of the Member for Tobago West has expired.

*Motion made,* That the hon. Member's speaking time be extended by 30 minutes. [Dr. K. Rowley]

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, thanks to the hon. gentlemen and ladies. The point that I was making is that Schedule 9, in my view, must be given a second look in order to reserve those investment opportunities for the local investor only. It seems that sufficient thought was not given to the interest of the local investors, and there is a lack of confidence in the entrepreneurial skills of the local person. If this is the case, then there is need for training and education so that in the Tobago case, our people can be more involved in the tourism thrust. We want to see the foreign exchange trickling down to the people; we want to see Tobago's economy being strengthened through the foreign exchange.



Mr. Speaker, nowhere in the Tourism Development Bill—I do not know if I am in the right place or the wrong place—does one see any clause dealing with public access to beachfront areas. We are giving these projects approval to do a number of things, and nowhere in this Bill do I see any clause dealing with public access. I do not know about the Trinidad situation very much, but I am using the Tobago case to make my point. Public access to beachfront areas is becoming a serious problem in Tobago. It has reached an emotional high that certain things can happen that one would never believe would have happened in Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, all the large hotel developments in Tobago are receiving these exemptions: exemption on loans; capital expenditure; bridging finance; tourist transfer tax; customs and excise exemptions. When these people get into our island, all the beaches that we used to go to and bathe and run on, we cannot go again. Blue Haven is being refurbished and the steps where the people used to walk on and run down to the beach to bathe are broken down. When the people cried out on the local radio station the answer was, they are putting a tank in that area and they are going to leave public access.

Mr. Speaker, what happens in these cases? There are always promises and you get no action. I am crying out today for the people. The time has come when governments must act positively. There are the Blue Haven and Coco Reef cases, where they blocked off the old Milford Road and the next thing you knew one could not pass through. They got the Tobago House of Assembly to put—is it a breaker you call that? Using like a gabion basket situation with stones and so forth, to give them a private beach that nobody in Tobago could use, except the people from the hotel.

#### **4.15 p.m.**

There is the Grafton Hotel there. It was on the other side of the road. That is the Grafton, owned by the heavyweights of the UNC. It has gone on the other side now and they have put down a restaurant and bar right on the beach. Then, they want to control the road, so you notice that no paving has been done to the road for five years, so probably he might claim it just now and pave it on his own.

There is Coco Reef on Milford Road. There is Turtle Beach, which went right on the beachfront for construction. The only protected area on Courland where the fishermen of Plymouth and Black Rock are now functioning, the management is now fighting to get the Tobago House of Assembly to remove the fishermen. It is the only protected area of the beach that is suitable for landing when the boats come in to land their fish. They are asking for their removal and to put them on the other side.

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There is the Tobago Hilton. They are right up on Petit Trou Bay. As I said earlier, the marina is to go at Little Rockly Bay. People used to go there to fish. The men would go on the rocks there; walk on the beach; sit and fish. So, they will be putting down a marina there that will also be destroying, as I said earlier, the wetlands in that area, and whatever advantages we can get from that.

There is Grange Bay. There is a foreign owner who, recently, fenced right down to the bay. The people complained on radio every day. They bawled out on the Tobago House of Assembly, yet, there is no action. So, in a particular area on Grange Bay where the people, since they were born, used to go to the beach to bathe, no longer can they go there.

There is Pigeon Point—well, you saw that on the television only a few nights ago. The situation in Pigeon Point is a very important one and one in which I am appealing to the Government, with the Tobago House of Assembly, to become involved. If someone owns land, nobody is against the person making use of the land in a positive way, but before you go into Pigeon Point, before you reach the gate, there are fishermen in that area who have been functioning for decades. And since we have the new owner of Pigeon Point, a battle has begun with the fishermen. In my view, in that situation—*[Mr. G. Singh rises]* Sit down. I am not giving way. *[Mr. Speaker rises]* Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** You are presuming on my prerogative. He was getting up and politely asking you to give way.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Sorry, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** You do not have to give way at all. Just ignore him—

**Miss P. Nicholson:** But do not say anything.

**Mr. Speaker:**—and he will get the message that you are not giving way, but you must not do as you did.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker, but you know, sometimes you get a little over-emotional.

**Mr. G. Singh:** It is leased land in Pigeon Point. It is not owned; it is leased.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Leasehold. That is a form of ownership. It is leased but it is a form of ownership. Well, if it is not owned, why do you not throw them off and formally put, like a fishing port. That is what is needed in that area. They are interfering with the Tobagonian. I am going to join them, too.

**Mr. Speaker:** Talk to me, please. You know how jealous I am. Please, talk to me.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

If that is their approach and they cannot work with the people—because any hotelier coming into Tobago, one of the best things is to function with the people. That is one of the best things they can do, function with the people. So, the whole question of public access to the beaches—it does not have to be near your hotel, but you make sure that a road is kept there. As a matter of fact, I am calling on the Government, because the state should make sure that on all these beaches, there is public access. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Speaker, there should not be a situation where the people of Tobago should have to walk more than a mile from Lambeau down to Petit Trou Bay in the area where people were accustomed to having their baths. They were accustomed to passing through the estate when the former owners owned the land. What should happen is that the state should acquire that section, pave the road and so forth, so that the people could go there and make use of it.

We must not be allowing the Barbados situation and the Jamaica situation, to happen in Tobago. We are going to resist. It is the Government that should address that situation, Mr. Speaker. It is becoming very, very serious and I feel that in the Bill, we should have something being said to the hoteliers about what should happen as far as public access is concerned. There must be a clause, or something stating there must always be a public road for the locals, or whatever it is called—I cannot draft it—but there must be a clause in the Bill dealing with that. What is happening in this Bill is, everything is just to give advantages to one side and the locals are not taken into consideration at all.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise another point. I notice that in the Bill, exemptions and so forth would be given to hotels of under 20 rooms, guest houses of eight rooms and under. Again, I am questioning that funding. Is it that the international investor is coming in with his money to construct? We are saying that anything with 20 rooms and under, we must not be allowing any international investor to come into our island to deal with that. We are having a problem right now in Tobago where these people, because of the Foreign Investment Act, about which I would say a little—perhaps when it was implemented at the time, we did not expect the kind of response that we are having in Tobago, but because of what is happening in Tobago today, I think that Act No. 16 of 1990 has to be reviewed.

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We should be amending a number of areas in this Act dealing with land ownership and the foreigner. If they are coming into our country to do business, they could just buy five acres without a licence.

We have a situation right now where we are losing our own villages. The little village between Black Rock and Mount Irvine, I cannot remember the name now—come on, Keith, help me.

**Dr. Rowley:** Pleasant Prospect.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Pleasant Prospect. We have lost it to the large hotelier; we have lost it to the Germans. They even have German names on their gates. It is no longer Pleasant Prospect for the Tobagonians and that is because—

**Mr. Imbert:** Berlin.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Yes. We are right in Berlin. That is because of Act No. 16 of 1990. I am concerned because just now we are going to lose Black Rock, lose Plymouth, lose all the villages, and we will be crawling on our feet.

**Mr. Manning:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. Member for giving way. I did not hear her just now. Act No. what, please? If she would be kind enough.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** I said it already.

**Mr. Manning:** I am sorry. I did not hear it. If you would be kind enough.

**Miss P. Nicholson:** I know where you are coming from, [*Laughter*] but I will repeat. I have no problem with that. It was under the NAR, because our vision, at the time, might not have brought those things into perspective. Nothing is wrong with that. That is why laws are amended. I do not see that as anything that you have to cry about. Why are laws amended? It is because as you go along, certain circumstances emerge, so laws have to be amended. It was Act No. 16 of 1990. I said so and I am saying that if we are to give these people all that we are giving them in this Bill, the Tourism Development (No. 2) Bill, 1999, we have to also urgently address the Foreign Investment Act.

There is a situation where these people are buying lands in Tobago.

**Mr. G. Singh:** Who is selling it to them?

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Wait. The same Pleasant Prospect area was owned by a large plantation owner. She died and probably the children living abroad, sold it. That is the Pleasant Prospect area. It was a large plantation owner who owned that area, so do not come with your boldness and ask me who is selling it.

The point I am making is that they buy the land and a number of them are building houses, like a four-unit house, or a three-unit house, without even approval from the Town and Country Planning Division. There is that situation in Charlotteville. As a matter of fact, after one constructed and began to live in an area, the person became very annoying to the people who protested and, I think, no extension of the time has been given to that person in Charlotteville. The people are prepared to deal with them up there.

There is a situation where they are buying the lands. They say, "We have retired and we want to live in Tobago." They get permission to build the houses as residential houses and the next thing you know, they no longer live in Tobago. They may come for one month in the year. They live in Germany, or wherever in Europe, and they just pump the tourists down to make use of their homes. They are illegally using the properties for tourism business and none of that foreign exchange is coming back to Trinidad and Tobago. That is the point I am making, none of the foreign exchange is coming back into Trinidad and Tobago. Clearly, that needs some monitoring and some investigation.

**Dr. Job:** Mr. Speaker, would the Member for Tobago West not consider that the relevant authority, the Customs and Immigration, might be the place to place the burden of responsibility for solving that problem, rather than the Tourism Development (No. 2) Bill?

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, they cannot resolve that. We want something in the Tourism Development (No. 2) Bill. Anything named tourism has to be dealt with on all the sides. You have to deal with these people who are coming there illegally and doing these things. Put something in the Bill to address that problem so that any representative can clearly go to the Customs and Excise, or to Immigration. The people themselves can go to them about it but we want something clear and precise. We do not see that anywhere. We are saying, "Put it here now."

Mr. Speaker, I read a letter in the *Daily Express* of Tuesday, March 07, 2000. It was written by an educationist who functions as a lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Raymond Hackett. I want to read the letter because what he said in that letter, gives a picture of what is emerging in Tobago. The culture shock that the Member for Tobago East just glazed over and dismissed—he did not go into it—is there.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I suggest that you read the letter after tea? It is just about tea time now.

Hon. Members, the sitting is suspended for half an hour.

**4.30 p.m.:** *Sitting suspended.*

**5.02 p.m.:** *Sitting resumed.*

**Miss P. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, one of the fundamental points that I was making is that there is a situation where these foreigners are buying our lands freehold and in most of their countries, nobody from Trinidad and Tobago can get land freehold. When I said that we have Germans taking over Pleasant Prospect, we cannot get lands to buy in Germany if we go there. We might get leasehold. That is why I am saying that there is need to look at the Foreign Investment Act because our lands must not be sold freehold to these people. They are using the lands from a dishonest perspective, in that, they are saying: “We want these lands for residential purposes. I am going to build a two-bedroom or a three-bedroom house.” They might build an eight-bedroom house then, as I said earlier, they go away, and do business and none of the foreign exchange comes back to Tobago and Trinidad.

Secondly, I feel that is important. Even state lands—sometimes they get our state lands from our Government and we can only get it leasehold. It is a fundamental thing to be looked at. I feel that the hon. Attorney General must be paying some serious attention to the Tourism Development (No. 2) Bill and he must also pay some attention, urgently, to the Foreign Investment Act from that perspective. It must be an all-round, holistic approach

These people are imposing a culture shock on Tobago—things that we do not know about. I want to read this letter because I am one who believes that it gives the picture of what is emerging in Tobago. It is a sad situation. If we are coming with a Tourism Development Bill, we must deal with the social problems, clauses to address how guest houses, hotels—the kind of behavioural patterns that one expects in those institutions. This letter in the *Daily Express* of Tuesday, March 07, 2000 states:

“The high cost of tourism in Tobago

The Editor: While politicians, businessmen and even some workers in Tobago are gleefully counting the dollars and cents generated by the tourist industry, a sad and heart-rending scenario is unfolding.

The harsh reality is that the social cost of tourism in Tobago is high. What is perhaps even worse, only a few seem to be aware of this tragedy. Indeed, no initiatives have so far been implemented to ensure that Tobago does not go the way of so many other international popular tourist resorts.

Recent unpublished research has revealed that in Tobago:

- Men offer themselves for rent.
- Boys, too, can be had for rent.
- Many children who disappear from the streets of Trinidad can be found in centres of 'flesh' in Tobago.
- Education among the youth, as a result of the impact of tourism, is taking a beating. Many schoolboys prefer to take their chances on the beach rather than in school.
- Most of the income generated by tourism does not stay in Tobago.”

As I articulated a while ago.

- “Crime is spreading at a phenomenal rate, facilitating both local and visiting criminals.
- Drug transactions—international as well as local—are booming.
- Few jobs generated by tourism go to Tobagonians.”

The relevant area that I want to deal with, Sir, is the one with the social impact, which is factual. The Tobagonian is grieving. The Tobagonian coming out of values and a strong moral fibre is grieving with what you see: beachbums, pimps along our beaches, with these foreigners. When the letter talks about those for rent, it is factual.

How will the Bill be dealing with promiscuity; renting our people? What is the kind of film—blue? Blue films, renting them for that. Coming into our country for that. There is one in the Bon Accord area owned by a foreigner, Copra Tray. You can visit that, Mr. Speaker, and find out whether what we are saying is factual.

When we are dealing with development of tourism, we have to look at the advantages and the disadvantages. When we want to supply the advantages we must also address the disadvantages. What role can the community police play on those isolated beaches in Tobago to save our young men and women? What is the role of the police in this scenario? We are very, very concerned.

Mr. Speaker, that is a very important area and we, the Tobagonians, are very concerned with the impact of these people on Tobago. It is a culture shock overrunning Tobago with these devious, immoral practices. We want to save our people. I would like the Attorney General to tell us what can be done in this situation?

**5.10 p.m.**

Would we continue to let them buy out Tobago so that Charlotteville where I was born—the most beautiful part of Tobago—will no longer be Charlotteville: it will be Berlin or London? Give me their names. We want to feel a part of it. We want to continue to own it. I am saying that we should see something like a clause saying that lands cannot be sold from a freehold perspective. If you are selling, it might be leasehold and you must limit them for certain purposes. It is very, very important. [*Interruption*] Well, Galbaransingh is part of the ownership of Pleasant Prospect, the area that I spoke about. Well, there is where they are, Pleasant Prospect; Grafton is at Pleasant Prospect.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress that these areas are of concern to me and to the Tobagonians. The decision-making powers of the Tobago House of Assembly must be taken into consideration. The people of Tobago fought for years to have decision-making powers in the Tobago House of Assembly. Even though there might be conflict with an individual, a government must be able to rise above that and address their problems, but do not interfere with the powers of the institution called the Tobago House of Assembly; and tourism is under the Tobago House of Assembly.

The Tobago House of Assembly should be able to approve, and then the approved projects could be sent to the Minister to deal with the whole question of tax exemptions and all the different exemptions. Having a national policy document to guide both the Tobago House of Assembly and the Government is critical.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there must be a clause in this Bill to address the question of public access on our beachfronts. We should not be fighting for that. We should not have to go with our cars and vans every day and block roads. We should not have that recent situation with—what is their name—Ansa McAl, at Pigeon Point. We do not want that kind of situation. When you come in as a foreigner to implement a developmental project, you must recognize the importance of the people and live with the people. [*Interruption*] So we feel that we should have such a clause, because I named a number of beaches with that problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the questions I have raised, the social problems and the impact on the small island called Tobago are taken into consideration and I am looking forward to a progressive response when we come to the committee stage.

I thank you.



**Mr. Colm Imbert** (*Diego Martin East*): Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a very brief contribution, and I do mean the literal translation of the word, unlike when Members such as the Member for Oropouche make that statement. I wish to deal with certain issues raised particularly by the Member for Tobago East when he accused my colleague from Diego Martin Central of opposing the appointment of Sen. Gillette as acting Prime Minister, because of his ethnic origin.

I think it is a shame and embarrassment on the part of the entire Cabinet, because they know that any civilized, serious country would expect certain qualities and qualifications in any person chosen to head the Government. Certainly, seniority in the party that holds power would be very important; experience as a parliamentarian, as a minister, and someone that commands the respect of the other Members of the Cabinet. When one selects a Prime Minister, according to our Constitution, it is the person who commands the respect of the majority of elected Members of the House of Representatives. So it is really another bizarre decision by the Member for Couva North to appoint someone so junior—someone who is not a member of his party, who is not an elected Member or has no experience as a parliamentarian, as a Prime Minister—as boss of all of them. It is a shame and embarrassment; quite apart from the insult to the members of the UNC and so forth.

Mr. Speaker, one wonders that there are so many others. One is not speaking here about the Member for St. Augustine. I have no problem if the Member for Couva North decides that the Member for St. Augustine is no longer suitable to act as Prime Minister, but you have the Member for Couva South. [*Interruption*] Sorry, he cannot act, I take that back. But you have the Member for Oropouche; you have the Minister of Finance; you have the Member for Siparia; you have the Member for Caroni East; you even have the Sheriff! [*Crosstalk*] Really, Mr. Speaker, it is a joke and this is the point that my honourable colleague from Diego Martin Central was making. It has absolutely nothing to do with the individual or his origin. It is the fact that a johnny-come-lately, someone who has just come in and may be going back out soon, is now head of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. It is an insult to the entire nation, but anyway, let us not worry about that.

In closing my contribution on that issue, it is obvious to me that the Prime Minister has no confidence in any other Member of his Cabinet [*Desk thumping*] and he has put someone in whom he has confidence. He has no confidence in any of them. Obviously, if he had put a particular individual, he might have done things which would not have been proper or things would have been pushed

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through or whatever. So he put a blocker. He put a man to block. [*Laughter*] That is obvious, he put a man to block all of them and whatever hidden agenda they have. That is all that is going on there. He is no longer clearing logjam, he is blocking. [*Laughter*] Anyway, let us move on.

It would have made more sense to make the Minister of Finance the Acting Prime Minister.

**Mr. Valley:** What!

**Mr. Imbert:** No, “I serious”. It would have made more sense. Anyway, looking at the specific Bill—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Maharaj:** He could have put you.

**Mr. Imbert:** The Bill is totally inconsistent with the Tobago House of Assembly Act, as my parliamentary colleague from Tobago West has pointed out, and it is necessary to revisit that Act even though my colleague has done so. When we look at section 25 of the Tobago House of Assembly Act, it is very, very clear, without prejudice to section 75(1) of the Constitution:

“The Assembly shall, in relation to Tobago, be responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy in respect of the matters set out in the Fifth Schedule...”

The Fifth Schedule is very extensive and it lists a host of things: finance, state lands, land and marine parks, museums, public buildings, tourism, sports, culture, community development, agriculture, fisheries, *et cetera*. The Tobago House of Assembly Act goes on to say in clause 26 that the Assembly shall not have responsibility for the matters set out in the Sixth Schedule which are: the President, National Security, Foreign Affairs, Civil Aviation, Meteorology, Immigration, Legal Affairs, Judiciary, Auditor General, Ombudsman, Service Commission.

So the Tobago House of Assembly Act, which was laid in Parliament by this administration, passed by that Government is very, very clear on the matters which are under the purview of the THA and the matters that are not. Therefore, to have a Bill like this, I could understand now why the Senators from Tobago refused to vote for this Bill. I could understand it, notwithstanding the trivialities of the Member for Tobago East, who always likes to gloss over everything. He never deals with anything in depth, that is why I am certain that all these texts and books he quotes from, he has not read them. He reads the front and back page and the introduction or something, but he has not read them, because he never deals with anything in depth.

When one looks at the offending clauses in this Bill, clauses 11, 13, 16, 17 and 19, one sees that the Assembly has been relegated to a paperboy. It would simply be a complaints group, because all the Assembly is entitled to do is make recommendations, nothing else. Whether they recommend that a hotel be built or not, as the case may be, the Minister, by this law, could just ignore them, and he puts a time limit in the Bill. The Assembly has 30 days. Under clause 11(3) it states:

“The Assembly upon receipt of the information, plans, evidence...shall examine the application...and shall make the necessary recommendations to the Minister no later than thirty days after the receipt of the application.”

So on the 31<sup>st</sup> day, if the Assembly has made no recommendation, that is it. The Minister will make his decision, whether they send it two weeks later or whatever; he has no requirement to even consult with them.

As one goes through the legislation, one sees that the Minister is the one who gives final approval. Under clause 19(1), the Minister can also decide whether to extend or modify an approval. I would quote from clause 19:

“(1) Where the Minister is satisfied that an approved tourism project would be better able to contribute to the development of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago if the tourism project were extended, remodelled, added to or if the tourism project were to be further equipped...the Minister may...grant an additional interim approval in respect of the project proposed for the tourism project.”

So not only does the Tobago House of Assembly have no effective say in determining whether there should be a 1,000-room hotel in Charlotteville or not, they have no say in determining whether an additional 1,000 rooms should be added to that hotel in midstream. The Assembly is effectively emasculated by this legislation. I could understand; you see it is a small island/big island mentality. That is what you do not understand. That is what they do not understand, Mr. Speaker, through you.

Tobago is a small island; Trinidad is a large island, and the problem of this administration is that they do not understand the culture of a small island. They have this obsession, on the part of a government centred in a large island, to control the development of a small island. Throughout the Caribbean, we see that people are resisting this. This is not the way that modern evolution of states and federations is going. It is not going in that direction. There is a recognition that

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small islands have their own culture, needs and perspective and have the right to determine their own future. It is a large island/small island mentality, that is what they do not understand. [*Desk thumping*] There is absolutely no reason for this, except for the framers of this Bill to have complete control over tourism in Tobago.

When one realizes that tourism, if it is not already, will become the major generator of income in Tobago, one sees that through this legislation you have a government in Trinidad which will have control over the lifeblood of Tobago; the future development, environment, culture and history of Tobago. The Member for Tobago West was talking about the Europeanization of whole sections of Tobago, where foreigners have bought out beachfront properties and are putting their own stamp on rural villages and changing the whole face of Tobago, completely eradicating the indigenous culture.

**5.25 p.m.**

If one were to think about that, and the problem I have with the Member for Tobago East, is that he is too concerned about his own position as a Minister and losing it, than being a true representative of the people of Tobago. [*Desk thumping*] That is his problem. He wants to run with the wolves and hunt with the hares. I am not too sure about that, but I will take the correction from the Member for St. Joseph, but it does not matter. He wants the best of both worlds. The Member wants to pretend to be a representative of the people of Tobago, and he wants to be a Member of the UNC Cabinet at the same time and to curry favour and submit himself to the dictates of the UNC. That is what he wants to do, to straddle, and, of course, once you do that, you become nothing. Once you do not take a position, you do not take a side, you become nothing and that is all that is happening there.

Mr. Speaker, there is something in this Bill which I would like the Minister to address quite apart from—I totally endorse what the Member for Tobago West is saying and you are an irresponsible Government so I do not expect you to listen to her, but I hope at least someone there is listening. There is absolutely no need for us in Trinidad to impose our will on Tobagonians. Why should we want to do that? It is a form of servitude and there is no need for us to do that, but if you feel that is what you want to do then you will reap the consequences of that.

There is something very odd in this Bill. The Member for Diego Martin Central has expressed the view that this is designed only for the Tobago Plantations project. The Tobago Plantations project has a number of condominiums and villas and so forth which it is offering for sale to foreigners

and locals and as far as I am concerned, it is a housing development. That is all it is. It is an upscale housing development. They are selling condos to Trinidadians and foreigners. I do not understand. Where is the tourism element in this? People in Trinidad will buy them and use them for vacationing or whatever, people from abroad will buy them and use them for vacation. I do not follow. It seems to me that it is true that this Bill was drafted deliberately to provide a sort of window of opportunity, or some kind of a loophole where an upscale, upper income housing development where properties are selling for \$2 million and \$1.3 million could somehow qualify for tax exemptions which are focused on the tourism industry and certainly that could have been done in another way. This is the point. If that was what one wanted to do, it could have been done in another way. It did not have to draft a whole Bill just for that because there is no doubt that this Bill is not holistic. It does not present a holistic approach to tourism. There are many aspects to tourism that are not dealt with in the Bill in any detail whatsoever. The detail in the Bill—if one goes through it—is dealing with the condominium and villa matter and if one goes into Schedule 6 one will see a lot of emphasis is placed on this where there is a definition of the integrated resort development (IRD) and it talks about a hotel of 200 rooms, golf course and so forth.

Schedule 5 says:

“Additionally, where villas and condominiums form part of an IRD, they will only be considered as tourist accommodation facilities where it is clearly shown by the developer, that the construction of these villas and condominiums are critical to the viability and success of the entire project.”

How can a condominium in Tobago—bought by somebody in Westmoorings, La Romaine, St. Joseph Village or wherever—be a tourist accommodation? This is simply a device where an arrangement is being made for an upscale housing development and I have no problem with the Government making a decision that it wishes to encourage this kind of housing development and wishes to give incentives. I have no problem with that, all we are saying on this side is if one wishes to focus on tourism, one should have brought a Bill that focuses on all aspects of tourism because if that is the definition of tourism—that the condominiums are critical to the success of the facility—then why is not a calypso tent for example, an approved tourism facility? I would like the Minister to tell me why. Why Spektakula Forum will not qualify as a tourism facility? I am certain that the number of tourists who will contribute to our foreign exchange as a result of any one of the calypso tents will be considerably more than these condominiums and villas you are talking about.

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There are so many other aspects about tourism and this Bill is very weak where that is concerned. This is really about fiscal incentives for a housing development in Tobago. That is what it is all about. I do not know why this UNC administration has to hide everything; everything it does is some “simidimi”. It cannot come out straight and say what it is doing because there is this fear if it tells people what it is doing, people will look at them in a particular way.

As one goes through the Bill, one sees no thought has been given to it at all. There is talk that an accommodation facility must have eight rooms, but it must cost at least \$2.5 million. An eight-bedroom facility must cost \$2.5 million? That is \$300,000 per room. Why? Are you going to tell me that a local investor in Charlotteville, for example, cannot put up an eight-bedroom guest house with all the requirements—dining room, kitchen, bar, lounge whatever is required here—for \$1 million, or \$1.2 million or something like that? This is absolutely arbitrary and Mr. Speaker, it confirms the points made by Members on this side that this Bill was rushed and completely arbitrary, just to facilitate a particular project and there is absolutely no criteria whatsoever in the Bill. It is very difficult for we on this side to support something like this.

**Mr. Assam:** Not “we”, us.

**Mr. Imbert:** We on this side. That is all right. It is difficult for “we” on this side—I am from here, you know, I do not know where you from. I do not know if you from London or Westminster, but I am from here. So it is difficult for we on this side to understand the rationale.

Mr. Speaker, when one looks at Schedule 7 and the other Schedule which talks about equipment and so forth, one sees it is highly arbitrary and very superficial. I saw something like snorkel. The Schedule that speaks about the equipment that would be subject to concessions is highly arbitrary when one looks at the different types of facilities that qualify: Marinas/boatyards; dive operators; water sports; charter boats, whatever; a marina, marine hoist, pressure, yacht props, dehumidifiers, air-conditioners and so forth. These are arbitrary. There are far more things involved in a facility of this nature that are standard for a facility of this type. One could see they just took five minutes and say: “Leh” we write down something “eh”. What they have in a marina? A hoist, a pressure washer and so they go.

Mr. Speaker, one could see right through that the Bill was hustled, they are under pressure from one of their friends to facilitate them with a tax exemption and they just put this thing together. Hide this thing about condominiums and

villas and come with the Bill. I do not expect the Government to take anything seriously which was said by the Member for Tobago West, but there are serious consequences for an island such as Tobago, and especially for the development of the beachfront in Tobago and certainly I think it was an error when the Aliens Landholding Act was repealed and Act 16 of 1990 was enacted. I think they should have excluded beachfront property. There is absolutely no reason to allow foreigners control of your beachfront; it is a mistake. Beachfront is limited, there is only a certain finite area of beachfront. It is the most valuable real estate in the world, and any time any foreigner who has access to hard currency—that is six, seven or ten times the value of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar—can get prime beachfront property, they are going to buy it, artificially inflate the real estate market, push prices of beachfront properties up beyond the capacity of locals to purchase and create enclaves and this is precisely what is happening in Tobago, enclaves are being created.

Mr. Speaker, one would have thought as the Member for Tobago West has pointed out that a serious effort would have been made by this Government to deal with the problems related to and created by tourism in this legislation, but as usual, it is haphazard, sloppy, mamaguy, “vie-ke-vie”, arbitrary and we on this side cannot support this, we do not support it, and we endorse the request of the Member for Tobago West to allow the Tobago House of Assembly some sort of decision-making role in determining their own development. This Bill is anti everything positive for the development of Tobago, so as I said, I make a brief contribution and I am sure that what I have said would fall on deaf ears, but at least I thought it was necessary to support my colleague, the Member for Tobago West.

Thank you.

#### ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

**The Attorney General (Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Speaker, we would adjourn this debate for the time being, but before I move the Motion on the Adjournment, there is a Private Members’ Bill in which there was an amendment in the Senate; I do not know if you could deal with that matter.

**5.40 p.m.****NATIONAL CHUTNEY FOUNDATION (INC'N) BILL****Senate Amendment**

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

*Be It Resolved* that the Senate Amendment to the National Chutney Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago (Incorporation) Bill, 1999 listed in the Appendix be now considered.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Senate amendment read as follows:*

“Substitute the words “the Chutney Foundation” for the words “the National Chutney Foundation” wherever they appear in the Bill and in the long title.

**Dr. Fuad Khan:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Senate in the said amendment.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Attorney General (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to next Friday, March 17, 2000 at 1.30 p.m. when we would be expected to complete the debate on this measure and proceed to debate Bill No. 2 dealing with the Enforcement of Maintenance Orders and Bill No. 3 dealing with the removal of Human Tissue for transfusion and for matters connected thereto.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, before dealing with the question of the Motion for the Adjournment there was a matter raised which the Member for San Fernando East got leave to raise and, by agreement of both sides of the House, this matter would be deferred for the next sitting.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*House adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 5.44 p.m.*