

Chief State Solicitor

Friday, February 27, 2004

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2004

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

Clerk of the House: In accordance with standing Order 5(5), I have to announce that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is unavoidably absent, and that the Deputy Speaker shall preside.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

PETITION

Chief State Solicitor

The Minister of Planning and Development (Hon. Camille Robinson-Regis): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to present a petition on behalf of the Chief State Solicitor of Nos. 23-27 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

I now ask that the Clerk be permitted to read the petition and that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

Petition read.

Question put and agreed to, That the petition be granted.

PAPERS LAID

1. Annual audited financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2000. [*The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley)*]
2. Annual audited financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2001. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
3. Annual audited financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2002. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
4. Annual audited financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2003. [*Hon. K Valley*]

Papers Laid

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Papers 1 to 4 to be referred to the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee.

5. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Central Marketing Agency for the year ended December 31, 1988. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
6. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Central Marketing Agency for the year ended December 31, 1989. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
7. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation Programme for the year ended September 30, 1999 as required by Loan Contract No. 857/SF-TT between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-American Development Bank. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
8. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation Programme for the year ended September 30, 2000 as required by Loan Contract No. 857/SF-TT between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-American Development Bank. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
9. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad Tobago on the financial statements of the Environmental Trust Fund for the year ended September 30, 2003. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
10. Erratum in respect of the report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Land Settlement Agency for the period June 01, 1999 to December 31, 2000. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
11. Report of the Teaching Service Commission for the period January 01, 2002 to December 31, 2002. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
12. First report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Regional Health Authorities Pension Fund Plan for the period September 22, 1999 to December 31, 2000. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
13. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Port of Spain Corporation for the year ended September 30, 1999. [*Hon. K. Valley*]

Papers 5 to 10 and 12 and 13 to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the six questions for Oral Answers on today's Order Paper, the Government is today able to answer five. We are asking for a deferral of question No. 55 for two weeks.

Leave granted.

The following question stood on the Order Paper in the name of Mr. Ganga Singh (Caroni East):

**Video Lottery Terminals
(Details of)**

- 55.** (a) Would the hon. Minister of Finance indicate whether a committee was set up to review the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Lotteries Control Board (NLCB) and the Betting Levy Board (BLB) with GTECH for the provision of Video Lottery Terminals in Trinidad and Tobago and all other aspects of the gaming industry?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, could the Minister provide the following information:
- (i) A list of the names of the people appointed to this committee;
- (ii) The terms of reference of this committee?

Question, by leave, deferred.

**Virgo Consultants Limited
(Status of)**

- 48. Dr. Roodal Moonilal (Oropouche)** asked the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources:
- (a) Could the Minister indicate the basis upon which the consultant group, Virgo Consultants Limited, was chosen to manage the operations/harvesting at the Sugar Manufacturing Company of Trinidad and Tobago?
- (b) Would the Minister indicate whether other companies and/or consultants were invited to tender for such a contract?
- (c) Could the Minister provide this House with the terms and conditions of recruitment of Virgo Consultants Limited and a list of the consultants comprising this group?

The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. Jarrette Narine): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the consultant group Virgo Consultants Limited has not been engaged to manage the operations/harvesting at the Sugar Manufacturing Company Limited of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the period August 01, 2003 to December 31, 2003 all matters relating to the supply of sugar cane to the Sugar Manufacturing Company Limited in 2004 were handled by a team engaged by Caroni (1975) Limited as part of the Transitional Management Team.

This transition team included Mr. Wayne Inniss and Mr. George Mouttet, directors of Virgo Consultants Limited. However, Virgo Consultants Limited was not engaged to provide services in relation to the supply of sugar cane to the Sugar Manufacturing Company Limited or otherwise.

In an effort to ensure a smooth transition during the 2004 harvesting of farmers' canes, the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources established a Sugar Cane Industry Team (SIT) to oversee the management and operations of the various collection facilities for the handling and transportation of farmers' canes. This team comprises representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and the Sugar Manufacturing Company Limited (SMCL).

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Dr. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, a supplemental question please? Would the Minister—having clarified that Virgo Consultants, as a firm, was not recruited but their directors were recruited—say the terms and conditions of the directors, and on what basis they were recruited?

Hon. J. Narine: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not have the answer to that question here because it is apart from the question that was asked. If the Member wants, he could probably put a question and I would get the answer.

Dr. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, another supplemental question, please. Would the Minister advise the House as to whether or not the funds to pay the Sugar Cane Industry Team are coming from the Sugar Manufacturing Company Limited or directly from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources?

Hon. J. Narine: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the funds for that team are for persons who are already employed with the Sugar Cane Manufacturing Company Limited and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. They are workers who are working with these companies.

**Suspension of Zimbabwe
(Government's Position On)**

52. Dr. Roodal Moonilal asked the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (a) Could the Minister indicate whether the Government of Trinidad and Tobago enunciated any position on the continued suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Nigeria in December 2003?
- (b) Could the Minister state whether the stated position of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, if any, was similar to any other Caricom State?
- (c) Could the Minister indicate the reason for the absence of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from the pre-conference meeting in London?

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the answer to parts (a) and (b) is as follows.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings are not arenas for set piece formal statements. Instead, informal collegiate discussions among heads of government are the norm.

The issue of Zimbabwe was initially discussed in caucus among Caricom heads in Nigeria. Prime Minister Manning, at this meeting, expressed some concern about the process leading to the continued suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth. These concerns were shared by other Caricom heads. There were also prolonged discussions in caucus among heads for ways of resolving the difficult humanitarian and governmental crisis in Zimbabwe. Prime Minister Manning was present at and participated in all discussions.

The hon. Prime Minister could not attend the pre-conference meeting held in London by the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, for CARICOM Heads of Government on December 02, 2003, since he had already accepted an invitation to be the feature speaker at the Commonwealth Business Forum which was held from December 02 to 04, 2003 in Abuja, Nigeria.

Dr. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, a supplemental question, please? Would the Member be in a position to state what were the problems expressed by the Prime Minister on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago with the process used in addressing the Zimbabwe question?

[Pause]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs is here at the moment and maybe he would be better able to answer your supplemental question. Could you repeat the question?

Dr. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will repeat the question. We were told in response by the Member for Diego Martin Central that the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago expressed reservations or concerns with the process used in addressing the issue of Zimbabwe at that meeting. We are now asking what were the concerns expressed by the Prime Minister, vis-à-vis the process used?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Knowlson Gift): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister has signified his preference to respond to the question in the first instance.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Hon. Patrick Manning): Mr. Deputy Speaker, two years before the Commonwealth heads met, I think it was, in Australia, they had mandated three countries called the troika on the basis of the report of a technical team to make a decision on whether to suspend or not to suspend Zimbabwe.

On the basis of the report of the team a decision was made to suspend. Subsequently, a number of countries questioned the wisdom of that approach, where it was not a question of an analysis of the report, but merely on the basis of a statement in the report that something was amiss with a certain process that the decision was taken.

Trinidad and Tobago expressed reservations about that approach, as indeed did several other delegations, and eventually we found ourselves in a very difficult position in the Zimbabwe case which, as you can see, eventually led to Zimbabwe leaving the Commonwealth.

Dr. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, would the Prime Minister care to indicate to the House some of the countries that joined Trinidad and Tobago on that issue?

Hon. P. Manning: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just do not remember offhand.

Mrs. Persad-Bissessar: Mr. Deputy Speaker, would the hon. Prime Minister care to share with us if this is the same meeting at which he spoke to Prime Minister Owen Arthur about the fishing negotiations?

Hon. P. Manning: I do not care to share but I will, Mr. Deputy Speaker. No, I did not speak to Prime Minister Owen Arthur in the meeting under reference.

Mr. Singh: Would the hon. Prime Minister indicate whether or not the Government has taken a position on the jailing of the Leader of the Opposition in Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangirai, on fabricated charges of treason?

Mr. Valley: File a question.

Dr. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want some clarification from the hon Prime Minister; he was very kind to respond on this matter. Trinidad and Tobago's position was that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago had problems with the process as formulated in a report, and that was the position on Zimbabwe. Could you indicate the position on Zimbabwe's suspension from the Commonwealth?

Hon. P. Manning: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is a distinctly separate question from the one that was asked before. The question that was asked was: "What was the position that was adopted?" We said it was a discussion that took place, and a number of views were expressed in those discussions. One of the views expressed by Trinidad and Tobago was a reservation about the process. We did not, as it were, post a Trinidad and Tobago position on this matter but as part of the ongoing discussion that was part of our contribution to the deliberations on what has turned out to be a very difficult and very intractable issue.

May I add, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it was the work of the distinguished Prime Minister of Jamaica in heading a sub-committee comprising other countries that eventually led to a position that we thought would have been accepted by all in Zimbabwe, which eventually was, indeed, accepted by all, but which eventually led to Zimbabwe taking the course of action that is now known to all of us.

Trip to Spain (Details of)

53. Mr. Ganga Singh (*Caroni East*) asked the hon. Prime Minister:

Could the Prime Minister provide the following information?

- (i) The names of the persons comprising the Trinidad and Tobago delegation who accompanied him to Spain;
- (ii) the total cost and details of the trip for him and his delegation to Spain and Britain;
- (iii) state if the National Gas Company paid any of the costs incurred during his stay in London and/or in Madrid;
- (iv) if the answer to (iii) is in the affirmative, could he provide details?

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation accompanying the hon. Prime Minister to Spain comprised:

Mr. Andrew Jupiter
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries

Mr. Gerard Greene
Foreign Service Officer IV
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Interpreter)

Professor Kenneth Julien
Chairman
National Gas Export Task Force

Mr. Jerome Andre Laveau
Protocol Officer
Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. Michael Granderson
Director/Producer II
Information Division
Ministry of Public Administration and Information

Mr. Livingston Mayers
Director/Producer I
Information Division
Ministry of Public Administration and Information

Ms. Monique St. Cyr
Assistant Special Adviser to the Prime Minister

A security officer
Ministry of National Security

The total cost of the official visit by the hon. Prime Minister and other members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to Spain and Britain was approximately TT \$319,000.

Details of the visit are as follows:

During his overnight in London, the Prime Minister, accompanied by other members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, held a meeting with representatives of British Gas, and later attended a dinner engagement hosted in honour of the newly-appointed board of British Gas.

During his official visit to Spain, the Prime Minister met with the following persons:

- The Chief Executive Officer and other representatives of Repsol YPF.
- His Excellency Mr. Jose Maria Aznar, President of the Government of Spain.
- His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain.

The Prime Minister visited:

- Repsol YPF's central office
- The Prado Museum
- The High Institute of Energy and the Centre of Technology
- Moncloa Palace, House of the President of the Government of Spain
- Zarzuela Palace, House of His Majesty, the King of Spain.

The answer to part (iii) of the question is, no.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, a supplemental question, please. Does this cost of TT \$319,000 include the cost of airfare from Britain to Spain?

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the cost of TT \$319,000 is the actual cost of the overall visit to Spain as well as to Britain.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, another supplemental question, please. Did the cost of \$319,000 include the cost of the stay of the delegation at the Ritz Hotel in Spain?

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I repeat the cost of TT \$319,000 is the actual cost of the visit of the Prime Minister and his delegation to Britain and Spain.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the hon. Minister aware that the Prime Minister took a private executive jet from Britain to Spain courtesy Repsol?

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was not on the visit. I am aware that the TT \$319,000 is the total cost of the Prime Minister and the representatives. I repeat, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Prime Minister was on official business.

**Repsol CEO
(Terms and Conditions of MOU)**

54. Mr. Ganga Singh asked the hon. Prime Minister:

Would the Prime Minister indicate whether a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by him on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with Repsol CEO Alfonso Cortina on 11th December 2003 in Madrid and if in the affirmative, to indicate the terms and conditions thereto?

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, during his official visit to Madrid, Spain, the Prime Minister signed an agreement with Mr. Alfonso Cortina, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Repsol YPF, in which were laid out several initiatives outlining how Repsol and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wished to collaborate for the general benefit of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Copies of the Agreement were laid on the Table of this honourable House on Friday, February 06, 2004. The Agreement is therefore available in the public domain.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, could the hon. Minister indicate whether negotiations were conducted prior to the signing of this agreement on December 11, 2003?

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the answer is, yes, there were discussions leading up to the signing of the Agreement.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, could the hon. Minister indicate who conducted these discussions?

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the discussions on the part of Trinidad and Tobago were headed by Dr. Kenneth Julien.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, could the hon. Minister indicate the duration of these discussions? [*Interruption*] Over what period, hon. Minister?

[*Pause*]

[*Interruption*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, please!

Dr. Moonilal: A supplemental question—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Minister, are you able to answer that question?

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not have that information at present, if the Member would file a question I would get the information. [Interruption]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, I will determine what the supplemental questions are. The hon. Minister is saying that he is unable to answer that question at this time, maybe the way to do it would be to come by way of a substantive question.

2.00 p.m.

Dr. Moonilal: Could the Member now deny newspaper reports coming from the Cabinet press conference on the return of the Prime Minister, that the purpose of going to Spain was to meet the King of Spain?

Mr. Manning: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that hon. Members opposite really are seeking to make much ado of nothing. My visit to Spain, in my capacity as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, was designed to advance the interest of this country involving; one the Government of Spain; and; two, a company operating in the energy sector which controls the domestic gas market in Spain and which has a 30 per cent participative interest in BpTT in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, within the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the hon. Prime Minister on December 11, 2003 it proposes that during the visit of the Repsol board and senior management to Trinidad and Tobago in January 2004, such a mechanism would be agreed and formalized through the signing of an agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Having regard to the fact that the Repsol board was here, whether an agreement has since been signed between the Government and Repsol?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, in the first instance, a question was asked in respect of a matter which was in your possession and I had it subsequent to the placing of the question on the record. You are now going into the contents of the actual revelation, and I believe we are now extending this beyond the realms of supplemental questions. If you need to do it you can, through as you very well know, a substantive question.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not questioning your ruling but it follows that having regard to the fact that we asked for the terms and conditions

of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the hon. Prime Minister, on December 11, 2003 we are saying that this is one of the terms and conditions. I am merely asking, having regard to the fact that time has elapsed since then, and having regard to the fact that the Repsol board came here in January, whether or not an agreement has since been signed? It is a simple answer, yes or no.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You have asked and I have ruled that you can now ask that in another question, not this one.

Hon. Member, I have ruled and I have dealt with it in a proper legal explanation of what it is.

**Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies
(Relocation of)**

56. Dr. Roodal Moonilal asked the hon. Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development:

- (a) Could the Minister confirm whether a decision was taken by the Government to relocate the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, could the Minister indicate to this House the reasons for Government's decision to relocate the college?
- (c) Would the Minister indicate what use is contemplated by Government for the land and building at the existing location of the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies?

The Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development (Hon. Lawrence Achong): Mr. Deputy Speaker, in respect of part (a) of the question, I am to inform that Cabinet has agreed that the board of governors of the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies in consultation with the Urban and Regional Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Development took steps to identify an alternative site for the College.

In response to part (b) of the question, I wish to make the point that Government was of the view that it did not make good sense to expand the College at the existing site because of the frequent flooding to which the area was exposed.

With regard to part (c) of the question, may I indicate that no decision has been taken as to what would be done to the existing site.

Mr. Valley: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, questions Nos. 57 and 58, I have to ask for a deferral of one week. My apologies.

The following questions stood on the Order Paper in the name of Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar (Siparia):

**Ministry of Education Advertisements
(Amounts Paid)**

- 57.** Would the hon. Minister of Education state the total cost of advertisements placed by the Ministry of Education in the print and electronic media and the amounts paid to each media house from January 2002 to date?

**Computers in Schools
(Details of)**

- 58.** Would the hon. Minister of Education state:
- (a) the number of schools which have already received computers as at January 2002;
 - (b) the number of schools which are still without computers?

Questions, by leave, deferred.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following questions were asked by Mrs. Kamal Persad-Bissessar (Siparia):

**National Housing Authority
(Suppliers)**

- 17.** Would the Minister of Housing state:
- (a) The names of the persons and/or companies who were awarded contracts for the supply of goods and/or services to the National Housing Authority since January 1, 2002;
 - (b) In the case of companies, the names of the directors of each company;
 - (c) The cost of each contract;
 - (d) Whether tenders were invited for the contracts awarded and if so, the bids made by each tender;
 - (e) The procedure and criteria used to award each contract?

**Ramgoolie Trace Curepe
(Construction of Housing Units)**

- 24.** Would the Minister of Housing please state:
- (a) The names of the persons and/or companies to whom contracts(s) were given for same;

- (b) The names of the directors of the said company/companies;
- (c) Whether the contracts were advertised for tender and if in the affirmative, where and when were the advertisement placed;
- (d) The procedure and criteria used to award each contract;
- (e) The cost of each contract and terms and conditions of same?

Answers lodged in the Parliament Library.

**Government/State Enterprises/Statutory Authorities
(Loans)**

22. Would the Minister of Finance please state:

- (a) Whether government or any of the state enterprises, statutory authorities and/or government agencies borrowed monies since January 1, 2002;
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative:
 - (i) the date(s) and quantum of each borrowing
 - (ii) the source(s) of each borrowing and the criteria and procedure used to select each source;
 - (iii) terms and conditions under which each borrowing was made; and
 - (iv) the specific purpose(s) to which the proceeds of each of the said borrowings were put/will be put?

Vide end of sitting for written answer.

SAFE AND CRIME FREE CARNIVAL

The Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation (Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, for years we in Trinidad and Tobago have been boasting that our Carnival is the greatest show on earth and rivals the two major centres which compete for international tourists, that is, Brazil's Rio Carnival and New Orleans, Mardi Gras.

Notwithstanding the unacceptable levels of crime and criminal activities in Trinidad and Tobago in 2003, our challenge this year was to ensure that our citizens, players and spectators alike, as well as visitors to our shores, enjoy a safe and crime-free Carnival.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is common knowledge that a substantial number of foreigners who follow events in Trinidad and Tobago from abroad, and our

citizens here were given the impression that it was not safe to attend Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival festivities. From all reports, Carnival 2004 had the largest number of foreign visitors currently estimated at some 49,000. This number does not include returning citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, relatives or friends of returning citizens.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a credit to the protective services and the Defence Force that our Carnival, for all intents and purposes, was crime-free, the minor incidents that had occurred during this period notwithstanding.

I place on record the Government's thanks and appreciation to Mr. Everalld Snaggs, Commissioner of Police, his executive management team and officers of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service for their role in making this Carnival one of the safest.

I also want to place on record the Government's thanks and appreciation to Brigadier Ancil Antoine, Chief of the Defence Staff; the officers and other ranks of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force; Brigadier Peter Joseph, Director of the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT); and members of SAUTT. Additionally, I want to record the Government's thanks and appreciation to Mr. Lennox Alfred, Chief Fire Officer and the men and women of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service. I want to make special mention of the sterling efforts of Crime Stoppers and Carnival bandleaders for providing extra security to ensure the safety of their masqueraders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, lastly, I want to recognize the restraint and responsibility displayed by members of the general public in making this Carnival one of the safest. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we want to assure Members of this honourable House, and by extension the general population, that our law enforcement agencies would continue to be challenged to increase the security and safety of its citizens. We recognize that this demands tremendous effort and dedication from them.

Let me assure them and the national community that this Government will spare no effort to provide them with the required resources, be it financial, human, material or training, to ensure the restoration of acceptable levels of security in Trinidad and Tobago. Our role as the executive of the Ministry of National Security is to insist that once these resources are provided the performance levels will be enhanced commensurately. The nation's law enforcement agencies by their performance during the Carnival season have demonstrated quite clearly that they possess the skill, knowledge and resourcefulness to discharge their duties successfully. The Government must support them with the necessary resources. Together,

Safe and Crime Free Carnival
[SEN. THE HON. M. JOSEPH]

Friday, February 27, 2004

we the members of the national security community are determined to regain the full confidence of our fellow citizens by the professional execution of our duties as our contribution to bring peace, order and good government to Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

[THIRD DAY]

Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question [November 28, 2003]:

Be it Resolved,

That this House re-affirm its commitment to the elimination of discrimination in all its forms and the right of the individual to equality of treatment from public authorities. [*Mr. G. Yetming*]

Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds (*Laventille East/Morvant*): Mr. Speaker, let me from the onset indicate that while I generally welcome this debate on the Motion as filed by the Member for St. Joseph, having read it, I wondered to myself where exactly was the Member wanting to go? Where was he intending to take us in this honourable House? What was he trying to achieve? These are some of the questions that swirled through my mind as I addressed myself to this Motion for debate today. I could find no really useful or sensible answers. But at any rate, the Motion is before us and we are duty-bound as parliamentarians to partake in the debate and to bring to bear our thoughts as we see them.

I thought, that the Member, given his background, given the fact that he had a stint as Minister of Finance in this beautiful country, might have been more concerned about matters relating to the structure of our economy today seeing that he and his team failed to make any really positive impact when they were at the helm. I would have thought that he might have directed us to discussing more sustainable onshore activities in terms of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, concentrating on issues for employment generation and the expansion of entrepreneurship among the people of Trinidad and Tobago, pointing us to issues concerning less dependence on hydrocarbons, oil and gas and so forth. Or, perhaps, recognizing that crime and justice is a national concern. He could have taken us in that direction bringing to bear his and his party's views on those matters suggesting sincerely that they are prepared to work with the Government for the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, or perhaps since his friend, the Member for Siparia, is always talking about education and recognizing that, of

course, in 2000 his government led by my friend from Siparia put in place a bogus system of universal secondary education that is causing tremendous difficulty and unsettlement in the education system even to this day.

I would have thought that these are the kinds of issues that the Member for St. Joseph would have conjured up in his mind and would have offered up for debate in this Parliament. But rather than that, he chose to take us along a very emotive issue; an issue that could be discussed intelligently and intellectually and not emotively, but he presented it in a most emotive fashion. He surprised me by the absence or the lack of intellectual substance in his presentation in the debate because—and I thought, given that the race issue as discussed in the national community to a large extent, being as divisive and emotive as it is, he would have concentrated on the more solid aspects of the thing.

For example, he would have recognized the worth and the substance of the Vision 2020 project, which is a project that is designed to embrace and to capture the imagination and the work of every single citizen of Trinidad and Tobago; a project that is designed to take this nation upwards and forwards, on towards a developed experience. Realizing that all citizens in the country could participate in it, the Member may have realized or come to understand that once people are not engaged in something positive and useful they find time for destructiveness and mischief and we are searching for some kind of concept project that could capture the imagination of all sides, all Trinidad and Tobago, so that our people could focus on development, rather than on issues that would divide us. But at any rate here we are.

The Member filed this Motion quoting in the preamble the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination which states that participating countries, of course:

“Particular efforts shall be made to prevent discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin, especially in the fields of civil rights, access to citizenship, education, religion, employment, occupation and housing.”

That is the declaration coming from the United Nations and that would have been put in place perhaps about 1948 when that organization was really coming into its own. The Member for St. Joseph in the course of his deliberations said and I quote:

“Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons for this Motion not the least of which is the fact that I do not think there was any time in the history of Trinidad and Tobago, when there has been the feeling of alienation and discrimination by a section of the population as we have today.”

Elimination of Discrimination
[MR. HINDS]

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He continues:

“At no time have we had the divide between our peoples as wide as we have today; at no time has the tension between our peoples been as it is today.”

That is only partly correct. Of course, when one listens to the talk shows and some comments, particularly some of the wild comments that would come from the other side in this honourable Chamber, one could find some validation for that pronouncement by the Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the wider national community that is not the case. As I was sitting here a moment ago I looked across the public gallery and I noted two citizens who come very frequently to this Parliament, one East Indian, one African, and they sit next to each other religiously to hear what we have to say and to observe the work that we do in the Parliament. I see them outside of the Parliament and I have come to the inescapable conclusion that, like many of our citizens across Trinidad and Tobago, they are life long friends, they are close associates and that is not adversely affected by the fact that they are descendants from different streams, if you like, of the human family. It does not affect them.

The Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation told us very encouragingly a moment ago, and I beat my desk to applaud him and the Minister of Tourism and the Government and the people of Trinidad and Tobago. And I add the people, because on Carnival Tuesday I looked at the number of persons on their way to join their bands and I said to myself these citizens who spend their money to purchase costumes, to participate in this national festival, they are making a very serious collective contribution to the welfare of our country in terms of promoting tourism, in terms of our economy, in terms of our culture and in many other respects. I salute the people.

The Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation told us that we had some 49,000 arrivals and that excluded returning nationals. And I think that was an extremely good report especially when persons in this Parliament try to sing from their high heavens to tell this country and the world that we are crime ridden and that everything is bad about Trinidad and Tobago.

One of the reasons why I welcome this debate at this time is because many of those 49,000 persons are still in Trinidad and Tobago and they would be listening to what we have to say today from the reports, and we want to assure them that Trinidad and Tobago remains an example to the rest of the world in terms of the way we live in harmony with each other; harmony in diversity, so to speak.

The Member for St. Joseph quoted Mr. Reginald Dumas out of an article of November 17 published in the *Express* newspaper. In that article Mr. Dumas opined and I quote:

“...race is the single most difficult continuing issue with which we have to deal ... in this country.”

That, too, is partly correct and if we were not careful, and this is one of the points I want to make today, it could become absolutely and totally correct.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, recognizing that this discussion about race and that ethnicity can be a very emotive subject and stir up all kinds of strange human feelings, in 1992, recognizing that, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago instituted a very important project at the university and he caused to be established the Centre for Ethnic Studies. That Centre was actually established in November 1992, and the objective of that Centre was to conduct research into the problems arising out of cultural divergences in an ex-colonial society and to make recommendations for addressing such problems in the context of public policy making.

The directors of that centre were Professor Selwyn Ryan and Dr. John La Guerre, an African and an East Indian, commonality between them? Intellectualism, with a common purpose to proceed to conduct an investigation into that issue with a view to providing the Government not with emotional outburst, but with hard sociological facts and observations, which in turn would be used as the basis for public policy-making. I considered that to be a very sensible approach and the nation seemed to have felt so from the reports I read in the newspapers at that time. No sooner did the United National Congress come into Government in 1995, they saw something else and immediately disbanded that centre as useless.

What does that tell us? That tells us that they prefer to proceed along the lines of emotion outburst, and scandalizing and talking without evidence, than to speak on the basis of solid fact and evidence. Because they recognized that if one proceeds on the basis of hard facts and sociological observations then, much of the allegations that they make, much of the talk of alienation would be demonstrated to be unfounded and they do not want that. They want to create and maintain an environment where people would not know the facts and people could be stirred on the basis of wild emotions. So, as soon as God blessed Trinidad and Tobago, as he always does, and we saw the back of the United National Congress from the halls of Government, the Prime Minister re-instituted the centre and its work now continues apace. To what end the Member for Caroni asks? It is to conduct, as I read a moment ago, investigations into issues relating to allegations of racial discrimination and otherwise, so that one can come up with hard-core facts.

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In fact, Professor Ryan and Dr. La Guerre, after a tremendous amount of work, issued in 1993, two volumes arising out of their investigations entitled *Employment Practices in the Public Service and Private Sectors in Trinidad and Tobago*. At that time, and it still exists today, notwithstanding this thorough investigation and report, which I discovered that some of my friends on the other side never took time to read—just to demonstrate their disinterest, and I recognized that in a debate in this honourable Chamber about a year ago when one Member from that side—and I would not identify him yet—was purportedly quoting from the report but I had the benefit of reading it and I was able to stand up and demonstrate to him that no such thing ever appeared in this report and that he was misleading the honourable House.

One of the things that they have done over the years is to claim that this report said that there was discrimination in employment practices in the Public Service. I have had the benefit of reading it and I took the time to discuss some of these issues with Dr. Ryan, and I say to my friends on the other side, nowhere in this report does that appear. So that has to be debunked as an untruth and misleading comment and I hope that my friends would be sufficiently honest never ever to say that privately or publicly again. They might very well say it because that is the way they behave.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to declare—it is not necessary but I think that we have to provide leadership in Trinidad and Tobago. Our young citizens are crying out for role models. They say so when you listen to them on their little fora. They want those of us who are parliamentarians and leaders, whether it is in government, in opposition, whether it is in industry or in religion, to provide them with strong leadership.

2.30 p.m.

On that basis I declare here today, personally, that I consider and believe that racial discrimination is wrong, it is sinful. I declare that in the context of the politics of Trinidad and Tobago any practice, encouragement or reliance upon racial discrimination or racialism is also very deceptive because, as political parties, when we go to the national community seeking their support at election time we never tell them that we want the support of only East Indians. We never tell them that we want only African, Chinese, Syrian or Lebanese support. We tell them we want all of their support. When we garner 450,000 votes or 390,000 votes, we boast about it and do not stop to consider who are those persons who voted for us. On the basis of those votes, when we come to government we deserve to give them all that we can give by way of leadership, direction, access

to state resources, access to education and all the other things and not deceive them. So I consider it to be deceptive if we were to do otherwise.

As I read the contribution of the Member for St. Joseph in the *Hansard*, in my view, he attempted to disguise—even from the quotation that I gave a while ago—what he was really saying. He talked around the issue and tried to disguise the fact that he was talking about the question of race. I want to tell the Member, as I said earlier, that it is quite possible to discuss race in an intellectual, unemotional sense without being racial or without degrading anybody or any group of persons. That is what we must do.

I suspect that when they met in caucus they may have chosen my friend, the Member for St. Joseph, to be the person to pilot that Motion because they felt that he did not represent—given his ethnic origin—any one of the two major races, and maybe, coming from him the whole question might be more palatable. I also tell him, and the Members on the other side, that that is not necessary because in this national community we ought to encourage—in fact from this side we see God in every face not race! So it did not matter who brought the Motion. What we would deal with is the substance of the Motion and causing him to bring it does not make it any better or more palatable.

Mr. Ramnath: You do not even know what is going on in your party, but you know what is going on in our party?

Mr. F. Hinds: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would not be distracted by my friend, the Member for Couva South. [*Interruption*] That is quite all right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I tell my friends on the other side, and those who would listen, that recently I had the benefit of visiting our neighbouring Caricom partner, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Over the few days I spent there I had extensive discussions with several politicians, lawyers and other people of that country who are concerned about what is happening in Guyana, in Trinidad and in the region.

I came away from that experience thanking God that Trinidad and Tobago is still what it is today. I came out from that experience with a vow that I will exert best efforts at all times to ensure that the harmony and diversity that we experience and enjoy in this country are preserved. I came out of that experience telling myself that I must share with my friends, those who do not know, or overlook the seriousness of the experience in Guyana, how terrible things could become when people get lost along that winding never-ending road of racial madness.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, politicians in Guyana told me that the people in Guyana have come to the point now where, in the main, once an idea is broached they are not concerned about what is said, but more with who said it. So that if someone from one of the major racial groupings says something that is most positive, uplifting and developmental, it would be rejected flatly by the other side, purely because it is coming from someone of another race.

Now, if that is true it is very, very frightening and I would never like to see our country get along that path. We know that in 1966 there were racial upheavals in Guyana and as I left Guyana about a month ago the same situation is on the brink of happening all over again.

Mr. Ramnath: It was not racial war, it was genocide. Your Prime Minister—

Mr. F. Hinds: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I need your protection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member for Couva South, the hon. Member for Laventille East/Morvant has asked for protection from your good self. Would you please let him have the floor unimpeded?

Mr. Ramnath: My apologies to him, Sir.

Mr. F. Hinds: Thank you, very warmly, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In the last three general elections in this country—they came rapidly as we all know—we focused heavily on corruption. That was not because we just conjured up those thoughts, that was because of the practice and behaviour of our friends when they were in government. What was noteworthy about it is that while we understood, for example, there was an issue—Let me not give that example.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we spoke about corruption we did so in the context of just that, corruption, not race. While we understand full well, and we observe that some of the people involved in corruption were of one racial grouping or another, that was not the focus. We were not dealing with race, we were dealing with corruption, as a social economic national ill or evil.

I was able to identify from my discussions with the folks in Guyana that in all cases, whatever happens everything is seen—If there is an issue about corruption they do not treat it as an issue of corruption per se, they treat it as a race issue. I am happy that we have not gotten to that point as yet and I pray that we never do.

We were able to attack the UNC's corrupt practices. We were able to demonstrate to the national community—the electoral support we were seeking—and convince them that the United National Congress was a very corrupt entity

and that when they had an opportunity to govern, rather than seek to develop this country in every sphere, they spent their time in government frittering away and squandering public moneys and enriching some of their special friends. From the results the national community obviously understood that and bought into it wholesale. Today they are in Opposition whining and crying and we know that they will be there for a very long time. While we are here it is our business to seek to develop Trinidad and Tobago in a real sense to ensure that all citizens of this country have equal access to resources.

Talking about equal access, recently—the case was decided so I can speak fluently on the matter—there was a matter before the courts—let me call it the Maha Sabha case which had to do with the Maha Sabha's application for radio licences. The matter was by way of constitutional motion, several declarations were sought and as my friends would know, when you seek a declaration in the court you are asking the court to make a pronouncement on what the law is and that is what the court would do.

The main plank of the attack was inequality of treatment upon the Maha Sabha by way of the failure of the relevant authorities to grant a licence for a radio to the Maha Sabha. I listened to all the commentaries after the matter was decided and the judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Carlton Best; I listened to all of the discussions in the national community; I read an article in the newspaper by one of the lawyers who was involved in the matter; I listened to some of my colleagues on the other side comment upon the matter on public radio and I listened to many citizens of Trinidad and Tobago talk about it. So I took the time to obtain a copy of the judgment. In fact our friend, the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre came in here, just before the Carnival break, and quoted extensively from that judgment to support whatever point she was trying, but failed to make.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say to my friends who did not read it: One of the things that were highlighted in the judgment, and may be a fact that some people might overlook, is that when we talk about discrimination the United Nations alone recognize about nine different types of discrimination: gender discrimination, race, colour, religion, ethnicity—because persons could be of the same racial group but of a different ethnic group. A lot of people do not understand that.

Mr. Ramnath: You are reading Best, boy.

Mr. F. Hinds: No, that ought to be common knowledge. You have different ethnicities out of the same racial stream. In any event there are different types of discrimination.

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When I read the judgment I noted that at no time did counsel on any side of the argument make any argument dealing with racial discrimination. The matter had nothing whatsoever to do with racial discrimination. Racial discrimination was never advanced or canvassed in the matter and the judgment as well made absolutely no comment about racial discrimination. Yet when persons in the national community, led by some of our irresponsible friends from the other side, comment upon the matter they convert what the court found to be discrimination to racial discrimination, and that is a serious matter. Why do they do that? Again, they do it because they know that once they begin to deal with and speak about racial discrimination that is one of the issues that stirs the emotions. That is the line they might use to keep other people out without realizing, according to Frantz Fanon in his book *The Wretched of the Earth* that the very line that you draw to keep some people out is the same line that keeps you out as far as they are concerned as well; a dangerous thing. So they try to convert the discrimination that the court was talking about to racial discrimination, something that they always do, and I call upon them to stop it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the dictionary meaning of the word “discrimination” is a non neutral term. That is the kind of discrimination that the court was talking about. The court was talking about the fact that applications were made and no reasons were given that satisfied the court that the licence should not have been granted, according to the judgment, and so the court found that equality of treatment may have been infringed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the 1962 Constitution and the 1976 Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago in sections 4 and 5 there are some rights enshrined: freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of conscience and a number of other freedoms. Those are protected as we know in the Constitution. Since 1962 they have been there and I venture to say, perhaps because of ignorance, take as an example, many times police officers—First of all, as a backdrop we must know that it is only the State that could infringe a citizen’s constitutional rights. No private entity or individual could infringe your constitutional rights, only the State could do that. That is a legal fact.

Many police officers, in the execution of their duty on a daily basis, because of ignorance of the law—because police officers are not lawyers, they have basic training in police duties and some basic criminal law training. I speak from experience because I was a police officer and a police instructor. They do not have a full understanding of the law and not even lawyers know all the law, although some of my friends on the other side pretend to know everything.

In the course of their duties as police officers they infringe the Constitution sometimes without even knowing it. It is after doing it, when it is challenged in the court and the court pronounces upon it then the police officer or the police service realize that particular practice constituted an infringement on somebody's constitutional right and henceforth they would rearrange the way in which they do things—not only the police service, but the teaching service and the public service. All through the public service you have that happening on a daily basis; not only in Trinidad and Tobago but across the world.

I happen to have lived and studied in England for seven years. I happen to have had close friendships with public servants, or civil servants as they are called in England, and discovered then and I admire that very much, that when persons are recruited into the civil service in England, recognizing that those individual may be ignorant of what the constitutional positions might be, they give them some indication as to what those elements are. During their training they actually teach them some issues about judicial review. That is to say, an inherent power in the courts to review the actions of public authorities and other bodies particularly those that are acting under statute law to ensure that they act within the confines of the law, that there are no procedural improprieties or that they do not act in an unreasonable sense; unreasonable in a specific legal context.

They actually train the civil servants to understand that and more than that I had the opportunity to see, hold and read a booklet that the civil servant who is finished training and ready to go into work gets. The name of the book is *The Judge Looking Over Your Shoulder*. It is a book with some guidelines telling the civil servants what they should and should not do in order to avoid their actions being susceptible to judicial review later. I admire that and I would like to see, some time, that we would get to that kind of level in this country to prevent infringements on people's constitutional rights on the basis of negligence or on the basis of a lack of resources or ignorance, as I have said.

I went through those, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to demonstrate to you that in the Maha Sabha's case, while discrimination may have been the issue, and while the court may have found that in that legal sense there was discrimination in terms of equality of treatment under law, that does not mean racial discrimination, and it does not necessarily mean malice on the part of the Government or the relevant authorities against the Maha Sabha either. That is the point I wanted to make. It does not mean malice because in the very judgment the judge must have taken into account submissions that were made from the side of the relevant authority which suggested that because of a lack of manpower and lack of resources they

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were not able to deal with certain things and the judge said there that he will listen to the arguments but he will not accept those as an answer to the suggestion which tells us—

Mr. Singh: Having regard to what the hon. Member for Laventille East/Morvant is saying, and having regard to the time period for the Citadel application is it not true therefore, that there appears to have been an undue haste with a view to granting Citadel's application? Therefore, on the face of it there appears to be preferential treatment to Citadel.

Mr. F. Hinds: I have great regard for my friend, the Member for Caroni East, and I will demonstrate that regard by simply ignoring him. I am trying my utmost, recognizing that 49,000 visitors might still be in Trinidad and Tobago, planning and wanting to come again next year; recognizing that my friends prefer to just muddy and dirty the water so that they could hide like "zandolie" and create confusion unseen; recognizing that the young people of this nation want us to conduct these deliberations in a dignified typically PNM fashion, I will not be drawn into any bacchanalia by my friend, the Member for Caroni East, not today.

So may I continue?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was making the point that the discrimination that the judge found may not and in many cases—You see, what my friends on the other side are doing, now that they are in Opposition, a permanent fixture, I hope, is trying to lend the citizens of this country the impression that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is deliberately and maliciously discriminating against people of a certain—against East Indian people in this country. That is what they are doing. I am saying that it is reckless, unfounded and dangerous and I am demanding that they stop. You do not have to do that to win elections in Trinidad and Tobago. The citizenry are far more experienced and wise than to be taken in by that. We won the elections. We did not go out there talking race. We won elections in this country for 25 years straight: won in 1991, came back in 2001 and will continue for a long time. We do not have to talk race to win elections in this country.

We went on the platform of corruption and we got such a platform because of their deeds and their conduct. They should do their work as Opposition Members of Parliament, just as we did. We spent countless hours perusing documents, finding a little correspondence in the mailbox occasionally, unearthing their ungodly ways and exposing them to the national community. So much so that even many of their supporters turned against them regardless of their race. We increased our voter share and theirs went down.

My friend, the Member for Nariva, is struggling to find support now in Nariva. You do not have to do that. You do not have to do that as it leads to mayhem and confusion as is happening in Guyana. Over the last two years about 40 bodies were found in different parts of Guyana—Buxton, George Town—all over Guyana—and there were serious allegations being made against officials. Well, of course I do not know the inside of it and I did not seek to get to the inside of it. I am just talking about what I read in the newspapers there and what I saw on the television. It is mayhem and murder and then people are talking about race in there.

Meanwhile, a large cross-section of the society, very poor and living below the poverty line, want to know when these national leaders, politicians and all, will show a path—direct them and motivate them to coming out of that experience—towards development. No answers to those questions but politicians having fun talking about race and interpreting everything in terms of race. Every time they hear the word discrimination automatically, axiomatically, they jump on racial discrimination ignoring the fact that there are at least nine different heads or types, and in this particular case, the Maha Sabha judgment, no question of racial discrimination ever arose. If there was any malice it had nothing to do—[*Interruption*] But the court said so in the judgment and you can read it. [*Interruption*] I am relying on that. I am not doing anything else, I am relying on the judgment.

Mr. Ramnath: Who said there was a racial—

Mr. F. Hinds: Who said so? Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I refuse to be drawn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some time ago, right here in this Parliament, I was taking a historical view on the state of affairs in this country. I made reference to a speech delivered by Dr. Eric Williams in 1958 at Woodford Square. What I was trying to say then was that Dr. Eric Williams made that speech after the Federal Elections. He was analyzing the results of those elections and he was obviously angry because he had a vision for Trinidad and Tobago, he had a vision for the Caribbean, a clear vision. He wanted us to go in a certain direction and he felt that vision was being stymied. So he was angry, human as he was.

He was analyzing the results and he made certain comments and used the words “recalcitrant minority”. I came to this Parliament some months ago and I was analyzing what Dr. Williams was saying then.

Mr. Ramsaran: Who are you to analyze Dr. Williams?

Mr. F. Hinds: Who am I? I am a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago. I benefited from the education that was freely dispensed for all of us here. If you did not benefit that is a matter for you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, I would appreciate if you would speak to me and not to the Member.

Mr. F. Hinds: I am obliged.

All I was trying to do very intellectually, and using the record was to demonstrate that there was nothing racial in the statement made by Dr. Williams. That is what I was trying to do.

Dr. Deputy Speaker: The speaking time of the hon. Member has expired.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. F. Hinds: Thank you very much, hon. Members. That is all I was trying to do and there was a hue and cry from the other side. My friend, the Member for Chaguanas, went on a radio station shortly after that; my friend, the Member for Caroni East tried to ridicule me. They called my name and tried to box me in as a racist, but they failed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will notice today that there was no such hue and cry because it appeared to me then, and I would realize then that while they were talking about Dr. Williams' comments they, too, never read the statement. They were coming from an emotive and wild angle and not coming from the basis of fact. They never read it.

As a matter of fact, I am in this Parliament approaching eight years and the first time the word "recalcitrant", that I could recall, was ever used in this Parliament was when I used it in that context. Shortly after that in the budget debate, the Member for St. Augustine used the word recalcitrant. Why would that have been so? Because they had put a dirty slur on that word to give a certain impression of Dr. Williams and the PNM by extension. But when we checked the ordinary meaning of the word "recalcitrant" all it simply and innocuously meant was disorderly or out of control. That is all, but for 40 years, dwelling on the mud that they would normally create to hide, like "zandolie", hiding behind the murky water they would stir up to cause emotions and confusion, they were able to convince some people in this national community that Dr. Williams was racist in his comment. But, when you read and reread the thing you realize it was an innocuous statement coming from a politician as he was, commenting on an issue and there was nothing dirty about it whatsoever.

3.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, my time is running out. One element of the preamble in the Motion filed by my friend, the Member for St. Joseph, is as follows:

“Whereas since December 24th, 2001 there has been a renewal and an institutionalization of the victimization of and discrimination against employees of State Enterprises, Statutory Authorities, Government Ministries and Public Authorities by the PNM Government;”

I was making the point a while ago that we have about 60,000—62,000 public servants in this country. I worked for a short while in the Ministry of Public Administration and Information as Minister of State and, obviously, the public service came under our portfolio. When I asked how many public servants there were in the service, nobody could tell the precise figure. As a matter of fact, Dr. Saith, as the substantive and senior Minister, had, with the authority of Cabinet, implemented a programme where we got expertise and, up to the time I left the Ministry, they were designing a computer and information technology system that was supposed to begin to put together that information so that we would know, for example, at any one time, exactly how many public servants we had and the different age cohorts. We would know if we have an ageing public service or a younger public service, so that we could plan properly and rationally. We would know from that kind of information, their religion, their ethnicity or their race. Those things are unknown.

Oftentimes, again misquoting Dr. Ryan’s report, we would hear even my friends from the other side right here in this Parliament talking about discrimination in employment practices in the public service and giving the impression that they are more against one race than the next, but the figures, as far as I know, are unknown. It is impossible to look at any one office and come to any conclusion.

I went to the Carapichaima Senior Comprehensive School about three months ago to deliver its graduation feature address. That was in the constituency of the Member for Couva North. He was not there. I do not know why, but he was not there. [*Interruption*] He is kind enough to understand that I would never want to be too close. I give way to my senior parliamentarian, the Member for Couva North. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you cannot even look at names in this country today and come to conclusions about race. You just cannot. It is stupid to do that.

One of the teachers in the school was as Chinese in her appearance as you could have it and she was a Mrs. Ramsaran. I was fascinated by that. Not simply that, because that is common in Trinidad and Tobago, but the Mistress of

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Ceremonies, if I may say so, who introduced me to deliver my address, was as African as you could have it, but she had an East Indian name.

I am simply saying that even if you took a list of names from anywhere in the nursing service, teaching service, public service or police service and looked at it, you cannot come to any hard conclusion, so we need facts. This is why I said that when my friend brought this Motion I thought he would have taken a much more serious angle. Unfortunately, he was the victim of the same needling that their supporters on the outside get and he reacted to it when he filed this Motion talking about institutionalization of victimization.

Oftentimes the so-called victimization and discrimination has nothing to do with race or religion, but political patronage. That is a fact and I look forward to the day when Trinidad and Tobago would grow out of that. Unfortunately, as it stands today, there we are. If someone were in a position to employ three persons when the UNC is in government, they would not go in a PNM stronghold and find the people to offer the jobs to. They would not do that. It is normal human behaviour to deal with, to associate with and to be good to the persons who are your friends and associates or with whom you have some kind of commonality. This is why we have the public service, which is supposed to remove those kinds of personalized elements and there ought to be a system through which the applications go that sanitizes it from these emotional, sectarian, narrow concerns.

We have many developments to undertake and to experience in this country and it would not help to be shouting race every time. We have many serious issues to address, so while we would speak on this matter—and I know that this all came following certain things and the other people on this side will address some of them. I merely wanted to deal with the concept of discrimination and to demonstrate that it can be a very neutral term and it can have a particular legal meaning. It does not only mean racial discrimination and it may not be malicious. It can come as a result of all kinds of influences other than racial or religious concerns.

I also suggest to my friends as I conclude that we have a beautiful experience in Trinidad and Tobago. We live in peace and harmony with each other. We want to keep it that way. I went on 90.5 radio station some time ago. I was invited there by the host. That is a station with a largely East Indian format. I do not know who the owners are so I cannot call it an “Indian station”. The programming is largely East Indian. I went there quite willingly because I saw it as an opportunity to speak to my East Indian brothers and sisters across Trinidad and Tobago.

I must tell you that I met with a tremendous amount of hostility from some of the callers—not that I did not anticipate it, because I know that they have been fed

a diet of diatribe from my friends on the other side for a very long time. I thought that I would make a positive intervention and by the end of the programme some of the hostility had subsided, some sobriety had prevailed and we were able to discuss on the air some sensible issues with a view to developing Trinidad and Tobago.

That has been my own experience and that is one of the issues I thought that the Member for St. Joseph should have raised in this debate. He should be taking us on a road forward. How do we solidify the harmony rather than have it fray on the edges?

My friend, the Member for Barataria/San Juan, was calling on UNC supporters to boycott Carnival—I heard him—and of course to no avail. When I came down the road on Carnival days and looked at the parade of bands, I saw all the strains of citizens of this country having a good time together. I saw many young couples of different racial groupings close together, enjoying their lives. No doubt after Carnival, they would be settling down to academic and work programmes, wondering how they would find employment and how they would contribute to making Trinidad and Tobago a better place so that they could find work, build themselves, grow and be happy. This is the sort of thing I would concentrate on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sure that my friends on the other side will be guided by some of the things that I have tried to communicate to them in my little contribution and I hope that henceforth in this debate, we would demonstrate to ourselves and Trinidad and Tobago that we are serious, that we love this country and that we want to preserve it for the benefit of those who are here and even for those yet unborn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. Kelvin Ramnath (*Couva South*): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want first of all to congratulate my friend, the Member for St. Joseph, one who quite clearly, would be sitting as the Member for St. Joseph for a very long time to come. *[Interruption]* Possibly! Anything is possible. I am quite sure that the Member for Diego Martin Central knows that he will never be the leader of the PNM. He does not have what it takes. He is a vacillator.

I was not in the country when the Motion was presented, but when I got back I read the contents of the Motion. All I can say is that I have even greater respect for the noble suggestions and recommendations contained in this Motion. We are calling on the House to reaffirm its commitment to the elimination of discrimination in all its forms and the right of the individual to equality of treatment from public authorities.

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Anyone listening to the ramblings and pedestrian contribution of the Member for Laventille East/Morvant will believe that the Member for St. Joseph was asking that this House reaffirm its commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination and not all forms of discrimination. We have listened to more than one hour of what a great country Trinidad and Tobago is; that hon. Franklin Khan sits next to the hon. Patrick Manning, so we have a wonderful country and the Member for Laventille East/Morvant went playing mas' with someone of a different ethnic background and we have a wonderful country.

That has been the PNM's way of defending its policy of discrimination in all forms. Oh, we have a Carnival of colour and we have national unity. While they are speaking and extolling the virtues of a multi-racial, multi-ethnic society, they practise open discrimination in all its forms and patronage and expect that certain people, perhaps in their own party, who are there for reasons best known to themselves, will have some basis to defend their presence in that party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, discrimination against the poor is a very important issue in the country. I was surprised to listen to the champion for the poor, the Member for Laventille East/Morvant—I recognize that the Prime Minister does not share my view in terms of his ability or his integrity. I would not sit outside any Prime Minister's office for three hours to get a seven-minute audience. I would walk and I have walked before. He must ask the former President of the country what he had to deal with in the Cabinet when he became rude and hostile to the people who put him in power.

I would have expected the Member to talk about discrimination against the poor, against families who went in search of a place to erect a shelter because they could not afford to find a place to live and have the police supervise the dismantling, the smashing up and demolition of homes with babies lying on the ground. That is what the Member for St. Joseph is also talking about—discrimination in all its forms.

While they are staying at the Ritz in Spain and speaking about Columbus' viewing of the Trinity Hills and the mutiny that was about to take place on Columbus' boat and flying in jets paid for by multi-nationals and cannot account for it, they send the police and their thugs to smash the homes of people in a remote place like Wallerfield. Nobody goes to Wallerfield to live, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they can do better. That is the discrimination of which we speak—a country with oil and gas, so much so we can go and talk with Repsol and British Gas and as soon as we talk to them there is an agreement with British Gas buying a marketing contract from El Paso and selling gas to themselves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know there are some journalists in the country whose only concern is whether the UNC will win election. I say to them that the people who should be worried are the PNM because they have been committing atrocities against this nation. Do not worry about us! We are ready and willing to resume power in this country. *[Interruption]* They should be worried. They are the ones who are breaking down the shacks.

They talk about discrimination. That Minister of Housing sends his thugs to impose violence against black people. He who talks so much about under-achievers among the African population has no mercy. He could have taken a census. They were there for a year. He could have taken steps to prevent further expansion. He could have put their names on a list and gone to the Prime Minister, if he speaks to him, and say: “You are building a set of flats, high-density homes, on Circular Road in San Fernando, could you accommodate a few of these people?” Or, you are expanding Edinburgh 500, creating another Beetham along the Solomon Hochoy Highway, he could have put them on a list to give them a house, but he goes there with hooligans, supported by the police.

Did you see the clippings? They took pride in mashing up the houses. They did not take off the galvanize sheeting one by one. I saw the man with a sledge hammer having great joy, as though it was the greatest thing that happened in his life, smashing the homes. You do not do that!

Mr. B. Panday: Not a house was smashed when we were in office. Not a home! *[Desk thumping]* Say it for the record, Kelo! Say it for the record! Say it!

Mr. K. Ramnath: I am glad you raised that, Mr. Leader, because even though I was not in the government, I do not know of an occasion on which we broke down anybody’s house. Their philosophy of discrimination is rooted in the politics of Eric Williams—when I say come, you cometh; when I say go, you goeth; and if you do not like it, get to hell out of here. The Member for Point Fortin is probably listening to what I am saying.

I recall under Burroughs and the police in this country, that the PNM of which the Prime Minister of today was a member, used to go to the homes on the train lines with sub-machine guns and SLRs to terrorize people who had constructed homes. That has been the history of this Government and then they cover it all up—you know we just had a beautiful Carnival; all of our people have come together.

Clive Pantin used to talk about all these faces—I cannot remember the exact terms—rainbow, just like the rainbow coalition of Caricom, boasting all over the world and they cannot deal with some simple matters. I wanted to raise this matter

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today because an oil and gas-rich nation building plants in Point Fortin and all over the country chooses to deal with poor defenceless people in a violent manner, which constitutes discrimination against the under-privileged in the society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my friend, the Member for Chaguanas, on the last occasion told the country of the horrors of disabled people chaining themselves to their wheelchairs in front of National Flour Mills and elsewhere asking to be given, not freeness or handouts, but an opportunity to be properly trained and to work for their money and we have visits to Repsol. That is one of the most dangerous trips that the Prime Minister took. He knows it very well. When one is dealing with multinationals that are dealing with important aspects of your oil and gas operations, one has to deal with them at arm's length. There are serious implications if you do not deal with people like that at arm's length.

There is a tendering and bidding process. We had that same problem with ExxonMobil and their failure to meet the requirements of the production-sharing agreement in a deepwater block on the east coast. Up to today, nothing is forthcoming from the Government with respect to what has been the arrangement—whether they met their work obligation, whether they met their financial obligation, or what is the contract they have signed with Petrotrin. When they start visiting these people, wining and dining with them and the next thing we hear is that one of them is selling gas to oneself and the other has 13 per cent in the upstream operations of BP (Trinidad) Limited and they are further bidding for other offshore and onshore blocks, you ask yourself if that is the way to proceed. Are they discriminating now in favour of multinationals while you break down the houses of thousands of defenceless people in Wallerfield?

The Member for Laventille East/Morvant and the Member for Arouca South are unable to meet the intellectual challenge posed by the Member for St. Joseph and the nobility behind this resolution sought to ramble and reduce the important discussion to one of the UNC being peeved because it is in opposition and it is raising issues of race.

I quote from the Executive Summary and Recommendations of *Employment Practices in the Public and Private Sectors in Trinidad and Tobago*, which was attached to a letter written to the hon. Patrick Manning, dated November 05, 1993. This comes from Prof. Selwyn Ryan and Dr. John La Guerre.

“One of the major findings of the investigation was the tendency for Indians to be heavily under-represented at the higher reaches of the Public Sector, particularly in the Central Public Services.”

I did not say that. And, as if they wish to apologize for having said the truth, they said:

“There are no doubt historical and cultural factors which explain this imbalance.”

There is an imbalance anyhow.

“Its persistence into the present is however also due to the operation of the seniority principle and to the possible influence of the political will in appointments beyond a certain range.”

This is what the Centre for Ethnic Studies is saying.

“It was also found that where merit and technical criteria must prevail, as in the Judicial and Professional Sectors, Indians were more than adequately represented. Indians have achieved parity at the clerical level but as one ascended the ladder of promotion, their proportions declined considerably.”

I would advise that the Prime Minister, who received this report, may want to go into the details of the report. I just want to be honest in my quotation.

“Many of the alleged cases of racial imbalances could not be substantiated with the available evidence; but the perceptions of discrimination do exist, are strongly felt and materially affect the dedication and productivity of a number of officers from both major ethnic groups though Indians appear more aggrieved than Afro-Trinidadians.”

3.30 p.m.

I am not reading this to make a case for Indians in the public service, or in the state enterprise sector. Wherever discrimination raises its head, this UNC will stand up against such practice. [*Desk thumping*]

You ask yourself: What did the Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East do with this report?

Mr. B. Panday: What year was it?

Mr. K. Ramnath: It was in 1993. I know he did not return to high office in 1995. The report also said that there was a strong case for the establishment of an equal opportunities commission. It gave some guidelines as to how we might want to treat with this matter, particularly in terms of having consultations.

“Some consideration was given to establishing an Equal Opportunities Commission which would investigate allegations of discrimination based on

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race, creed, gender or any other physical attribute in both the public and private sectors. There was however no consensus as to whether the proposed Commission was the appropriate mechanism to establish for this purpose.”

What do you do in situations like this? Here we have a Centre for Ethnic Studies that is saying that all is not well in Trinidad and Tobago. It is saying that in the private sector there is discrimination as well. They particularly highlighted how the Syrians behave. I do not know if we have any people of Syrian or Chinese extraction here. Let me give an example.

“In the case of the Public Enterprises Sector, an attempt was made to identify the racial diversities in this sector and to probe some of the issues involved. Of the seventeen companies studied, only five had a reasonable representation of Indo-Trinidadians. Six had no Indo-Trinidadians on their Boards, while on the remainder, they were under-represented.”

This reminds me of Dr. Ryan in his analysis of the NAR’s period in government. There was a book he published. I am trying to remember the name. It was *The Disillusioned Electorate*. He was doing an analysis of what the Robinson Government had done in terms of the appointments. It is nothing new to me. While I was a Member of that party there were persons who would get up and deny that there was any discrimination. Some of them, unfortunately, even represented constituencies against which discrimination was rampant. That is what happens in these societies.

“In only six of the companies investigated could it be said that Indo-Trinidadian representation at management level was adequate; and in five companies race was identified as a factor influencing promotions. In only two companies were the Executive Chairmen Indo-Trinidadians. Seven of 17 chief executives were however Indo-Trinidadians.”

The study is telling us that there is a problem which we must address. That is why the Parliament is asked to reaffirm its commitment to the elimination of all forms of discrimination. The Government pretends that this does not exist. It is a whole set of accusations that we are crying race, because we have lost the election.

I want to say something else. According to Prof. Ryan and Dr. La Guerre:

“The distribution of firms by ethnic ownership revealed a distinct pattern which was related to the propensity with which ethnic groups gravitated over time towards business ownership. The survey related that the number of firms owned by Indo-Trinidadians far exceeds those belonging to other ethnic groups. In this regard, we note that 39.4 percent of the firms surveyed were

owned by Indo-Trinidadians, 24.8 percent by persons of African descent, 19 percent by persons of mixed racial ancestry, 5 percent by whites, 2.7 percent by Chinese, and 2.2 percent by Syrian/Lebanese.

Employees of a particular ethnic group tended to be over-represented within firms owned by persons of similar ethnicity. The Survey revealed that no Afro-Trinidadians were employed in 21 percent of the firms studied and that no Indo-Trinidadians were employed in 18 percent of them. Ethnic concentration was found to be particularly high at the managerial and professional levels. No Afro-Trinidadians were represented at senior level in 88.2 percent of firms owned by Indo-Trinidadians..."

That is a startling reality in a society in which we have half of the population of African descent and half of Indian descent. That is a startling figure. It is also startling since we talk so much about the high levels of literacy and education. This is the basis for us to do something about the problem.

"92.9 percent of Chinese owned and 81.8 percent of the mixed and Syrian/Lebanese owned firms."

No Afro-Trinidadians were there and they were not there in the 93 per cent owned by Chinese and Lebanese.

"Firms owned by whites excluded Afro-Trinidadians from senior positions in 76.9 percent of the cases."

I thought we would talk and put institutions in place. The UNC put in place the Equal Opportunities Commission. [*Desk thumping*] The Government is seeking to do everything possible not to have that Commission see the light of day. Why should anybody have to go to court? Perhaps we are being punished because the wrong person has taken the matter to court. I would not get into that. I imagine lawyers are lawyers whether they belong to defunct parties, ruling parties or opposition parties.

The question is if the Government was not satisfied with all the provisions of the Equal Opportunities Commission, certainly there was room to talk about it. How is it that they could summon the Leader of the Opposition when they are in big trouble with Prime Minister Arthur? In his magnanimity and in the interest of the protection of the sovereign state, he acquiesced. Why can we not talk about the Equal Opportunities Commission? Why can we not talk about constitutional reform, which incorporates a discussion on the Equal Opportunities Commission?

What this report is saying is that 93 per cent of the Whites, Syrian and Chinese do not employ any Afro-Trinidadians in their businesses. They are saying

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that 82 per cent of Indian businesses do not employ black people. They walk all over the place saying that they are the party of the black people in Trinidad and Tobago. They broke down their homes because they love them so much. They threw them in the rain. I would like to recommend this as compulsory reading for Members of Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, since I have done that recommendation I do not think I should spend more time quoting from this report. However, the point I want to emphasize is that we have a real problem in the society and we do not seem to have the will to deal with those problems. [*Desk thumping*]

I listened to my friend, the Member for Laventille East/Morvant. He is not here. I understand his difficulty. He was trying to plead a case for his own political survival. It did not seem to fall on anyone's ear today. When you look at the Government's housing performance and policy, you cannot convince any right-thinking person in the society that it is based on a policy of discrimination. That discrimination could be as a result of patronage, race or many other factors.

I have repeatedly said, while the Member for San Fernando East was actively involved in the PNM—at that time he was a Member of the Opposition when I said it—out of 1,007 houses built in Couva, they could not find seven Indian families to put in that housing development. It might very well be that the 1,007 might have been PNM supporters and have nothing to do with race. When you do some correlations and look at the reality of the politics of this country, you would recognize that the Government is taking taxpayers' money and building homes for one group of people, because it wants to change—as Mottley said in this Parliament once—the racial imbalance in Central Trinidad. He was the Minister of Housing. Instead of looking at the Constitution and creating a living document that drives the process of social development and economic prosperity, the Government leaves the old beaten, battered and brutalized Constitution and changes everything to fit in the Constitution.

We must have boundaries in Trinidad and Tobago for electoral seats. A small island like Trinidad and Tobago must be carved up. Couva North is south of Couva South and Couva South is north of Couva North and all kinds of ridiculous computations and combinations, because somebody really does not have anything to do or, they do not have the will to say: “Let us get rid of this nonsense.” When you raise the issue they say: “You want PR.” If the Government is so popular and if the people love them so much and hate us because we are so corrupt what are they afraid of? Let us go. The Government has control over the borders. The Government has 10 fixed-wing aircraft with guns aimed at flying fish boats. They

are ready to fight war with Barbados. Do not get me wrong, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to get involved in this thing. I think those people in Barbados should know their place. However, what are you worried about? When he had to drive a horse and buggy from London to Scotland and the guy up there had to come down to London to make representation, we understand why he had to have representatives.

The Member for Ortoire/Mayaro is the representative for Ortoire/Mayaro and is living somewhere in Maraval. In this modern day of Internet, telephone communication and his party structure he knows exactly the pulse of the people of Ortoire/Mayaro. Is that not true? Precisely. He knows the pulse.

Mr. B. Panday: Even though he is living in Moka?

Mr. K. Ramnath: Even though he is living in Moka. [*Interruption*] You are back? I am not suggesting—I think I am beginning to wake up some of these people. From the moment you talk about constitutional change, they get up to defend it. They are not prepared to discuss it.

Let me give you an example. I was looking through the newspaper. I am not accustomed to spending my time in Parliament quoting. I just want to quote something from Mr. Rahael. It is the *Guardian* of February 20, 2004.

“Court rules in Furlonge’s favour

Ministry's action illegal—judge”

Do you know what was the immediate response from the Member for Port of Spain North? Rahael calls for Public Service Commission reform.

Mr. B. Panday: It is not constitutional reform?

Mr. K. Ramnath: No. As though you could reform the public service rules without going into the Constitution. If the Public Service Commission does not do their bidding, as it did in the days of Dr. Williams—no public service commission or judge in those days, with the greatest deference to those honourable members who sit in the court, dared challenge any instructions given by Dr. Eric Williams. The people in the Public Service Commission did their bidding. What they do not understand is that the Judiciary has come of age and we have very independent, bright people with integrity who sit as judges in the courts in this country. We also make sure that there are certain checks and balances so that the “fella” in London would make the final decision. I do not know whether that influences the quality of the judgment. I like that. I like to make sure that when I do a report my boss can have a look at it and agree that I have done a good job.

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“Health Minister John Rahael feels the Public Service Commission should be reformed.

‘Most people feel the PSC needs to be looked at and possibly reformed. That’s part of constitutional reform,’ Rahael said.”

I do not know whether he would last long in this job as he did as Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, having made this statement. But he does not really need it.

“The Minister made the statement after acting San Fernando Medical Chief of Staff Dr. Colin Furlonge successfully challenged Permanent Secretary Hamid O’Brien’s decision to bypass him for the post...

The court ruled that O’Brien’s recommendation to appoint Dr. David Josa to the post was illegal and not in accordance with the commission’s regulations.

Rahael was speaking with reporters at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt Hope yesterday, when he received \$22 million...

‘The PSC is responsible for the appointments of public servants. The Ministry may have put someone to act while the PSC made the decision...

‘If something were to crop up and an acting post needed to be filled, I suspect the Permanent Secretary would do so while waiting for the PSC to make the final decision,’”

The Minister is a lot brighter than the former Minister of Health. He is a lot more intelligent and practical than the former Minister of Health.

You know the same Hamid O’Brien wrote to Dr. Austin Trinidad in San Fernando and told him: “Proceed on leave”. He did that on the instructions of the former Minister of Health. The present Minister of Health, having recognized the folly of his Permanent Secretary, immediately calls for constitutional reform. [Laughter] [Desk thumping] He understands the wisdom of the argument that we have been putting in place—the reason why the society is so politically polarized; the reason for this continued polarization, which was lamented by my friend from Laventille East/Morvant, when he talked about Guyana. It is very interesting.

He chooses the Guyanese situation to talk about political polarization: when someone makes a statement, it is evaluated based on how he looks. When you do that in Trinidad, it is rainbow. We are all hugging and going to Las Cuevas after Carnival. We have this “all-ah-we-is-one mentality”. I want to see that as a reality

in this society. We on this side wanted to see that as a reality. We put institutions in place. [*Desk thumping*] Our Cabinet was so representative of the entire society, not only in terms of competence, education and qualification, but in terms of the ethnic spread. The Government is responsible for that. If the Government persists in having a Constitution like that it will get representatives that represent the ethnic composition of those seats.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the challenge we face today is not to come up with a solution overnight at the end of this, but to come up with a determined will of the Parliament to reaffirm its commitment to the eradication of all forms of discrimination, to build a society with formulas that will address all the ills of which we speak.

I know they have chosen certain seats that they are working on for the next election. As far as they are concerned we need to ensure that we do not have this marginal situation of 18/18 or 19/17, either way. We must now go and begin to erect these high-density homes.

When I pass through Cocoyea by those apartments on Circular Road, San Fernando, I say to myself that the PNM has enslaved black people like nobody else has ever done. [*Desk thumping*] There will be no upward social mobility, none, in those flats they are erecting on Circular Road. There will be no social mobility, as there has been none, in all these high-density housing areas. Then the Government blames them for crime.

You will notice where someone owns a home they have a desire to protect their property and family. Your family cannot get any protection when you live in those high-rises. You do not know what takes place from the bottom of the stairs to the top of your apartment. When you look at family problems, particularly those families who live in those high-density housing projects, you understand why we have problems. The Government is not interested in doing any social surveys. They are prepared to come in a very surreptitious manner and insert in their public policy document that the Government is going to actively pursue some sort of affirmative action with respect to African boys under the age of whatever, because they are underachievers. They are underachievers because of the PNM. [*Desk thumping*] It has nothing to do with superiority. The Member for Diego Martin East likes to boast that he is intellectually superior because of his heritage. I could understand his difficulty these days with judgments, having to pay a lot of money in judgments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Government's housing policy has to be re-examined. When I drive by Circular Road and see what they have done, I am not tempted to be sympathetic to the people who live there now because most of them voted for

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the PNM in the last election. As a politician representing people my heart goes out to them. Their properties have been devalued. There are very decent, prominent people who live along that road. They are running. It reminds me of the days when his ancestors used to run when black people entered their domain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, it appears as though you are going to reach the stage when you are dealing with Members' ancestry. Let us cut that out.

Hon. Member: It is important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I know it is important.

Dr. Khan: He did not call any names.

Mr. B. Panday: I am proud of mine. I hope you are proud of yours.

Dr. Khan: He attacked no one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am on my feet, Member for Barataria/San Juan, please.

Dr. Khan: Bring the big stick down!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please, I am just trying to keep things—they have been going very well. Let us keep it—

Dr. Khan: He did not call any names. He pointed at no one.

Mr. K. Ramnath: I take note of your concerns.

Mr. Imbert: I do not know why he is attacking me so.

Mr. K. Ramnath: I am not attacking him, Sir. I apologize if I am. I know of the phenomenon. I know of the facts that exist across the world; where people have removed themselves and have gone to live in other areas like Westmoorings. I beg your pardon. I am talking about other parts of the world. They put up these barriers, not necessarily physical barriers. Land prices increase to \$100 a square foot. The people who vote for them will never hope to go and live in some of those places. They are left with the deteriorating social infrastructure. They are left with all kinds of infrastructure being deteriorated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The speaking time of the hon. Member has expired.

Motion made, That the Hon. Member's speaking time be extended by 30 minutes. [*Mr. G. Singh*]

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. K. Ramnath: The Government's housing policy is dictated by its insatiable appetite to hold on to power at any cost. [*Desk thumping*] All we have to do is to look at other countries and other leaders who share such appetite.

My heart bleeds for Haiti. I am hearing nothing about the visit to the King of Spain. I do not hear much about the visit to British Gas. I am not hearing much about what is happening in Haiti, from a leader that President Bush met and discussed important regional issues. I listened to Colonel Powell, Secretary of State, last night on television. He said he has been in consultation with Caribbean leaders. I presume he has been consulting with our leader. Why is it that the leader of this country does not see it fit to stand and make a statement? Do you know they have abolished the item: "Statement by Ministers"? It is now called "Post Cabinet Press Conference". There are provisions in the Standing Orders for a minister to get up and make a statement.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if people are asking questions about where the Prime Minister went—I do not really have a problem if the Prime Minister flies in a jet. I want to be honest with him because I do not have a problem with that, but I certainly have a problem when the truth is not known. I do not know whether the Prime Minister did fly in a jet or whether the flight was paid for. Well, if he said so, I could say, okay, he is speaking the truth.

Some time ago, I remember there was a problem with Sir Ellis Clarke taking a jet to go to Europe to taste some wine, and there was a big hullabaloo about the matter and so forth. Why do we have a problem with the Leader of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago not levelling with the population? Why has he not come to the Parliament? He has waited on a question to be filed which requires 14 days' notice before we could get some kind of response to important questions concerning how the Government deals with investors in the country. In the same way, housing in Trinidad and Tobago is at the whim and fancy of the Cabinet or the Minister. There was no discussion in Parliament and it is clear that if you want to win the Pointe-a-Pierre seat you will start putting up houses in Tarouba.

Mr. Narine: That is their problem. [*Interruption*]

Mr. K. Ramnath: Mr. Deputy Speaker, do you understand? In fact, I do not need to say anything more, because they are saying it themselves that they are rigging the election; they are voter padding; they are house padding and they are going to put one group of people there who they feel will vote for them.

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One day Mugabe will get up like Idi Amin and find out that the patronage did not work. I do not want to say anything about what is happening in Haiti, because I do not know whether Mr. Aristide is a good man or indifferent. I do not know anything about him. What I am saying is that the Government cannot take taxpayers' money and treat people unequally. This is what this Motion is about—equal treatment before the law and of all citizens.

How do I get a house in Edinburgh 500? How do I get a house in Tarouba? Mr. Deputy Speaker, do you know what happened in Tarouba? It was discovered that in Tarouba there was a soil and land movement problem. Do you know that some people had to pay \$24 million because they could not construct a wall or a stadium or something like that? They should be the last to speak about structural geology and so forth. [*Desk thumping*] Persons were called in and they were given back their deposits for those lands in Tarouba. I want to ask a question: Is the Government asking these persons to come back because they were previous applicants? These persons had paid their money down and they were told that they got back their money. Are these persons going to be given the same preference as new applicants? I know quite a few of these persons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the way that the National Housing Authority (NHA) runs under this Government, you could be assured that there would be no equality of treatment of applicants for NHA houses.

Mr. Singh: They are giving out housing grants and there are no forms available.

Mr. K. Ramnath: A matter like public housing should suffer the scrutiny of all citizens in the country. At one time, do you know the PNM Government had a lottery system to give out houses? They do not even know how to assess an applicant based on need, based on geography, based on jobs, based on income or anything else. They come up with hare-brained schemes. One of the schemes that they have come up with is that they need to get a few thousand votes in Pointe-a-Pierre to change the demographic distribution and, consequently, the results of the election, so they will go that way.

The Government went to Cashew Gardens—nobody wants to live there. I could tell you that because I drive through those areas. [*Interruption*] I am hearing some mutterings. People did not want lands in Cashew Gardens, and a few persons went and constructed shelters, and the Government sent their demolition crew to break down those shelters. I read in the newspapers where my friend, the Member for Caroni Central, was pleading with the demolition crew. The Member used some words that I am not accustomed to hearing, but he is a very spiritual man.

Mr. B. Panday: Unlike yourself. [*Laughter*]

Mr. K. Ramnath: That is similar treatment to what happened in Wallerfield. Do you know that next door to Cashew Gardens bulldozers are operating day and night to expand Edinburgh 500 to Edinburgh—I do not know what it is—1000 or 2000? The Government has not assessed the implication of these high-density houses on the social life of the people of Chaguanas.

Do you know that in the last local government election their candidate—the one who lost in Montrose—Mr. Mendez said the Government has to balance Lange Park, and there is no reason why people from Edinburgh 500 cannot play on the grounds in Lange Park and Enterprise and so forth. Since the construction of those houses, Chaguanas is a hell town. The level of violence in that society is unprecedented. They have created no social infrastructure to assist the people that they have dumped there, because they were looking for votes.

Is there any wonder why the Prime Minister had to receive an SOS to go into Enterprise? I do not know whether the Prime Minister was going into Enterprise to warn the Member for Point Fortin or the Member for Cocorite that he was going down there. The Member went to Enterprise—a place that you know very well, Mr. Deputy Speaker; I understand that your roots are from that area—and received complaints about the condition of life to the extent that out of the \$5 million he has allocated, I think half of that money would be going to Enterprise and the other half to Cocorite. The social problems are unimaginable. The Prime Minister did not have to go to Enterprise, because he could have spoken to the Member for Chaguanas, the Member for Caroni Central and the Member for Caroni East who have been crying out to the high heavens for amenities and infrastructure. The Prime Minister went there because he feels that is his political constituency. He did not go on some trip, but he went and walked in there. Clearly, the intention of expanding Edinburgh 500 is to look for more votes. If that is the Government's intention then they are not solving the problems related to housing, education and employment.

The Government went and built a set of houses in the East of Trincity—Maloney, La Horquetta and so forth—and there is not a single industry there to employ these people, but they herded them into those houses and said that they wanted to create a seat called Arouca South—we need an additional seat—and they have created untold problems in the society. The Government's housing problem has failed because of its discriminatory policies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should be able to go on the Internet and get an NHA form and fill it out on the Internet, and send it to the Ministry of Housing. The

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public servants in the Ministry of Housing should not have to speak to you as if they are ministers. They should just have to interpret policies. Do you know what this Government accused the UNC of? They have accused the UNC of not building houses. I think that is a great tribute to the UNC because our policy worked. [*Desk thumping*] We gave persons a place to erect their homes—a serviced lot and a subsidized loan to build their homes of which they would be proud. What this Government wants is to continue the dependency syndrome so that these people would feel that they owe them forever. This will backfire because once there are no opportunities for employment and education—people cannot be properly trained for employment—they are going to create problems for the rest of the society.

The discrimination that we speak about in the society also has to do with housing. If one goes to the NHA office in Couva one cannot get a form. That office is staffed with a set of young PNM boys and girls who feel that they owe the PNM. I operate an office of the State and it is called the Office of the Member for Couva South. One does not see any UNC sticker there or any party emblem there. I operate an office of the State. Why is the Government not sending NHA forms to Members of Parliament who have offices in the country so that people could access these forms? [*Desk thumping*] The Parliament pays for the maintenance of the building, the staff and the equipment, but one has to go to a certain place where certain people are—their party functionaries—and they will tell you that they do not have any form.

When we asked the question with respect to how these applications would be evaluated, we were told that they would be evaluated on a first come first serve basis. So, I imagine that if I apply now, my application would be at the bottom of the list. I am sure that my earning capacity qualifies me for an NHA house. [*Interruption*] Let me assure the Member that was not an act of the PNM. [*Laughter*] [*Interruption*] I was there before him, Sir. I am senior to him in Petrotrin. I do not want to have anything to say about the executive chairman of the firm that I am working for. [*Laughter*]

We have been treated with a set of flippant responses to very serious issues that were raised in the country. It was the Member for Diego Martin West who raised an important issue—I do not know if that resulted in his demotion to the Minister of Housing—when he spoke about underachievers and the need to look after underachievers.

The education system clearly has to be overhauled so as to prevent built-in discriminatory practices. What we sought to do as a government was to spread schools across the country. If it were not for the UNC government, a place like

Waterloo was not going to have a high school. [*Desk thumping*] Recently, I went to Coryal—and I want to congratulate the Member for Nariva for his vision—and when I saw an institution in a place like Coryal that could match universities in other parts of the world that my friend from Diego Martin East described as a place for “douens” and parrots—

Mr. Narine: It is not Coryal; it is Cumuto.

Mr. K. Ramnath: We need to educate the Member for Arouca North. It is called the Coryal Government School—whether it is in Usine Ste. Madeline or whether you are paying Innis \$25,000 a month to harvest cane and so forth—the Member does not know these things. I forgive him. We need to have a reform of the education system so we would not have uneducated people like the Member for Arouca North talking such stupidity. [*Desk thumping*] [*Laughter*] The Member’s real problem is a lack of formal education. [*Laughter*] My friend, the Member for Chaguanas, is doing his Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of the West Indies. He is a brilliant man.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a serious problem if, as a State, the Government cannot provide educational opportunities for us to build that cadre of technical and managerial support for industry and business. When we established the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Technology—a premier institution in the Caribbean—it was to make sure that Point Lisas with all its variety of high-tech industries such as petrochemicals plants, upgraded plants and Atlantic LNG plants would have locally trained people operating at the level of technologists, so as not to put a strain on those industries that have a shortage of staff and also not to bring in people from outside.

The response from the Member for Diego Martin East—who is never informed properly and who chooses never to be informed about the fact—was that we built it in the middle of a cane field. What is wrong in building the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Technology in the middle of a cane field that is situated next to the most modern electrical generating plant in the Western Hemisphere and across the street from the petrochemical plants in Point Lisas? What is wrong with that? [*Desk thumping*] Point Lisas was built in a cane field and, particularly, Ispat was built in the cane field. But, of course, the Member would have preferred if we had put the institute somewhere in the East-West Corridor, but I am saying to the Government that it must add to the things that we have done and do not complain. [*Desk thumping*]

If the Government is not happy that there are not enough faculties or enough accommodation it should add to it. Just as how they are ashamed to admit that

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they now want to add to our advanced visionary thinking with respect to university education called the Dollar for Dollar Programme by saying that with respect to persons who cannot find the dollar, they will give them an opportunity. I congratulate the Government for that. But, you know, the Member will never say that what the Government is doing is building on the achievements that the UNC achieved over the years. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you look at all those areas, it is not about race; it is not about how many Indians here and how many Africans there, but that is an issue as well. We need to reform the public service. I agree with the Member for Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West that there is need for that. I am sure that the Member—coming from the private sector—wants to have the most competent doctor as the Chief Medical Officer and the most competent scientist in his research facilities, but this must be done in a transparent way. Everyone must understand how the thing works and one must be able to defend one's position taken with respect to people. If the Member does not do it and instructs his Permanent Secretary to send Dr. Trinidade on leave because he wants Dr. Chatoorgoon to act because Dr. Chatoorgoon decided to be a stooge of the former Minister of Health, well that is not the way it is done.

It is undesirable for this country to have a large percentage of any group—whether it is an urban group or a racial group—not to be trained and not to be in a position to help develop this country. [*Desk thumping*] Education is the mechanism that we must use in order to develop our society. Discrimination is a deterrent to development, growth and progress. Discrimination would do nothing for us to increase our human capital so that we could increase our gross domestic product (GDP). We cannot remain a country on the threshold and wonder whether by 2020 we could become a developed country. It is not going to happen like that.

[*Member looks at the Member for Couva North*]

Mr. Leader, I was in Couva on Carnival Tuesday and you were sorely missed. I spent the afternoon on the streets of Couva, and I have never seen police worked in a more efficient manner. I was extremely impressed. On Carnival Tuesday, everywhere I turned there were police officers in Couva and, like the others, I want to congratulate the police. But do you know something? The next day I am not seeing any police officer on the streets. [*Laughter*] I would like to see that level of police presence in the society so that we could deal with a lot of problems. The problem with the PNM is that they react to certain situations, and when they feel the situation is under control there is no continuity and so forth.

We need to make sure that nothing that happens in our society becomes a deterrent to the attainment of a safe society, an educated society and a productive society.

There is no point if the Government continues to talk all over the place and say that this is a rainbow country, that we are one and that there is no disunity in the society and so forth, when the undercurrents are present everywhere—it is we time now, take back the country and go and support violent groups in the society. So the Government could go to Moruga and the Line in San Fernando West and take back the country. The Indians gone with it and we want it back now. That is the message they were spreading.

If there is a dynamic constitution—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, allow the hon. Member to continue without disturbance, please.

Mr. K. Ramnath: I could never be disturbed. I listened to the Member for Arouca South rambling on some legality with respect to the Interpretation of the United Nations Declaration and so forth because she had nothing to say. Clearly, the Member has failed her constituents miserably. They are underachievers according to their own admission. There are no jobs available to them; there are no educational opportunities so that they could access jobs in Point Lisas, Point Fortin and so forth in order to get that \$28 an hour. That is the minimum wage paid to a labourer in the United States of America. This is not industrialization—

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: That is why they continue to support the PNM.

Mr. Ramsaran: “Shut up nah.”

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: Excuse me?

Mr. K. Ramnath: I think you should shut up. [*Laughter*]

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: “But yuh fast.” Who are you talking to?

Mr. K. Ramnath: We are talking about training our people so that they could achieve this \$28 an hour that the Member for Point Fortin has accepted—

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: The Member is talking nonsense.

Mr. K. Ramnath: —because that is the minimum wage in the United States of America. That is US dollar operation. They are competing in the natural gas markets in the United States and Europe. I do not know what certain persons are worried about—whether these labourers are paid US \$5.50 an hour or not. I am saying that people from Arouca South would never get any job in Atlantic LNG;

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they would never get any job in Methanol and they would never get any job in Ispat because they have a representative who has no interest in removing discrimination so that they could rise to the top. [*Desk thumping*]

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: They will learn all the skills—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Ramsaran: What is going on here? What kind of behaviour is that?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, please allow the hon. Member for Couva South to continue his discourse.

Mr. K. Ramnath: Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you, and I trust that you will give me my injury time. I am winding up here because I understand the temperature is rising. [*Interruption*] In the *Guardian* newspaper of February 20, 2004 there is a headline which says: “Court rules in Furlonge’s favour” and I quote:

“Jamadar said compliance with the PSC’s regulations was necessary if there were to be public confidence in the Public Service and the PSC.

‘Failure to do so invariably results in a warranted suspicion of arbitrariness, discrimination, bias, partiality and even political interference.’”

That is a judge of the Supreme Court of this country.

“‘This is especially so in a small rumour-mongering society like T&T where divisions along ethnic and political lines are often determinative of the perception of reality,’ he said.”

That is a very strong statement.

If one looks at Justice Best’s judgment with respect to the application by the Maha Sabha one will note that he said that in the opinion of this court, the inaction on the part of the Cabinet constitutes a constructive refusal of the licences and the prime facie case of unequal treatment in the circumstance of an application by Citadel for a licence and so forth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, people now have to go to the courts for redress in matters, which could have been attended to before a public institution. In a number of cases, the courts are now saying that there has been discrimination of one sort or another, and the Government must take note of that. This is what we are asking for. The Government must commit itself and reaffirm this commitment to eradicate all forms of discrimination. Justice Best said that there was discrimination; Justice Jamadar is saying here that there has been discrimination and other Justices have pronounced on matters with respect to the prison services and so forth. I am saying to hon. Members, let us join together as a Parliament of

this country and listen to the people, and let us reaffirm a commitment to abolish all forms of discrimination.

Thank you. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I recognize the hon. Member for Arouca North, but before the Member begins, the sitting of this honourable House is suspended and we will resume at 5.05 p.m.

4.30 p.m.: *Sitting suspended.*

5.06 p.m.: *House resumed.*

ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House suspend further consideration of the Private Member's Motion at this time by agreement, and that the House consider instead Motion No. 1 under "Government Business" on the Order Paper.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: By agreement, we will consider Motion No. 1, Government Business.

Agreed to.

NATIONAL INSURANCE (AMDT.) BILL Senate Amendments

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

Be it resolved that the Senate amendments to the National Insurance (Amdt.) Bill, 2004, listed in Appendix II be now considered.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 7(c)

Senate amendment read as follows.

In the new subsection (4), delete the words "between sixteen and sixty years of age" and substitute the words "who is sixteen years and over".

Mr. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the House of Representatives doth agree with the Senate in the said amendment.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 8.

Senate amendment read as follows:

In paragraph (a) (ii), delete the word “except” and substitute the word “including”.

Mr. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the House of Representatives doth agree with the Senate in the said amendment.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 18(c).

Senate amendment read as follows:

Insert after the proposed subsection (4C) the following subsection:

“(4D) Persons who qualified for the receipt of retirement pension, invalidity pension or survivor’s benefit prior to 1st March, 2004 and continue to be eligible to receive such benefit on or after 1st March 2004, shall be paid increased benefits in accordance with Tables B3 and C3.”.

Mr. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the House of Representatives now agree with the Senate in the said amendment.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 19.

Senate amendment read as follows:

Insert below Tables A1, A2 and A3 respectively, the following:

“Contributions payable by an employer in respect of employment injury coverage for an employed person who has not yet attained the age of sixteen years or who has attained the age of sixty-five years, shall be as set out in Class Z, and for an unpaid apprentice shall be \$1.00 per week.”.

Mr. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the House of Representatives doth agree with the Senate in the said amendment.

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Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 20.

Senate amendment read as follows:

In Table D3, in the fourth and fifth columns, insert after the word “widow” the words “/widower.”.

Mr. Valley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the House of Representatives doth agree with the Senate in the said amendment.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Friday, March 05, 2004. I wish to inform the House that on that day the Government intends to debate the amendment to the RHA—the Regional Health Authorities (Amdt.) Bill, on Friday at 1.30 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is a matter on the adjournment. The hon. Member for Oropouche.

UWI St. Augustine Campus (Wave of Crime)

Dr. Roodal Moonilal (Oropouche): [*Desk thumping*] Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On this occasion it gives me little pleasure to cause to be raised in this honourable House a matter that is of utmost significance to a big section of the national population and, indeed, the regional community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is no secret that the current administration has presided over the unprecedented escalation of violent crime and the unparalleled breakdown of law and order in our once peaceful Republic. This rapid and widespread build-up of the criminal enterprise is not just a blemish on the Government but a horrific outcome of the union of electoral politics and the criminal underworld. Today, the intractable political crisis in Haiti is a living and close reminder of the danger to democracy of political parties joining urban thugs and criminal elements in an unholy matrimony uniting in crime.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, when both the political party and the criminal underworld depend on the success of the other, we have reached what Vedia Naipaul called the Third World's Third World. While we may mourn the murder of over 220 citizens in 2003, we could have saved such blood by the bucketful had the political directorate shown the same resolve to deal with criminal elements as they showed the tenacity to pursue their political opponents. The failure of the Government to address the escalation of lawlessness is not simply the appointment of a former hapless minister but the lack of outrage by this administration when faced by such a grim reality. They lack the political will and ideas and not the money, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We all remember such empty lines as, "Collateral damage", "Be vigilant", "T&T a very secure country". That is a statement made by the Prime Minister, "T&T a very secure country", in the *Guardian* of September 12, 2003. That statement was appropriately placed next to a picture of the family of kidnap and murder victim Vernon Roopnarine as his family stood in anguish.

Today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the wave of crime has engulfed the campus and surroundings of the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine campus. Today UWI, St. Augustine has a student population of 10,000, however, only about 1,200 students live on campus and enjoy the relative safety of having estate police to provide some measure of security. It is estimated that over 4,500 students live in the immediate vicinity of the campus. Over the past years, crimes against such students have increased to the extent that today security is the number one concern of UWI students, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Security is their first concern, not fees, and not campus food.

There was a time when crime on campus was confined to stealing a geometry tin or a pencil-case or stealing one's ideas. Today, students are regularly held up at gunpoint, bandits invade the apartments of students to steal electronic equipment and money, not books. Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the recent past there have been several reported cases of students being attacked and raped. Mount Hope—[*Interruption*]—well, you would not know much about university. Mount Hope students, medical and veterinary students face daily threats to their person—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would like to address the members in the public gallery. If I get one more outburst of that, of laughing out in this honourable House, I will clear the gallery.

Dr. R. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will come back to laughter as well, because that is not a joke. Mount Hope students, medical and veterinary students face daily threats to their person.

St. Augustine, you will recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was identified by the UNC administration as the home to the universities. It was identified as a university city. St. Augustine was to be the beacon of the intelligent society that the UNC was building. [*Desk thumping*] The only place crime would rear its head was in a module for academic consideration in the university city, but that was when Government had a vision as opposed to a hoax. What is shocking about this scenario is that at a university campus, where students must be free to think, to meet, to debate and to argue, students are not even free to walk. How can you be free to think if you are not free to walk? Only a decade ago when many of us here were on the university campus—well more than a decade ago for my friend, the Member for Diego Martin Central—when we were on campus coming and going at night, we took for granted—we were studying or, as they say then, drafting until morning.

Today, unlike years gone by, the UWI library is open 24 hours a day, yet students cannot come to use the library that is open in the night. Mr. Deputy Speaker, some students, particularly females, are in mortal and hysterical fear if they have to walk two minutes to their home off campus. Imagine a UWI shuttle service takes students home. This shuttle service is funded by the Students' Guild but, incidentally, the shuttle does not bring them back. The shuttle drivers fear that bandits might pose as students and hijack them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are students on this campus who are accompanied by hired bodyguards. Students are accompanied by hired bodyguards, not boyfriends. I do not want to dwell too much on that before the Member for Diego Martin East wants to offer associate degrees to such bodyguards, but this is the state of the campus security and they can provide bodyguards to students who come from particular social classes and homes, who can afford that. What about poor students?

What has been the response of this Government to the immeasurable emotional and psychological trauma of UWI students? Well the hopeless has given way to the hapless. Invariably, we get the expected reassurances accompanied by the predictable failures and let me say that the campus administration has been addressing security matters over the years, notwithstanding their limited human and financial resources. However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the bandits who rob students, attack them, do not come from out of space, they do not drop by parachute, they come from the surrounding areas. They come from off campus. At the campus there have always been problems with security, historically, that would include putting better lighting, having telephone booths, arranging for a gate and traffic and so on.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you do a survey of the reports of the campus security committee, which deals with security, you will see over the years the issues have changed. From discussing traffic management and lighting and ID cards, they are discussing now rape and robbery and off campus security. By 2002 the Director of Security reported to the campus security council that in the aftermath of a confirmed report of rape, the St. Joseph police started to make patrols around the campus but this was not regular since the police had limited manpower. Let me quote this Director of Security. He said, and I quote, April 12, 2002:

Attempts were being made in conjunction with the national police to devise a plan to sustain a police presence around the campus. This has not yet borne fruit.

This is April 2002.

This has not borne fruit. The St. Joseph police had numerous reports of crime and their manpower was also limited.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was recently told that the UWI estate police had to send a vehicle to pick up the national police at St. Joseph if they had to come on campus to take a report. I expressed shock on this matter because I am saying this against the background of the fact that in 2002 the Government introduced and reintroduced an array of 10-day make-work programmes and spent over 200 million taxpayers' dollars. At the end of the year they boasted that they saved \$68.9 million yet they could not find a penny to provide for security for university students off campus. Imagine in 1999 the students union bought two bicycles for UWI police to undertake patrols. The union bought that. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government does not have money to buy police vehicles but I understand they have money to buy PBS 1—PBSs 1, just in time to transport revellers from Poison.

Not surprisingly, by October 2002, Kenneth Thomas, a national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines—now I believe St. Vincent and the Grenadines would soon be our political union partner—was stabbed 15 times on Olton Street near the campus. It is an astonishing revelation that the Director of Security at UWI states that the St. Joseph police claim that they have been making frequent mobile patrols in the affected areas but, from campus security's observations, such claims by the police do not seem entirely true. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this has been the response of the police and the Government but this is a story that we hear all the time, promises and promises.

The record speaks for itself, the increase in crime at the university and surrounding areas. St. Joseph is located, I believe, in what they call the Northern

Division in the police organizational structure and, out of what could be about eight divisions, Northern Division has twice the national average as it relates to crime, and particularly, they have more than twice the national average as it relates to robbery, kidnapping, and burglaries. So you are dealing—this is the situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the UWI students have received promises from this administration, from the last Minister of National Security, Sen. Chin Lee, who said—they have two requests. One is for a mobile police post and the second is for an increase in the E-999 patrols. They have been promising them since July 2002 that “the post coming, the post coming. Dat sound like a new road March, eh, ‘Look de post coming’.” This is the attitude and I hope that today the Minister will not stand here and repeat those empty promises about providing security when, in truth and in fact, the record suggests that when they make these promises they institute security for two days after they make the promise. So that they met the police Commissioner on February 10, 2004, they got patrols. For two days after, by February 13, “all finish”. That is the history.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are talking today about the intellectual resources of Trinidad and Tobago. Those students who are here and others are the inheritors of our work. They are building the future Trinidad and Tobago and if this Government can spend half a billion dollars on 10-day make-work programmes, and cannot find a fraction of that to protect the intellectual resources of this country, there will be no Vision 2020, 1525, nothing, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We also call upon the Minister to state categorically what the Ministry will be implementing to address security, and when specifically the students can expect the mobile police post and an increased and sustained presence of the E-999 patrol. Since the Minister responding is also the Minister in the Ministry of Housing, one will also expect that the Minister may state the Government’s policy as it relates to housing. They are providing houses for everybody. What about university students getting low-cost, accessible housing for the students rather than have students exploited at the hands of the —

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You are off on this point. Confine yourself to the—

Dr. R. Moonilal: But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, clearly there is a link between housing and security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Dr. R. Moonilal: You will agree with that?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: But confine yourself, please.

Dr. R. Moonilal: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I expect that the Minister will come today and indicate to the national Parliament, to the community and to students, the concrete steps that his Ministry will undertake and I would say that there is a point at which we cannot blame the police, because that is another approach of this Government, “Well, the police to blame. They doh have manpower and equipment.” The Government is in charge. They have the ultimate responsibility, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the security of this country and the security of students. It is their responsibility. They must have the political will and political management skill to provide equipment, resources, human and financial, and certainly this country is now experiencing economic growth and they can find the money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you. [*Desk thumping*]

The Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation (Hon. Anthony Roberts): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am very pleased for the opportunity to respond to my colleague on the other side who clearly, this afternoon, is on show, parading this afternoon. He has arranged his audience. [*Desk thumping*] [*Interruption*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation is fully aware of the levels of criminal activity prevalent in the national community [*Interruption*] so that the concerns expressed by my hon. friend, the Member for Oropouche, are duly noted [*Interruption*] but I want to assure him that the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, especially the Member for Nariva and others in that area, please, just—a statement has been made. The hon. Member for Oropouche requires an answer. The hon. Minister is giving the answer, at least we deserve first to let him hear and also to let the Hansard reporter hear what is being said so it can be recorded faithfully.

Hon. A. Roberts: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, I just wanted to give him the assurance that the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies and its environs have not been excluded from the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation’s ongoing mission to sustain the security and safety of all the citizens, including visitors to our twin island state.

This Motion speaks to the issue of spiralling incidents of crime on the campus and the traumatization of students, but, when the statistics are objectively analyzed, an interesting conclusion presents itself. For the academic year August 2000 to July 2001, there were 122 criminal acts reported. For the academic year

2001—2002, there were 130 reported. For the last academic year, 2002—2003, there were 99 criminal acts reported. [Interruption] Seventy-four of these were on campus while 25 were off campus. When we say off campus, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this includes Watt Street, Olton Street, Evans Street, Carmody Street and the St. Augustine Circular Street. Such statistics represent a decline of almost 24 per cent. [Interruption] Of the 2002/2003 figures, 49 per cent fall into the category of larceny and others which refer to theft of books, bags, calculators, cash, et cetera. A more microscopic review of statistics [Interruption] for the last academic year, as compiled by the Director of Security at the university, shows—possession of narcotics on campus, nil; off campus, nil. Possession or armed with weapons—on campus, one; off campus, nil. Rape or attempted rape, Mr. Deputy Speaker—nil [Interruption] on campus and off campus nil. [Interruption] I could repeat because we are not taking bogus. [Interruption] Indecent assault, Mr. Deputy Speaker—nil, on campus and off campus nil. [Interruption] Robbery or attempted robbery, Mr. Deputy Speaker—three on campus and five off campus. [Interruption] Mr. Deputy Speaker, on campus, nil, and off campus, nil; as well as suicide, [Interruption] nil on and off campus.

I delved into these statistics to demonstrate to this honourable House, [Interruption] the national community and the Caricom region as a whole that the claim of spiralling in the incidence of crime or students being traumatized at the University of the West Indies is not grounded in accuracy. [Interruption] Having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would now seek to outline some of the measures which are in place to ensure the safety [Interruption] and the security of students.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member for Princes Town, if you are desirous of leaving, maybe that is what you can do rather than disturb this honourable House.

Hon. A. Roberts: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not complain because I understand the emptiness. Having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will now outline the measures which are in place to ensure the safety and the security of students at the University of the West Indies and citizens and visitors residing within the environs.

There has been an increase or a beefing up of foot and vehicular patrols by the police officers assigned to the Tunapuna and St. Joseph police stations. To supplement this, the mobile E-999 patrol also makes its presence felt in that area and this level of vigilance extends from Tunapuna in the east to St. Joseph in the

UWI St. Augustine Campus
[HON. A. ROBERTS]

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west and includes Curepe, Monte Grande and Morang Village. In addition, there is a joint army/police patrol throughout the entire area, securing not only the University of the West Indies and environs but all secondary schools and other learning institutions like the Hugh Wooding Law School. The Ministry of National Security is in the process of approaching the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment to upgrade the lighting facilities in that area. This effort will be coinciding with the introduction of the mobile police post—[*Interruption*]—and you will not tell me what to tell you. At present, Mr. Deputy Speaker, security details are being worked out to ensure that the location for this post is in an easily accessible area to ensure instant response to troubled calls.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, another security measure which is on the drawing board for implementation at the university is the establishment of a central control monitoring system which will include camera facilities at the entrances and exits of the campus. Security personnel are working assiduously on this and it is expected to be in full operation by the middle of this year. Permit me to add at this point in time that the university security staff has been working closely with the police service to establish coordination, consistency and control within the framework of security to the entire area. In addition, I must indicate that the students on campus also have a responsibility to exercise caution as they go about their daily activities. They must exercise some level of personal security by avoiding poorly lit areas and travelling alone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member for Oropouche, being a member of the university academic staff, should demonstrate a level of responsibility and, as a young man, the Member should learn to disassociate himself from certain reckless behaviour [*Interruption*] and he should know better than to incite and to erroneously alarm students, parents and the Caricom region on an issue which could impact so negatively on an appropriate learning environment at the University of the West Indies. In other words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Member should obey the rule of objectivity which states that he should analyze before he finalize.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you. [*Desk thumping*]

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 5.42 p.m.

Written Answer to Question

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WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

The following question was asked by Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar (Siparia):

**Government/State Enterprises/Statutory Authorities
(Loans)**

23. Would the Minister of Finance please state:

- (a) Whether government or any of the state enterprises statutory authorities and/or government agencies borrowed monies since January 1, 2002;
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative:
 - (i) the date(s) and quantum of each borrowing
 - (ii) the source(s) of each borrowing and the criteria and procedure used to select each source;
 - (iii) terms and conditions under which each borrowing was made; and
 - (iv) the specific purpose(s) to which the proceeds of each of the said borrowings were put/will be put?

The following response was circulated to Members:

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Hon. Patrick Manning): In response to question No. 22 of the 2003—2004 session of Parliament, which was posed by the hon. Member for Siparia the hon. Minister of Finance provides the following reply:

APPENDIX 1

**LOANS ISSUED FROM JANUARY 1st 2002 TO SEPTEMBER 2003
TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
27-Jun-02	Republic Finance and Merchant Bank Ltd.	\$300,000,000.00	Tenor - Tranche A -5 Yrs Tranche B -10 Yrs Tranche C -15 Yrs	For partial refinancing of the Loan for the Maximum

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
			<p>Interest - Tranche A \$100,000,000 Mn 7% Fixed (2007) Tranche B \$100,000,000 Mn 7.5% Fixed (2012) Tranche C \$100,000,000 Mn 7.75% Fixed (2017) to be paid semiannually in arrears</p> <p>Principal Repayment: due semi annually in arrears on each Tranche</p> <p>Fees - Arrangement 0.48% Out of pocket expense up to \$80,000 Registrar /Paying Agent \$6,000 p.a Trustee \$10,000 p.a.</p>	Security Prison complex
30-Sep-02	Citicorp Merchant Bank Ltd.	\$500,000,000.00	<p>Tenor - 20 years Interest -6.75% semi annually in arrears</p> <p>Principal Repayment:- 15 year moratorium then semi annually in arrears –</p> <p>Fees - Underwriting .05% flat upfront Trustee/Registrar/Paying Agent \$20,000 p.a.</p>	For financing the Revised Budget for Fiscal 2001/2002
30-Sep-02	Republic Finance and Merchant Bank	\$300,000,000.00	<p>Tenor - 20 years Interest - 6.75% semi annually in arrears</p> <p>Principal Repayment - 15 yr. moratorium then 10 equal semi annual pymts</p> <p>Fees - Underwriting 0.5% flat upfront Trustee/Registrar/Paying Agent \$20,000 p.a. Trustee \$10,000 p.a. Out of pocket expenses up to \$50,000</p>	For financing the Revised Budget for Fiscal 2001/2002
05-May-03	Trinidad &Tobago Unit Trust Co. Ltd.	\$500,000,000.00	<p>Tenor - Tranche A – 10 yrs Tranche B -15 Yrs</p> <p>Interest - Tranche A \$250 Mn. 6.10% Fixed (2013) Tranche B \$250 Mn. 6.40% Fixed (2018)</p> <p>Principal Repayment- Tranche A- 20 pymts of \$12,500,000 semi annually in arrears</p>	To finance the Central Governments Debt restructuring exercise of 2002/2003 Phase One

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
			Tranche B- 30 pymts of \$8,333,333.33 Fees - Management 1.15% of financing amount Trustee/- \$10,000 p.a. Registrar /paying agent- \$10,000 p.a Legal Fees & other charges -maximum \$85,000.00 +Vat	
24-Jun-03	Citicorp Merchant Bank Ltd.	\$500,000,000.00	Tenor - Tranche A -10 Yrs Tranche B -15 Yrs Interest - Tranche A \$250 Mn. 6.% Fixed (2013) Tranche B \$250 Mn. 6.45% Fixed (2018) Principal Repayment - Tranche A- 20 pymts of \$12,500,000 semi annually in arrears Tranche B- Bullet at maturity Fees - Trustee/- \$20,000 p.a. Registrar /paying agent- \$10,000 p.a Underwriting -0.60% flat upfront Prepayment - allowed in full on 5th anniversary of issue with penalty of 2% on principal outstanding	To finance the Central Governments Debt restructuring exercise of 2002/2003 Phase Two
05-Sep-03	RBTT Merchant Bank Ltd.	\$500,000,000.00	Tenor - Tranche A -10 Yrs Tranche B -15 Yrs Interest - Tranche A \$250 Mn. 5.90% Fixed (2013) Tranche B \$250 Mn. 6.25% Fixed (2018) Principal Repayment- Tranche A- Bullet at Maturity Tranche B- Bullet at Maturity Fees - Legal Fees-Searches \$115,000 Trustee- \$25,000 p.a. Registrar /Paying Agent- \$10,000 p.a Underwriting -0.60% flat upfront Arrangement - 50bps of Facility Amount Prepayment - allowed in full on or after 5th anniversary of issue	To finance the Central Governments Debt restructuring exercise of 2002/2003 Phase Three

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
30-Sep-03	Clico Investment Bank Ltd.	\$500,000,000.00	Tenor - Tranche A -5 Yrs Tranche B -10 Yrs Tranche C -15 Yrs Interest - Tranche A \$100 Mn. 5.82% Fixed (2008) Tranche B \$200 Mn. 6.08% Fixed (2013) Tranche C \$200 Mn. 6.40% Fixed (2018) Principal Repayment - Tranche A- Bullet at maturity Tranche B- Bullet at maturity Tranche C- Bullet at maturity Fees - Arrangement- 52 bps of the Issue amount. Trustee/ Registrar / paying agent- \$30,000 p.a Underwriting 0.-52% Legal Fees _ \$75,000,000 Prepayment - Tranche A allowed on or after 3rd anniversary - Tranche B allowed on or after 5th anniversary - Tranche C allowed on or after 5th anniversary	To finance the Central Governments Debt restructuring exercise of 2002/2003 Phase Four
	TOTAL	\$3,100,000,000.00		

APPENDIX I

**LOANS ISSUED FROM JANUARY 1st 2002 TO SEPTEMBER 2003
TO STATUTORY AUTHORITIES.**

DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	AGENCY	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
25-Jan-02	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd.	TT\$2 Mn	NCC National Carnival Commission	Tenor - 1 year Interest - 10% Fixed Principal Repayment - due 31/01/2003 Fees - .65%	To facilitate construction of the North Stand and Stage at the Queens Park Savannah.

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	AGENCY	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
14-Jun-02	Caribbean Money Market Brokers Ltd.	TT\$4Mn	NCC National Carnival Commission	Tenor - 1 year Interest - 6% Fixed Principal Repayment- At maturity Fees - Nil	To meet outstanding liabilities in respect of Carnival 2001-2002
16-Aug-02	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd.	TT\$4Mn	NCC National Carnival Commission	Tenor - 9 mths Interest - 5.75%bp Principal Repayment- To be repaid by 30/04/2003 Fees- Commitment fee \$10,000.00	To assist in the funding of activities related to the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Independence
04-Oct-02	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd.	TT\$5Mn	TTPost	Tenor - 9mths Interest - 8% Principal Repayment- At maturity Fees-Nil	An overdraft facility, to ensure that adequate cash is available at all times to meet its payroll and short- term liabilities
03-Feb-03	Citicorp Merchant Bank Ltd.	WASA TT \$413Mn	WASA Water and Sewerage Authority	Tenor - 10 years Interest - 6.75% Fixed p.a semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment - 5yr. Moratorium then 10 equal semi annual payments commencing 5.5yrs after disbursement . Interest - to be capitalized followed by 16 semi annual pymts 2.5 yrs after disbursement Fees- Structuring fee- .65%.	To finance Operational Expenses for 2003 including TT\$250Mn. to finance operations to the end of the period and \$163,000 to finance overdraft facilities at Republic Bank (133Mn) and Citibank T&T Ltd (30Mn)
14-Mar-03	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd.	TT\$20Mn.	NHA National Housing Authority	Tenor - 10 years Interest - Fixed 5.425% semi annually in arrears Fees- Arrangement .30%	To finance the completion of its 2002/2003 Building Rehab Programme

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DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	AGENCY	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
16-Jun-03	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd.	TT\$52Mn.	WASA Water and Sewerage Authority	Tenor - 5 years Interest - Fixed 5.60% p.a. semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment - 10 equal semi annual pymts Fees -Arrangement & underwriting 0.35%	To finance the second phase of the NSDP
25-Jun-03	RBTT Merchant Bank Ltd	TT\$118 Mn.	AATT Airport Authority of T&T	Tenor - 5 years Interest - Fixed 5.45% p.a. semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment - 10 equal semi annual pymts of \$11.8Mn Fees- Management .65%	To finance the Crown Point Expansion Project (75Mn) and to settle outstanding obligations (\$43Mn)
14-Sep-03	First Citizens Bank Ltd	TT \$300Mn	NHA National Housing Authority	Non Revolving Bridging Facility Tenor - 5 years Interest - Fixed 5.95% semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment - Bullet Fees- .45%	To finance the construction of Housing Units the Government's 2003 Housing Programme
05-Sep-03	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd.	TT \$10Mn	PTSC Public Transport Service Co.	Tenor - 2 years Interest - 5.225% Fixed : semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment - 4 equal semi annual pymts Fees- Structuring 0.15%	To re-finance an expected shortfall in revenue over the period July to September 2003
03-Apr-03	Citibank T&T Ltd	TT\$11MN	PATT Port Authority of T&T	Tenor -3 years Interest - 5.45% Fixed : semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment - 6 equal semi annual pymts 6 mths moratorium Fees- Paying Agency - \$20,000.00 p.a commitment -0.5% flat upfront	To meet outstanding obligations of the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	LENDER	LOAN AMOUNT	AGENCY	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
19-May-03	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd.	TT\$16.2Mn	CDA Chaguaramas Development Authority	Tenor - 5 Years Interest - 6.35 % Fixed : semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment -10 equal semi annual pymts semi annually in arrears Fees- Structuring - .45%	To finance the outstanding debt obligations of the Chaguaramas Development Authority
10-Jul-03	Citibank Trinidad and Tobago Ltd.	TT\$40,845,529.95	RHA Regional Health Authority	Tenor - 3 Years Interest - 5.75 % Fixed : semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment -6 equal semi annual pymts of \$6,807,588.33 semi annually in arrears Fees- Commitment - .50%	To meet the payment of arrears of salaries & allowances owed to doctors employed on contract
	TOTAL	1,117,430,032.00			

**LOANS ISSUED FROM JANUARY 1ST 2002 TO SEPTEMBER 2003
TO STATE ENTERPRISES**

DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
13-Mar-02	CARONI	Republic Bank Ltd.	177,000		Tenor -12 mth Commercial paper Int rate -7% fixed payable upon maturity Principal Repayment: Payable upon maturity with option to roll over for a further yr. on terms and conditions to be determined, Arrangement Fees - .70% Legal Fees- \$85,000 + Vat Out of pocket expenses -\$2,000	To finance outstanding obligations and to assist with working capital requirements for the fiscal ending Sept 02.

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
17-Sep-02	CARONI	Republic Bank Ltd	111,500		Tenor – 1 year Interest - 6.% Fixed p.a Fees-Arrangement .5%	Roll over of existing loan facility
14-Mar-03	CARONI	Republic Finance & Merchant Bank Ltd	518,500		Tenor -12 years Interest - 7.125% Fixed p.a Principal Repayment:- 5yr. Moratorium then 14 equal semi annual payments commencing 5.5yrs after issue date . Interest - 18 mths Moratorium (capitalized) followed by 21 semi annual pymts Fees- Arrangement - 0.3875% Trustee - \$10,000 p.a. Registrar -\$6,000 p.a. Legal -for account of issuer up to \$60,000	To meet restructuring and servicing of the short term debts
17-Apr-03	CARONI	Republic Finance & Merchant Bank Ltd	97,800		Short term credit facility Tenor - 3 mths Interest - Fixed 6.50% Principal Repayment:- 4 equal semi annual pymts of \$2,625,000 Repaid from long Term loan of \$489.3 Mn	To meet critical pyts. for March 21 to April 30 , 2003
11-Jul-03	CARONI	RBTT Merchant Bank Ltd	719,000 Series 1 319,000 Series 2 400,000		Series 1 \$TT319Mn Tenor - 10 years Interest - 5.90 % Fixed p.a semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment:- 3yr. Moratorium then 14 equal semi annual payments Series 2 \$TT400M	To finance the enhanced Voluntary Separation Package of the employees of Caroni 1975 Ltd

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
11-Jul-03 (cont'd)					Tenor -15 years Interest - 6.25 % Fixed p.a semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment:- 3yr. Moratorium then 14 equal semi annual payments Fees- Arrangement - 0.3875% Trustee - \$25,000 p.a. Paying Agent -\$!0,000 p.a.	
01-Jun-03	CARONI	Republic Finance & Merchant Bank Ltd	489,000		Tenor -15 years Interest - 6.45% to be capitalized during disbursement period Principal Repayment:- 30 equal qsemi annual pymts Fees- Arrangement - .35% Administrative -\$10,000 p.a. Supplemental Trust Deed \$1,725.00 Other expenses -to be capped at \$50,000plus Vat	To finance projected deficit on the operations of the company up to September 2003
CARONI (1975) LTD SUB TOTAL			2,112,800			
04-Jul-02	SWMCOL	RBTT Merchant Bank Ltd.	15,000		Tenor - 3 years Interest - 7% Fixed Principal Repayment:- Bullet at maturity Fees-Arrangement fee 0.55%	To implement short term National Social Dev. programme which would provide Communities with water services , & street lighting
16-Jul-02	SWMCOL	RBTT Merchant Bank Ltd.	76,294		Tenor - 7 years Interest - 6.90% Fixed Principal Repayment:- 14 blended pymts of principal & Interest \$6,962,936 Fees- Negotiation fee .85%	To finance the establishment of a community based environmental Protection & Enhancement Programme throughout Trinidad and Tobago

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
17-Apr-03	SWMCOL	First Citizens Bank Ltd	10,500		Tenor - 2 years Interest - Prime minus 6.175% p.a Principal Repayment: - 4 equal semi annual pymts of \$2,625,000 Fees - 0.35%	To meet financial obligations of the Community-based Env. Protection and Enhancement Programme Prog up to mid April,2003
16-May-03	SWMCOL	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	70,000		Tenor -5 years Interest - Fixed 5.675% p.a. Principal Repayment:- 10 equal semi annual pymts Fees - Arrangement fee .35%	To meet financial obligations of the Community-based Env. Protection and Enhancement Programme Prog for May to Sep't, 2003
SWMCOL SUB TOTAL			171,794			
19-Aug-02	NHSL	Citibank Trinidad & Tobago	2,486	400,000	Tenor - 2 years Interest - 7% Fixed Principal Repayment:- semi annually or bullet at maturity Fees - NIL	Working Capital
14-Jul-03	NHSL	Citibank Trinidad & Tobago Ltd	629	100	Tenor - 1 year Interest - Fixed 7.5% Fixed p.a. Principal Repayment:- 2 annual payment or bullet on maturity Fees - Nil	Working capital
NHSL SUB TOTAL			3,115	400,100		
23-Aug-02	MTS	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	45,000		Tenor -4 years Interest - 6.45%bp semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment: - 8 semi annual pymts Fees - Structuring fees .45%	Funding of outstanding obligations under Secondary Education Modernization Programme Phase 1
MTS SUB TOTAL			45,000			

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
06-Sep-02	UDECOTT	Republic Finance & Merchant Bank Ltd	45,000		Tenor - 7 years Interest - 6.85% Fixed Principal Repayment:- 14 equal pymts Fees- Arrangement Fee- 0.40% Paying Agent - \$6,000 Trustee- \$10,000	Funding for Siparia Administrative Complex
01-May-03	UDECOTT	Home Mortgage Bank	200,000		Tenor - 4 years Interest - Fixed 8% Principal Repayment:- Bullet payment on maturity Fees-NIL	Provision of houses
UDECOTT SUB TOTAL			245,000			
20-Sep-02	VMCOTT	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	61,866	9,820	Tenor - 7 years Interest - 6.95% Fixed p.a Principal Repayment:- 2yr. Moratorium then 10 equal semi annual payments Fees- Structuring fee- .65%	To purchase Specialist Hardware and software equipment for the Ministry of National Security
14-Nov-02	VMCOTT	Car. Money Market Brokers Ltd.	6,445		Tenor - 3 years Interest - 5.85% Fixed p.a Principal Repayment:- 6 equal semi ann pymts Fees- Arrangement fee-.35%	For the purchase and supply of 43 vehicles for the Ministry of Health
24-Jun-03	VMCOTT	Scotia Bank T&T Ltd.	75,600	12,000	Tenor - 3 years with option to roll over in one year	To finance an Advanced Costal Surveillance Radar System for the Costal Surveillance Radar Centre, Joint Oper. Com.Center

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
24-Jun-03 (cont'd)					Interest - Floating (6mth Libor + 2.475%) plus withholding tax of 10% Principal Repayment:- semi annual in arrears Fees- Upfront Fee 0.65%	
VMCOTT SUB TOTAL			143,911	21,820		
25-Sep-02	PLIPDECO	Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd	20,000		Tenor - 1 mth Interest - Nil Principal Repayment:- One mth Fees- Nil	Bankers Acceptance - Assist in financing its receivables and or other working capital needs
25-Oct-02	PLIPDECO	Scotiabank of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd	20,000		Tenor - 1 mth Interest - Nil Principal Repayment:- One mth Fees- Nil	Bankers Acceptance - Assist in financing its receivables and or other working capital needs
30-Dec-02	PLIPDECO	Deutsche Verkehrs Bank A.G	24,298	3,857	Tenor - 10 years Interest - 3.7% Fixed p.a plus LIBOR margin of 1.5% Principal Repayment: - Annually for ten years. Fees- Structuring fee-0.75% Committant fee - 0.625% on undrawn part of facility	Purchase of two new tugs
13-Jun-03	PLIPDECO	Scotia Bank T&T Ltd.	23,000		Tenor - 1 mth Interest - Fixed 5.9%	Assist in financing its receivables and or other working capital needs

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
13-Jun-03 (Cont'd)					Principal Repayment:- Bullet payment at maturity Fees-NIL	
PLIPDECO SUB TOTAL			87,298	3,857		
27-Sep-02	NEDCO	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	36,800		Tenor - 3 years Interest - 6.35% Fixed p.a Principal Repayment:- 6 equal semi ann pymts Fees- Structuring fee-0 .35%	Training expenses and operational expenditure as well as for its onlending activities.
09-Jun-03	NEDCO	RBTT Merchant Bank Ltd.	48,000		Tenor - 4 years Interest - Fixed 5.35% p.a. semi ann in arrears Principal Repayment:- 8 equal pymts of \$6Mn semi annually Fees-Negotiation Fee .50%	To finance the Co. req. for the remainder of fiscal year 2003
NEDCO SUB TOTAL			84,800			
30-Sep-02	YTEPP	First Citizens Bank Ltd	222		Tenor - 1 year Interest Nil Principal Repayment:- Repayable when the Co. recieves its subvention from Government	Financing of the Company's recurrent expenditure
YTEPP SUB TOTAL			222			

Written Answer to Question

Friday, February 27, 2004

DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
14-Mar-03	LIAT	Republic Finance & Merchant Bank Ltd	10,100	1,600	Tenor - 12 mths Interest - USD Prime + 0.50% p.a Principal and Interest to be paid at the end of loan term Fees-1.0%	To finance aircraft insurance, purchase of spares, landing and navigation fees and fuel
LIAT SUB TOTAL			10,100	1,600		
20-May-03	BWIA	First Citizens Bank Ltd	31,500	5,000	Tenor - 5 mths Interest - Fixed 5.5% p.a. Bullet Principal Repayment:- Bullet Fees-NIL	To finance outstanding obligations to international lessors
16-Jul-03	BWIA	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	31,500	5,000	Tenor -10 years Interest - Fixed 5.145% 3 yrs Moratorium then quarterly in arrears Principal Repayment:- 3 yrs moratorium then 28 equal quarterly pymts in arrears Fees- . Arranging Fee 0.45%	To finance outstanding obligations and to continue operations
17-Sep-03	BWIA	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	74,025	11,750	Tenor - 10 years Interest - 5.65% squarterly in arrears Principal Repayment:- 40 equal quartwerly pymts Fees- Structuring .65%	To finance outstanding obligations to international lessors
BWIA SUB TOTAL			137,025	21,750		

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS AND CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
07-Sep-03	NBN	First Citizens Bank Ltd	10,190		Tenor - 14 Months Interest - Fixed 5.375% payable monthly Principal Repayment: - Bullet Fees - .45%	To meet the Company's operational cost
NBN SUB TOTAL			10,190			
16-Jun-03	National Commission For Self Help	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	14,000		Tenor - 3 years Interest - Fixed 5.75% p.a. semi ann in arrears Principal Repayment: - 6 equal semi annual pymts Fees-Structuring 0.20%	To finance the second phase of the NSDP
NCSL SUB TOTAL			14,000			
		GRAND TOTAL	4,885,190	637,097		

APPENDIX II

DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
1/2/2002	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	50,234	8,000	Tenor -1 mth Int rate -2.77% payable	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
13-Feb-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	27,365	4,350	Tenor -6 mths Int rate -2.94% payable	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
06-Mar-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	50,256	8,000	Tenor -1 mth Int rate -3.19% payable	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
03-Apr-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,128	4,000	Tenor -1 mth Int rate -3.15% payable	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
05-Apr-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	37,693	6,000	Tenor -21 dys Int rate -3.19% payable	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
05-Jun-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	12,301	2,000	Tenor -3 mths Int rate -3.21% payable	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
17-Jul-02	First Citizens Bank	Wachovia Bank	54,700	8,900	Tenor - 6 mths Interest - 2.77% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
13-Aug-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	27,037	4,350	Tenor - 4 mths Interest - 3.04% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
29-Aug-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	31,077	5,000	Tenor - 7 dys Interest - 3.87% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
05-Sep-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	12,430	2,000	Tenor - 3 mths Interest - 3.16% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.

Written Answer to Question

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
11-Sep-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,098	4,000	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 3.12% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
13-Sep-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	31,373	5,000	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 3.18% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
23-Sep-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	30,745	4,900	Tenor - 1 year Interest - 3.22% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
01-Oct-02	First Citizens Bank	N.I.B.	300,000 Series A		Tenor - 10 years Interest - 7.65% Principal Repayment:- Bullet payment at maturity Fees- Nil	Funding of mortgage (long term) lending operations
11-Oct-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,180	4,000	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 3.16% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
14-Oct-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	31,476	5,000	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 3.16% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
14-Nov-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	31,476	5,000	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 2.68% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
13-Nov-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,199	4,000	Tenor - 2 mths Interest - 2.7% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
13-Nov-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,199	4,000	Tenor - 6 mths Interest - 2.71% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
12-Dec-02	First Citizens Bank	Wachovia Bank	9,449	1,500	Tenor - 4 mths Interest - 2.49% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
30-Dec-02	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	27,404	4,350	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 2.66%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
31-Dec-02	First Citizens Bank	Union Planters Bank	25,199	4,000	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 2.50%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
01-Jan-03	First Citizens Bank	Caribbean Money Market Brokers	6,299	1,000	Tenor - 10 years Interest - 7.25% Principal Repayment: - Bullet at maturity Fees- Nil	Funding of mortgage (long term) lending operations
20-Jan-03	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,199	5,070	Tenor - 7 mths Interest - 2.62% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
31-Jan-03	First Citizens Bank	Union Planters Bank	25,199	4,000	Tenor - 4 mths Interest - 2.58%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
03-Feb-03	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,168	4,000	Tenor - 3 mths Interest - 2.64%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
07-Feb-03	First Citizens Bank	Wachovia Bank	27,371	4,350	Tenor - 3 mths Interest - 2.66% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
07-Mar-03	First Citizens Bank	Wachovia Bank	6,296	1,000	Tenor - 3 mths Interest - 2.61% Fixed	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
14-Mar-03	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	27,404	3,500	Tenor - 3 mths Interest - 2.56%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
30-Apr-03	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	25,196	4,000	Tenor - 1 mths Interest - 2.61%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
30-Apr-03	First Citizens Bank	Wachovia Bank	27,401	4,350	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 2.54%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
01-May-03	First Citizens Bank	Union Planters Bank	25,182	4,000	Tenor - 1 mth Interest - 2.54%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
30-May-03	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	29,182	4,000	Tenor - 5mths Interest - 2.51%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
30-May-03	First Citizens Bank	Wachovia Bank	27,385	4,350	Tenor - 5mths Interest - 2.51%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
02-Jun-03	First Citizens Bank	Union Planters Bank	25,144	4,000	Tenor - 5 mths Interest - 2.3%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
15-Jul-03	First Citizens Bank	Dresdner Bank	29,182	15,000	Tenor - 3mths Interest - 2.30%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
21-Jul-03	First Citizens Bank	Wachovia Bank	22,022	3,500	Tenor - 3 mths Interest - Fixed 2.31%	Liquidity Requirements to fund loans and Investments in foreign currency.
FCB SUB TOTAL			1,269,649	164,470		
04-Jan-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	21,977	3,500	Tenor -1 mth Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
04-Jun-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	15,376	2,500	Tenor -1 mth Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
05-Jul-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	18,438	3,000	Tenor -2 mths Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
29-Aug-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	31,077	5,000	Tenor 2 mths Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
04-Oct-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	12,590	2,000	Tenor 1mth Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
07-Oct-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	12,590	2,000	Tenor 1mth Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
01-Nov-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	12,599	2,000	Tenor 1 mth Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
05-Dec-02	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	12,599	2,000	Tenor 1 mth Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
06-Jan-03	Trinidad Nitrogen Co.	First Citizens Bank	9,449	1,500	Tenor 1 mth Int rate -6 mths LIBOR plus a margin of 2.85%	Overdraft facility used to fund operational cash needs.
TRINGEN SUB TOTAL			146,695	23,500		
16-Jul-02	NIPDEC	Republic Finance & Merchant Bank Ltd.	250,000		Tenor - 12 years Interest - 7.30% Fixed Principal Repayment:- 24 equal pymts Fees- Arrangement fee-0.42% Registrar Paying Agent - \$6,000 Trustee-\$10,000	To finance the commencement of a programme for upgrading /Road efficiency

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
17-Jul-02	NIPDEC	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	49,023		Tenor - 4 years Interest - 6.45% Fixed Principal Repayment:- 8 equal pymts Fees- Structuring fee 0.45%	To Fund School repairs and refurbishment programme.
21-Aug-02	NIPDEC	Republic Finance & Merchant Bank Ltd	15,282		Tenor - 12 years Interest - 7.30% Fixed Interest -7.75% Floating. (To be fixed semi ann. at intervals) Floor -7.00%p.a Ceiling 10% p.a Principal Repayment:- 24 equal pymts Fees Supplemental Agreement \$2,000.00 Arrangement -0.40%	To finance construction of the Coceyea Recreation Facility
27-May-03	NIPDEC	First Citizens Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	6,972		Bridging Facility - 18 mths Securitized Loan - Three years Interest - (Bridging Facility)Fixed 5.65% p.a. interest capitalised quarterly Securitized Loan - Fixed 5.40% pa. Principal Repayment:- semi annual in arrears Fees- Arrangement Fee .35%	To meet the cost of design, const.and refurb. of the cook house/dining facilities at Camp Cumuto
03-Sep-03	NIPDEC	Scotia Bank T&T Ltd	45,000		Tenor - 3 years Interest - semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment:- 6 equal semi annual pymts of \$8,670,321.64 Fees- .65%	To finance PURE - Phase 11

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DATE	COMPANY	LENDER	LOAN TT \$,000	AMOUNT US\$	TERMS & CONDITIONS	PURPOSE FOR LOAN
03-Sep-03	NIPDEC	Scotia Trust & Merchant Bank Ltd	37,313		Tenor - 3 years Interest - 5.20% semi annually in arrears Principal Repayment:- 6 equal semi annual pymts Fees- .15%	To finance the 2003 vacation School Repair refurbishment programme
NIPDEC SUB TOTAL			403,590			

Appendix III

The criteria and procedure used to select each source are as follows:

Request for Financial Proposals (RFP's) for financing to be under taken by State Enterprises, Statutory Authorities, and Central Government are sent to the attached list of financiers indicating some or all of the following:

- Quantum to be borrowed
- Tenor
- Principal Repayment (amortized or bullet)
- Interest Payment (semiannually, quarterly, etc.)
- Purpose
- Security: Letter of Comfort or Government Guarantee
- Optional Repayment

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- Moratorium on Principal and / or Interest
- Date funds are to be made available
- Deadline date for response

All proposals are carefully examined with a view to obtaining the lowest effective cost. The Ministry performs an in-depth analysis of the following criteria:

- Interest rate structure
- Fee structure
- Repayment terms

The Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and Net Present Value (NPV) for each borrowing are calculated.

Proposals are then ranked in accordance with the IRR and NPV and the top three financiers are short-listed and invited to re-tender. This procedure is in keeping with a Cabinet decision of January 23, 2003.

Upon re-tendering the best of the three is chosen using the same criteria employed above.

Appendix II

LIST OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1. ANSA Finance and Merchant Bank
2. Caribbean Money Market Brokers Limited
3. Citicorp Merchant Bank Limited
4. CLICO Investment Bank Limited

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5. First Citizens Bank Limited
6. Inter-Commercial Trust & Merchant Bank Limited
7. Republic Finance and Merchant Bank Limited
8. Royal Merchant Bank and Finance Co. Limited
9. Scotiabank and Merchant Bank (Trinidad and Tobago) Limited
10. The Mercantile Banking and Financial Corporation Limited
11. Unit Trust Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited