

*Leave of Absence*

*Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

**SENATE**

*Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

[Mr. Vice-PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senators, I have granted leave of absence to Sen. Rennie Dumas from the sitting of this Senate from April 22, to May 01, 2003. Leave of absence is also granted to Sen. Robin Montano for this sitting.

**SENATOR'S APPOINTMENT**

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senators, I have received the following correspondence from the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

“THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS,  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ G. Richards  
President.

TO: MRS. JOAN HACKSHAW-MARSLIN

WHEREAS Senator Rennie Dumas is incapable of performing his duties as a Senator by reason of his absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, JOAN HACKSHAW-MARSLIN, to be temporarily a member of the Senate with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2003 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Rennie Dumas.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Office of the President, St. Ann's, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2003.”

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Sen. Joan Hackshaw-Marslin took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance as required by law.*

**PAPERS LAID**

1. Final report on the financial sector of Trinidad and Tobago. [*The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill)*]
2. Public accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
3. Report of the Auditor General on the public accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year October 01, 2001 to September 30, 2002, and on other selected audit activities. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
4. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Penal-Debe Regional Corporation for the nine-month period January 01, 1998 to September 30, 1998. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
5. The annual report of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended September 30, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
6. The annual report of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended September 30, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
7. Memorandum concerning submission to Parliament on matters related to the International Labour Organization (ILO). [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Airports Authority  
(Retrenched workers)**

**31. Sen. Wade Mark** asked the hon. Minister of Works and Transport:

Could the Minister provide this Senate with the following:

- (i) The number of workers at the Airports Authority who were retrenched since January 2002;
- (ii) Their names, and positions;
- (iii) Their qualifications; and
- (iv) Their years of service before retrenchment?

**The Minister of Works and Transport (Hon. Franklin Khan):** Mr. Vice-President, no workers were retrenched at the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago over the period January 2002 to March 2003.

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, could the hon. Minister indicate whether the services of workers at the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago were terminated, since they were not retrenched, during the period January 2002 to the present time?

**Hon. F. Khan:** Mr. Vice-President, over the period in question, there were 36 persons whose contracts had expired, and were not renewed for various reasons.

**Sen. Mark:** Could the hon. Minister provide the names and positions of those persons whose services were terminated without cause? [*Crosstalk*] Could the Minister provide us with a list of the names and positions of those workers whose contracts were not renewed by the Airports Authority?

**Hon. F. Khan:** Once you resubmit the question, obviously, I will be able to provide the list, but I did not walk with that list.

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, as the Minister has admitted, I am sure that he is aware that 36 workers, whose contracts had expired, were terminated and they were disposed of. We are asking him if he can provide this honourable Senate with the names of those persons.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Sen. Mark, the non-renewal of a worker's contract is not the same as retrenchment. Therefore, I suggest to you that if you need to get information on the non-renewal of contracts you submit a follow up question.

**Sen. Mark:** I will be guided, Sir.

**Airports Authority  
(New workers)**

**32. Sen. Wade Mark** asked the hon. Minister of Works and Transport:

Could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) The number of new workers employed at the Airports Authority from January 2002 to date;
- (ii) Their names and positions; and
- (iii) Their qualifications?

**The Minister of Works and Transport (Hon. Franklin Khan):** Mr. Vice-President, attachment I, which will be circulated, gives details of new workers who were employed at the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago from January 2002 to date and can be summarized as follows: in 2002, 43 persons were employed; in 2003, 63 persons were employed. Attachment I details these people.

Mr. Vice-President, 34 of the 43 persons in 2002 were hired before the existing board took office. The following is a breakdown of the 63 persons hired in 2003: 36 were replacements for staff whose contracts had expired on January 31, 2002; and 27 additional positions were required to meet existing needs, including three existing vacant positions and 24 short-term contracts at the clerical and service levels.

It should be noted that from October 2002, the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago has been following its document entitled Recruitment Policies, Procedures and Practices which was authored in 1994 and which involves, inter alia:

- (1) All positions are advertised internally and externally as appropriate;
- (2) applications are shortlisted;
- (3) candidates are invited to be interviewed by a panel which consists of, at least, three persons from the Airports Authority. Each candidate's original certificates and so forth are verified at the interview and copies kept;
- (4) the panel selects the successful candidate or candidates;
- (5) background and medical checks are completed; and
- (6) employment is offered to the successful candidates.

Policy Document 1994 of the Airports Authority as it relates to recruitment. It would appear that during the period 1996—2001, the above-mentioned policies were not followed.

In preparation for the commencement of the airport expansion project in 1998, the Authority, guided by its consultants, began some review of its operation with a view to transforming itself from a quasi State body into what was then termed "a viable business entity". Its pathway towards this end, was as follows: In 1997, the positions of divisional managers were created, that is divisional manager—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order. I asked a specific question, and he is going on about all kinds of things. He has not provided me with an answer, but he is going on about the airport and divisional managers. I did not ask about divisional managers. Mr. Vice-President, I ask the Minister to stick to my question. If he wants to go to Mayaro and talk about that, he could do so, but not in this Senate.

**Hon. F. Khan:** May I continue?

**Mr. Vice-President:** Yes, Sir.

**Hon. F. Khan:** The positions of Divisional Manager Operations and Divisional Manager Corporate Services were created. The process continued with the restructuring of the maintenance unit in 1997 which resulted in the retrenchment of 99 daily-paid workers. The World Trade Centre was also dismantled which resulted in six monthly-paid employees being displaced in 1997.

In 1998, the staff complement was further reduced when the Voluntary Separation of Employee Plan (VSEP) was offered at the Authority. This resulted in the separation of 113 persons at a cost of approximately \$13 million. Effectively, this resulted in a loss of 218 of the most experienced and qualified personnel at the Airports Authority. At that time, too, critical functions such as internal audit, financial management, engineering, planning and construction and public relations were all disbanded.

In summary, the 1996—2000 era was apparently guided by the following:

- (a) Efforts to reduce overall staff using VSEP and retrenchment plans towards this end. This resulted in—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order. I think I need your guidance on this matter. I have asked specifically about matters in 2002. The hon. Minister is abusing and wasting the Senate's time by going to 1996 and so forth. I did not ask about that, Sir; the Senate did not request that information. So could you guide the hon. Minister who might not be aware of the rules here.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Minister, I advise that you confine your answer to the period of January 2002 to the current date. [*Desk thumping*]

**Hon. F. Khan:** Mr. Vice-President, the fact that the question asked how many people were recruited over the period, I was just trying to link why we had to recruit to what happened prior.

**Sen. Mark:** Do not question the Vice-President.

**Hon. F. Khan:** If that is your ruling, Mr. Vice-President, I hope that the earlier part of my answer was quite explicit and detailed enough to suffice the Senator.

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, with your leave, could the hon. Minister indicate to this Senate whether it was a matter of coincidence that of the 36 workers whose contracts were terminated, none of them was able to find favour with the Airports Authority to be reemployed, but 36 new people were hired. Is that not coincidental, Sir?

**Hon. F. Khan:** I would give you the honour by replying to that, although I do not necessarily have to do so.

The 36 people whose contracts were not renewed were out of several others whose contracts were renewed. Their contracts were not renewed because they failed to provide proof that they even met the minimum requirements for the positions they held. [*Desk thumping*] The job specification said that they needed five GCE subjects, but when we checked they did not even have school-leaving certificates. In every instance, these 36 people did not meet the minimum matriculation requirement for the job. If you do ask the question the next time around, you will get their names. Thirty-six people in an organization, recruited by the government of the day, who did not meet the minimum requirement. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. Mark:** Could the hon. Minister indicate to this Senate whether the 36 new applicants who were employed met the matriculation requirement? [*Laughter*]

**Hon. F. Khan:** Under the PNM administration, we have policies and guidelines. If we set a minimum requirement, trust me, under the stewardship of this Government, it would happen, and it has happened. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. Mark:** I asked a specific question; he has not responded.

**Hon. F. Khan:** The answer is yes.

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, my final point. Is the Minister aware that the Airports Authority is practising a policy of ethnic cleansing at the airport? Are you aware that there is an active policy being promoted by the Airports Authority to get rid—

**Mr. Vice-President:** I must advise you, Sen. Mark, that is a totally different avenue you are treading on. If you need to ask that, do so in the form of a question please.

**Sen. Mark:** Well you know, Mr. Vice-President, I am guided by you. [*Crosstalk*] You are a racist. “Yuh” see you, I have information on you at WASA.

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

### **Petrotrin (Salary Particulars)**

**33. Sen. Wade Mark** asked the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:

- A. Could the Minister inform the Senate of the salary, perquisites and the various allowances currently being received by the Executive Chairman of Petrotrin?

- B. Could the Minister also inform the Senate about the terms and conditions of employment enjoyed by the former President/Managing Director of Petrotrin?

**The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Hon. Eric Williams):** Mr. Vice-President and Members of this Senate, the salary and allowances of the Executive Chairman of Petrotrin are based on the recommendation from the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO). The rationale for the remuneration, applicable to the Executive Chairman of Petrotrin, is as follows: Cabinet in December 2002 agreed, inter alia, to the appointment of an executive chairman of Petrotrin. The individual chosen, as stated by the CPO, was to be appointed on contract for a period of three years with effect from January 01, 2003. As a consequence, the existing position at the head of the organization, that of President, would not be utilized. However, the company has created a position of President of Operations, which now falls at the level immediately under that of the Executive Chairman.

The company has indicated that the proposed remuneration package for the Executive Chairman is based on the comparisons derived from the oil, gas and utilities sector of HRC Associates 2001 Compensations' Report. Additionally, consideration was given to the fact that Petrotrin is the only integrated oil and gas company in Trinidad and Tobago. The salary of the outgoing President was assigned to a grade 17 salary range and paid at \$46,200 per month. The salary structure for grade 17 ranges from \$40,000 to \$82,000 per month. The Executive Chairman's salary has been pegged at the higher end of grade 17 at \$70,000 per month, since that position is ranked higher than that of President.

**Hon. Senators:** Oooh!

**Hon. E. Williams:** The company plans to pay the incumbent in the new position of President of Operations, at the lower end of grade 17. No data was available from the private or public sectors in respect of the position of executive chairman. Consequently, the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) was used as a comparator. Data contained in the HRC Associates 2001 Compensations' Report revealed that the average monthly-based salary for CEOs in all industries is \$35,876. In respect of the gas, oil and utilities sector, the average base salary is \$44,520 per month, while the salary at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is \$73,210 per month.

It appears that the inclusion of data from the utilities has resulted in a lower average based salary in the entire sector, than if the oil and gas sector alone were used. Consequently, in view of the salaries payable in the relevant sector to the position of CEO, and given that the position of executive chairman is ranked higher

than that of CEO because of additional board duties for which a non-executive chairman would normally be paid a board fee amounting to \$11,000 per month, the CPO considered that a salary of between \$65,000 and \$70,000 per month would not be unreasonable.

Motor vehicle—the company has proposed the provision of a fully maintained company vehicle for the position of Executive Chairman. Additionally, in keeping with arrangements for previous presidents of the company, the Executive Chairman is to be given the option to purchase that vehicle at the depreciated value at the end of the contract period. This arrangement is in keeping with the practice existing in the more viable companies in the economy and is, therefore, acceptable.

Housing benefit—the company has proposed the provision of a fully maintained and furnished company house. Such a facility is usually provided for the head of the company and is, therefore, acceptable.

Medical benefits—full participation in the company's medical plan has been proposed, and the CPO has no objection to this since the plan permits persons engaged on contract to become members.

Vacation leave—the company has proposed 25 working days vacation leave per year of the contract, and this position may be accepted.

Performance payments—an annual performance payment of up to twice that awarded to the Vice-President of the company, based on the company's performance and approved by the Board of Directors for the particular year, has been proposed for the position of Executive Chairman. The outgoing President was entitled to an annual performance bonus of up to 30 per cent of his annual based salary. The HRC report indicates that annual incentive payments average five months' pay for CEOs and four months for managers. In this regard, CEOs in the gas, oil and utilities sector are among the highest paid CEOs in respect of annual performance incentives, and are second only to those in the banking sector.

The report also shows that in all but one sector, the average bonus paid to CEOs is more than double the amount paid to the next highest level manager. The CPO, therefore, has no objection to this proposal.

Gratuity—a gratuity of 30 per cent of basic salary payable at the end of each year of the contractual arrangement, has been proposed. The company has indicated that the percentage proposed is in keeping with the norm for executives of the company who have been employed on contract. Although a gratuity of 20 per cent of basic salary is normally recommended for persons on contract in the public sector, given the level of the benefit normally paid in the company, a gratuity of 40 per cent of



basic salary may be accepted. However, payments should be made on satisfactory completion of the contractual period, rather than at the end of each year, since such payments are normally provided as an incentive to complete the contractual period and as a reward for such service.

In summary, the CPO recommended the following package for the position of Executive Chairman of Petrotrin: salary—ranging between \$65,000 to \$70,000 per month; motor vehicle—a fully maintained company vehicle with the option to purchase the vehicle at the depreciated value at the end of the contract period; housing—a fully maintained and furnished company house; medical benefit—full participation in the company’s medical plan; vacation leave—25 working days per year of contract; performance payment—an annual performance payment up to twice the payment awarded to vice-presidents, consistent with the company’s performance and as approved by the board of directors for the particular year; gratuity—30 per cent of basic salary payable on satisfactory completion of the contractual period.

Mr. Vice-President, the actual compensation, which was then given to the Executive Chairman of Petrotrin based on these recommendations, is as follows: duration of contract three years with effect from January 01, 2003; a salary of \$70,000; current performance bonus—16 per cent of annual income; motor vehicle—a fully maintained company vehicle with the option to purchase at the depreciated value at the end of the contract period; housing—a fully maintained and furnished company house; medical benefit—full participation in the company’s medical plan; vacation leave—25 working days per year of contract; gratuity—30 per cent of basic salary payable on satisfactory completion of the contractual period and payments to be subject to deductions for tax purposes.

It should be noted that packages for persons in comparable positions in the private sector are superior to the remuneration given to the Executive Chairman of Petrotrin. As an illustration, the incumbent received a superior compensation package when he was engaged at Titan Methanol Company as follows: a basic salary of \$82,656; a motor vehicle which was fully maintained; group life insurance of twice his annual salary; a performance bonus of 15 per cent of his annual income, and an annuity of 10 per cent of his annual income.

In answer to the second part of the question, which had to do with the compensation for the former President, the following are the details of the package of the former President of Petrotrin: a duration of four years with effect from November 01, 1998; a basic salary of \$46,200; a current performance bonus of 30 per cent of his annual income; motor vehicle—a fully maintained company vehicle with the option to purchase said vehicle at a depreciated value at the end of three years; housing—a

fully maintained and furnished company house. In fact, the President had the number one graded house on the Petrotrin camp. The medical benefit—full participation in the company's medical plan; vacation leave—25 working days per year; and pension—he had a full membership in the company's pension plan.

Thank you. [*Interruption*]

**Sen. Prof. Ramchand:** Mr. Vice-President, this is a supplemental question. Is the hon. Minister aware that over 85 per cent of the work force in Trinidad and Tobago earns \$4,000 per month or less? Can the Minister say how, in all conscience, anybody can approve the exploitation of the people of Trinidad and Tobago that he has just described.

**Hon. E. Williams:** Mr. Vice-President, I am not aware of the detailed statistics of salaries within Trinidad and Tobago. While I am now painfully aware of what folks such as us are paid, given the fact that we have offered ourselves for public service, I can only say, Sir, that I am unable to answer his question.

**Sen. Mark:** Can I ask my hon. colleague and friend, the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, whether there is any intention to provide the Executive Chairman of the company with a travelling allowance as well as an entertainment allowance?

**Hon. E. Williams:** I am entirely unaware. I have read out the entire package as approved and agreed and that is in place. It does not include those items.

**Sen. Mark:** Could I further ask the hon. Minister through you, Mr. Vice-President, whether the Executive Chairman of that company would have an option of purchasing his fully furnished house after the expiration of his three-year contract?

**Hon. E. Williams:** Mr. Vice-President, again, I have articulated his entire package as has been approved and agreed to.

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, could I ask my hon. friend whether he could tell us what was the net profit realized by Petrotrin at the end of 2002?

**Hon. E. Williams:** With all due respect, Mr. Vice-President, I believe that to be an entirely different question.

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, can I ask my colleague whether he is of the view that Petrotrin is—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Vice-President:** Sen. Mark, I do agree with the Minister that that should be a new question. Do you have another supplemental question? [*Interruption*] One more, please.

**Sen. Mark:** In fact, Mr. Vice-President, I was going to ask the hon. Leader of Government Business in the Senate, through you, if he would be willing to suspend the Standing Orders, because there is another question on the Order Paper from Sen. Prof. Ramchand. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Vice-President:** Would you please ask your question.

**Sen. Mark:** I want to ask whether the hon. Minister is aware that as a result of this scandalous package offered to the Executive Chairman, that there was a revolt at the level of the board that forced the resignation of three members of the board of Petrotrin.

**Hon. E. Williams:** Mr. Vice-President, I am neither aware of any scandal nor any revolt.

**Sen. Mark:** I am fine, Sir.

### Relocation of Parliament

50. **Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand** asked the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance:

- A. Could the Minister provide this House with:
- (i) The names and qualifications of the investigators used to gather information for relocating the Parliament;
  - (ii) The dates when the investigation began and ended;
  - (iii) The procedures followed by the investigators;
  - (iv) The facts established by the investigations; and
  - (v) The arguments based upon the facts gathered by his Ministry's investigation which led to the recommendation that there is need to construct a new building for Parliament?
- B. Could the Minister supply to Members of this Senate copies of the report submitted by his investigators?

**The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith):** Mr. Vice-President, as I indicated on the last occasion, I would answer the question on behalf of the Leader of Government Business in the House.

In response to part A of the question, no investigators were appointed by the Government to gather information for the relocation of Parliament. Part B of the

question is, therefore, not relevant. However, it is important to place on the record that the development of Port of Spain is an ongoing exercise on which the Government embarked in an earlier administration, and which saw the completion of two important projects: the Brian Lara Promenade and the National Library Building. Consultations continue to take place on this entire project and, at the moment, special attention is being given to relocating the Parliament.

The Government has reviewed the plans of the former administration for the restoration and adoption re: use of the Red House. In so doing, it has recognized that Parliament requires additional facilities and amenities that had not been taken into account. It has, therefore, made a decision that an appropriate building should be constructed which would allow for the Parliament to expand its function. Reference is made here to the increasing use of the committee system, expanded library facilities and increased research capabilities for Members with the attendant increase in support staff. The Government has reviewed the plans for the restoration of the Red House, and is of the opinion that it is appropriate for the country to be endowed with a Parliament which is supportive of the vision for a developed-country status by 2020.

A democratic system of government to support such a vision, would require a Parliament with expanded functions, such functions necessitating increased consultation with stakeholders and a further move towards the use of committees of Parliament. As a result, there will be need for increased working space for both the Members of Parliament and their support staff.

At this preliminary stage, the Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT) has been requested to prepare a user brief for a new Parliament building in consultation with committees of the House and the Senate. This is the current status of this project. A team of technical experts who will distil the views obtained from the consultative process and develop proposals to move the project to the next stage, has not yet been assembled. The Government wishes to assure this honourable Senate that all stakeholders will be apprised at regular intervals of the developments in this project.

Thank you.

**Sen. Prof. Ramchand:** Mr. Vice-President, my first supplementary question is a long one; but it is a question, as my tone of voice will continuously indicate. I crave your indulgence to put the question with close reference to my notes.

Is the hon. Minister aware of Standing Order 74(1) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives? It reads as follows:

“The House Committee shall have the duty of considering and advising the Speaker on all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of Members of the House, and from time to time reporting to the House its Minutes of Proceedings.”

Is the Minister aware that in 1996 the then House Committee, acting in accordance with the Standing Orders, recommended, inter alia, to the Speaker that the Red House should be renovated and devoted thereafter to the exclusive use of Parliament? And is he aware that the Speaker accepted this recommendation and that the Speaker caused a note to be sent to Cabinet, and that Cabinet approved the recommendation, and that Cabinet, through the then Attorney General, brought a motion to the House of Representatives which unanimously accepted the motion which included that the proposal that the Red House should be renovated and devoted to the exclusive use of Parliament? Is the Minister aware that any reversal of this decision of the House should be effected by following the same exemplary procedure as was done when the House made its recommendation? And is the Minister aware that the declaration by the Minister at a press conference that Government had arbitrarily rescinded the decision of the House, and that this announcement constitutes a usurpation of the authority of the House Committee, the Speaker and the Parliament, and may be described as a more subtle, but more violent attack upon our democracy than the attempted coup of 1990. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith:** Mr. Vice-President, the Minister is aware of the points raised. I think if the Senator listened carefully to what I said—the Government is engaged in seeking to get the views of the Committees of the House and the Senate. When those views are obtained, if it means a Cabinet decision in respect of those views, that will be done. If it then means the House Committee bringing it to the Parliament, it will be done.

I indicated that at this stage UDeCOTT has been mandated to begin discussions with the House Committees. At the press conference, I never said that the House Committees—in fact, I went out of my way to say that discussions will now commence with the relevant authorities to see how this process can be moved forward. So, yes, I understand very much what the Senator has said, and we will follow the procedures.

**Sen. Prof. Ramchand:** I just want to put a rhetorical question to the Minister then. Is the Minister now saying that it has been recognized that it would be wrong to reverse the decision of the House arbitrarily and without consultation with the House Committee, the Speaker and the Parliament?

**Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith:** I do not know how to give a rhetorical answer. [*Laughter*] I agree with you; the House is responsible for determining what

*Oral Answers to Questions*  
[SEN. THE HON. DR. L. SAITH]

*Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

conditions and space it needs, and we are going through that process. At the end of that process, whatever the procedure needed to give effect to what happens, will be done.

**Sen. Prof. Ramchand:** Finally, Mr. Vice-President, is the hon. Minister now giving us an assurance that it will no longer be necessary to begin a process of judicial review of the supposed decision of the Government?

**Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith:** Mr. Vice-President, lest I be misunderstood; it is the Executive to provide the accommodation in accordance with the wishes of the House; the accommodation, not the building. Therefore, I am indicating to this honourable House that a process has commenced. If the hon. Senator wishes to seek judicial review of the process, then he is quite free to do so; that is why we have the courts.

**Sen. Prof. Ramchand:** I just want the hon. Minister to answer this question: What is the process by which a unanimous decision of the House of Representatives is rescinded?

**Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith:** I do not think we have got there as yet, Sir.  
[*Crosstalk*]

**Sen. Mark:** They are not moving this Red House. We are staying right here!  
[*Crosstalk*] We are going nowhere. The PNM could go.

**Sen. The Hon. Dr. Saith:** Of course the Red House is staying right here.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION  
(REMOVAL OF)**

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senators, according to parliamentary practice we have a motion to go into by the Opposition. Are you prepared to go into this Motion in the absence of Sen. R. Montano?

**Sen. Wade Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, before we proceed, and as Leader of Opposition Business in this honourable Senate, I seek your leave to raise a relevant matter concerning the next item that you have identified. I want to make a brief statement in response to what you have asked of me.

Mr. Vice-President, I wish, with your leave, to place on the record the following sequence of events. I need to find out from you—

**Mr. Vice-President:** Are you proceeding with the Motion?

**Sen. W. Mark:** I am seeking your leave to put in perspective what you have requested of me.

**Mr. Vice-President:** In accordance with Standing Order 29, in the absence of the person who files the Motion, someone else can proceed as long as they are delegated to do that.

**Sen. W. Mark:** I am asking your leave to make a statement, so I can put the matter in perspective.

**Mr. Vice-President:** I would like you to proceed or not to proceed with the Motion.

**Sen. W. Mark:** That is not the correct approach, Sir, in the context of what we are trying to do here, with your leave. I have a statement to make and you are telling me not to make any statement. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senator, I wish to read Standing Order 29(1) for the benefit of the Members of this honourable Senate.

“If a Member other than a Minister does not, when called, move a motion or amendment which stands in his name such motion or amendment shall be removed from the Order Paper unless deferred by leave of the Senate or moved by another Member duly authorised...”

Would you please proceed with the Motion or indicate whether you will not.

**Sen. W. Mark:** I have a statement to make, Sir. I am seeking leave of the Vice-President to make the statement. Mr. Vice-President, if I may, this is a democracy that we have in Trinidad and Tobago. I am the Leader of Opposition Business in this honourable Senate. We have a motion on this Order Paper. The mover of the motion is not here. [*Crosstalk*]

**Sen. D. Montano:** Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order; this is highly irregular. This has no place here at all. We have a matter on the Order Paper and we must proceed with the agenda as it is set down. Would you please regulate the business? There are no statements here to make.

**Sen. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, as the Presiding Officer I appeal to you, Sir. This is a very sensitive matter.

**Hon. Senators:** Stand up! [*Senator rises*]

**Sen. W. Mark:** If I may, Mr. Vice-President.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Sen. Mark, for this Motion to have been put on the Order Paper for today, it had to be on it for some time, a minimum of 14 days. In fact, let me restate that. The Order of Business states that this Motion is to come up today. In

*Private Member's Motion (Removal of)*  
[MR. VICE-PRESIDENT]

*Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

the absence of the mover of the Motion, you, as the Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate, please indicate whether you will proceed with the Motion or not.

**Sen. W. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, I wish to indicate to you and this honourable Senate that at no point in time did the Opposition or the mover of the Motion request or seek to have the Motion moved from No. 9 to No. 1. There was no consultation with the Opposition; I want to make it very clear. If I understand page 280 of May's *Parliamentary Practice*, and I want to refer to it, Sir, because it is very important. This matter has far-reaching consequences for this Parliament. I want to make it very clear, Sir, that we were never consulted and we never sought to remove that Motion from No. 9 to No. 1. So I want to let you know that, in those circumstances, we, at this point in time, are not prepared to cede our right as an Opposition to consultation.

Before you make any ruling, Mr. Vice-President, I will ask you, Sir, and this is no disrespect to you, that you refer to May's *Parliamentary Practice* on page 280 to get some guidance. [*Crosstalk*]

**Sen. Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie:** Mr. Vice-President, we are not debating the Motion as far as I understand, but what we seem to be having is a statement by the hon. Leader of the Opposition Benches, Sen. Mark, about the whole question of the Motion being brought forward, if I may say so. I would seek your permission, Sir, just to say that I imagine that Sen. Robin Montano would have had his cup full and running over in this Senate, under the Presidency of Senate President Dr. Linda Baboolal, and hence he could have borne it no more so he brought a motion of no confidence in the President of the Senate. I think, Sir, that this is a motion that would have pleased the hon. Senator to have it discussed as early as possible to know whether there is a majority of Senators here who have no confidence in her. [*Desk thumping*]

Therefore, if the Motion is put and debated and we have a majority of Senators not agreeing that she is conducting this Senate in the proper way, that the vote of no confidence would have been carried, and that would have pleased the hon. Sen. Robin Montano. So I would have been happy, if I were he, to have my motion debated as quickly as possible to settle the matter once and for all, and that I would not sit here, as he would have been sitting, under a President ruling in whom I have no confidence. Therefore, I came prepared to deal with the matter, once and for all.

Mr. Vice-President, after this Motion came, just as Sen. Mark, I too was wondering whether we should have dealt with it quickly or not. From my own reading and research, I have seen the practice, nearly all over the Commonwealth, where there is a motion of censure of privilege against a Presiding Officer, it is dealt with as expeditiously as possible. [*Desk thumping*]



If I were the President, I would feel very uncomfortable. I would consider my actions unethical to sit and preside over people of whom, probably, the majority have no confidence in my conduct of this Senate. How could you sit over a Senate where most people have no confidence in you? Let us get it over with. I hope that we would deal with this Motion if it is moved by another Senator who has been delegated by Sen. Robin Montano, or if not, the Motion according to Standing Order 29 be removed from the Order Paper and brought back when the Senator is present or when he feels comfortable that he is right in line in the queue. I am suggesting, Mr. Vice-President, that Standing Order 29 be dealt with. We strike it off the Order Paper and it be brought back, or somebody else moves it or what have you.

I do not believe that we should have the Senate President come here with a motion like this on the Order Paper and not dispense with it once and for all. As such, it is either we deal with the Motion today or we go to Standing Order 29 and let us have the matter dealt with once and for all.

Mr. Vice-President, I thank you for allowing me to make this statement. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. W. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, very early in the proceedings I sought your leave to make a statement similar to my colleague, and I was not allowed to make that statement. Maybe if I were allowed, Sir, at least, it would have cleared up a lot of matters. I do not know if at this time you would want to rethink or reconsider your position as it relates to this matter. [*Crosstalk*]

**2.30 p.m.**

**Mr. Vice-President:** Sen. Mark, I find it difficult to understand that an Opposition as ready and prepared as you talk about would not be prepared to deal with this Motion today. The Motion has been put on the Order Paper and I simply asked whether you were prepared to deal with it today. I do not remember you giving a clear answer on it. I wish to ask again: Are you prepared to deal with the Motion?

**Sen. W. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, I wish to repeat for the record that as the Opposition and as Leader of Opposition Business in this honourable Senate, I would like to make a statement on this matter in the context of what you have raised. Just as my dear honourable friend, Sen. Dr. McKenzie was given the opportunity to speak a short while ago without any interruption, I think that I, as the representative of the people in this honourable Senate should have equal status as the Independent Senator. I have a statement which I have been asking you to make for the afternoon.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Sen. Mark, I am giving you an opportunity to make your statement as long as it does not deal with details of the Motion.

**Sen. W. Mark:** I would not do that.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Thank you very much.

**Sen. W. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, I would like to place on record the following sequence of events concerning business proposed to be dealt with at today's sitting and which you have referred to in your remarks.

Notice of the Motion was given in accordance with the provision of Standing Order 22 in the full knowledge that it would take normal place on the Senate Order Paper. That is how we submitted our Motion. A few days ago, specifically on Friday, April 25, 2003, subsequent to my receipt of the Order Paper, I was contacted by the Clerk of the Senate who informed me that it was the intention to proceed with the Motion listed as No. 1.

Erskin May's *Parliamentary Practice*, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition, page 280 is very clear on this matter. I would not detain this honourable Senate on its contents. Even if the Government with the best of intentions and in the finest parliamentary traditions had indicated that the Government, not the Clerk, was willing to deal with the Motion at today's sitting and the Senate President concurred, then surely, parliamentary etiquette, not to mention common courtesy demanded that the Opposition in general and the mover of the Motion in particular be consulted and their agreement sought since we tabled that Motion, prior to any attempt to bring it forward for debate at today's sitting of the Senate.

The impending debate will deal with extremely sensitive matters which have far-reaching consequences for the Government and, necessarily would require considerable research and preparation particularly by Members who would support it. Only yesterday, the mover of the Motion who is not here—he is not well—had occasion to advise the Clerk of the Senate that he was not prepared to go forward with this Motion at today's sitting. This was so because of sensitive and potentially explosive information received by the Opposition which concerns the conduct of the honourable President of this Senate. Quite apart from that matter—

**Sen. Dr. Saith:** Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order. The hon. Senator has made reference to the Leader of Government Business. This is Private Members' Day. The question of sequencing of motions under Private Business is a matter for the people who have motions. It has nothing to do with the Government.

I do not think that the hon. Senator should by innuendo at this stage begin to create the impression in the minds of the general public, that there is some major exposé in respect of the President. I think that he is abusing the privilege that you have granted to him to make his statement.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Sen. Mark, I have really tried to be as tolerant as possible. I think that you have really gone into an avenue that I do not think is necessary at this stage. I wish to ask you again if the Opposition is prepared to go on with the Motion. I ask you to discontinue in view of the line that you have taken and I am seeing.

**Sen. W. Mark:** Mr. Vice-President, I just wanted to indicate to you that this Opposition is not prepared to cede its rights to the issue of consultation. It concerns legitimate business. If you want me to go directly to the point, I want to indicate to you as the Vice-President, that the Opposition UNC is not prepared to proceed with this Motion at this time and recommends that the Senate proceed with the business which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday, March 25, 2003. Such business is listed as Motion No. 2 on the Senate Order Paper. I want to advise that under Standing Order 30—you referred to Standing Order 29—I want to remind you of withdrawal of motions.

**Mr. Vice-President:** I would like to refer to the very Standing Order that the Leader of the Opposition has referred me to. Standing Order 30(1) states:

“A Motion may be withdrawn, at the request of the mover, after it has been moved...”

This Motion has not been moved. Therefore, it is not applicable. I wish to return to the procedure and since the Opposition is not prepared to go on with the Motion today, I advise this honourable Senate that the Motion would be removed from the Order Paper and the Opposition is free to resubmit the Motion.

**Sen. W. Mark:** I respectfully suggest that in light of what you have said and before you take pre-emptive strike or action that you suspend the sitting for about 15 minutes so we can converse. [*Interruption*] He said he was proposing that, he did not say he “ruled”.

**Mr. Vice-President:** If I did use the word “propose”, it is because I wanted to euphemize, then I should not. I am ruling that the Motion be removed from the Order Paper. You are free to re-submit the Motion.

#### CONSTITUTION REFORM

[Fifth Day]

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question* [November 26, 2002]:

*Be it resolved* that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago articulate its position on the question of Constitution Reform indicating: (a) what areas of the Constitution it considers to be in urgent need of review; (b) whether it proposes

piecemeal reform or a comprehensive review; (c) how it intends to involve the population in the process; and (d) what steps it will take to ensure that this crucial exercise is completed no later than eighteen months after the first sitting on October 17, 2002 of the first session of the Eighth Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Sen. Prof. K. Ramchand*]

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr. Vice-President:** The following Senators have already made their contributions to the Motion: Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand, Sen. Robin Montano, Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith, Sen. Dana Seetahal, Sen. Derek Outridge, Sen. Garvin Nicholas, Sen. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Sen. Prof. Ramesh Deosaran, Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan, Sen. Wade Mark, Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph, Sen. Christopher Thomas, Sen. Pundit Manideo Persad, Sen. Bro. Noble Khan, Sen. The Hon. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Sen. Sadiq Baksh, Sen. Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie, Sen. Satish Ramroop and Sen. Parvatee Anmolsingh-Mahabir.

**Sen. Arnim Smith:** Mr. Vice-President, I sat throughout the debate on this Motion and listened to contributions mainly from Senators on the other side and I heard all kinds of accusations being made against the Opposition UNC about wanting to rush a motion for constitution reform and having haste to have this Motion passed. I state clearly that it is not the UNC that piloted this Motion. It is the Independent Bench that piloted this Motion.

**Sen. King:** Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order. I think that this Motion was moved by a person, an Independent Senator.

**Sen. A. Smith:** I stand corrected, an Independent Senator. There was an attack on the UNC for wanting to push a motion for constitution reform. It was also said that the UNC was in power for six years and did not do it. There were other allegations against the UNC. I want to set this record straight.

I listened to Sen. The Hon. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid accuse the UNC of being an undemocratic party, a one-man show. Basdeo Panday does what he wants. He accused this UNC of bringing a man from Canada, namely Bill Chaitan and putting him on the people. Panday brought a man from Canada and put him on the people, but he gave the people a choice. It was either to reject or accept the gentleman and they voted for him. That is not a dictatorship. A dictatorship is that the hon. Prime Minister put to the polls Mr. Eddie Hart, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Hinds, Mrs. Eulalie James, Mr. Bereaux, Mrs. Job-Davis. None of them can sit in the Cabinet. "Look the dictatorship here;" they are the senior Cabinet Ministers and the decision makers.

The hon. Prime Minister, in his appointment of the Minister of National Security, said that to be a minister all you need is a level head and common sense. Is he telling the population that the people he put to the polls for them to vote for do not have a level head and common sense, and only the front Bench with all the senior Cabinet Ministers have level heads and common sense? I want to say to the hon. Minister that when you have glass window, do not throw stones.

He accused the UNC of dictatorship. The hon. Minister has no history in the PNM; he was made a minister. To criticize the UNC of bringing people like Chaitan from Canada to the polls—he must understand that he was only made a minister because Bilaal Abdullah could not be made a minister. He is Bilaal's man of business. Bilaal staged a coup in this House; he killed a Member of Parliament (MP), policemen and innocent people around the Red House. It is only as a result of that, they could not make Bilaal a minister so they made his right-hand man a minister. He cannot come here and criticize the UNC for bringing a man from Canada.

We need constitution reform! We did not pilot this but we need it. When we look at the question of kidnapping that we are talking about, the Bill had to be watered down to be passed in the Lower House. Regardless of how important it may sound, constitution reform may not cater for that. It may have catered for the Bill to be passed in whatever way with whatever Constitution we have. When we look at the Caroni situation and the Police Service Reform Bill, we listened to the President in his first speech when he spoke about being involved in education and getting more involved in the operation of the running of the country. It sends the signal that there should be an executive president. These are things that we need to look at. When we look at the Kidnapping Bill that is being debated in this House, we can see all the controversy about who should or should not support it and the hanging bill which the present Government voted against, an amendment that caused the crime to run away. When they had an opportunity to support the government of the day for constitution amendment to deal with the hanging bill, they did not. This is not a question of tit for tat or because they did not vote for it we are not voting for the Kidnapping Bill. We know that we need constitution reform.

We look at the abuse of the Government and its policies. In the last couple of months there has been no accountability. When we look at the Community-Based Enhancement Protection and Environmental Programme (CEPEP) there is no accountability. We are hearing that the sum of \$150 million more is being passed for CEPEP. The UNC said free secondary education for all, the Government says CEPEP. The UNC said dollar for dollar tertiary education, the Government says CEPEP. The UNC said a computer in every school and home, the Government says a whacker, a

hoe, a paint brush and a blue suit, like we are preparing them for prison. I grew up in an area where the saying goes, “Ah born a PNM, ah go dead a PNM.” I want to thank God that he gave me the strength and the independence to know that I was born a man and I would die a good father. Other than that, “me and meh chirren” would be painting stone on the Beetham by the bus route saying, “Ah born a PNM, ah go dead a PNM,” disgracing the national flag and painting it on the ground. If you drive up the bus route now, you would see that it is painted on benches for people to sit on. The national flag is painted for people to walk on and sit on. I would have been part of that if God did not give me the strength and independence.

We listen to the criticism almost on a daily basis about Panday breaking the Crowne Plaza Agreement. I want to put the record straight in this Senate that Panday did not break any Crowne Plaza Agreement. Patrick Manning broke the Crowne Plaza Agreement. [*Laughter and Desk thumping*] I have the Crowne Plaza Agreement here. “All yuh could laugh.” In the Agreement they agreed to a number of things. The Crowne Plaza Agreement says that they agreed to commissions of enquiry into a number of things including the Piarco airport terminal construction and associated Project PRIDE; state-owned financial institution write-off to customer debts. What did Patrick Manning do? Immediately after he was appointed Prime Minister, he appointed two people who were supposed to be questioned at the enquiry, as ministers. That is even before Panday said that he was not agreeing. That is not a betrayal? That is a betrayal of an agreement. It is here. Then they come here with all their talk about the UNC broke the agreement and everything they find themselves in they blame the UNC.

I want to go further with this constitution reform. Like our Constitution only provides for respect for people who went to the university, come out with a degree and make no contribution to the society. I want to refer to a report dated April 01, 2003 in the *Trinidad Guardian*. The Member for Laventille East/Morvant in reply to some of Panday’s claim about PNM’s funding of terrorists and kidnappers, Hinds asked, “What qualification did Arnim Smith hold when he became a URP supervisor and how did he become a senator?” I was never an Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) supervisor. I was the Executive Director of URP. I never worked in URP before in my life. I do not have that mentality. I grew up in that area. When I became the Executive Director of the URP, I took time off from a job where I am still the director of operations of the third largest poultry company in the entire Caribbean. There are 13 companies and I am the director of operations. It started in 1985 with one and I am director of operations of 13 companies. I was never a URP supervisor. I only accepted the job because I was called to make a contribution to my country and I felt that I could have made a difference. I did make some difference.

In reply as to how Arnim Smith was made a senator, I want to read from a document entitled, *The Power of Pan 1994, Pan Is Beautiful 7*. It was the world steelband music festival at which tribute was paid to Arnim Smith. Do you know who did the feature address at that festival? It was the hon. Minister Joan Yuille Williams. I want to read what this says about Arnim Smith. It says:

“Arnim Smith, President of PanTrinbago from 1976 to 1998. Arnim Smith entered the executive of PanTrinbago in 1976, at a time when there was a breakdown in discipline in the movement, with general meetings being disrupted, with the use of obscene language, with no respect to the elected executive and the media having a field day with the organization. He changed this mode of conduct and demanded respect for which in return he gave to panmen. He introduced the system of bargaining power starting with the Carnival Development Committee, who at that time gave artistes and panmen what they deemed for their participation in carnival.

PanTrinbago under his leadership started presenting budgets to the Carnival Development Committee; selecting adjudicators; giving results immediately after competitions; providing bands with score sheets within reasonable time and seeking employment for panmen, especially the elders and started meeting with the minister and ministry responsible for culture directly and not through a third party which was the then Carnival Development Committee.

This line of action resulted in the historic panorama boycott in 1979, with panmen moving from \$500 to \$5,000 for their Panorama performance.”

That was in the era of the oil boom, this wicked government was giving panmen \$500 as appearance fee.

“Bands who were faced with eviction such as Invaders and Pandemonium etc. benefited from his strength and leadership. He also ensured that the organization started functioning on a year round basis by creating activities for both the panmen and the operation of a head office, which prior to that only functioned during the Carnival season to organize Panorama.”

Pan Trinbago used to operate from January to March and was closed for the rest of the year.

“He used his personal funds to finance and operate the office on a year round basis and for the payment of staff. He also abandoned his job of 10 years permanent service with the National Housing Authority, in order to struggle for panmen and was prepared to go without a salary in the interest of the steelband movement. He introduced documented convention reports which include audited

statements and was also responsible for the movement being respected by the business community, in order to remove the festival from Queen's Hall to more suitable accommodation with the help of corporate sponsors."

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senator, I must admit that I am very impressed with the résumé you are reading out. I would like you to return to the business at hand, which is the Motion on constitution reform.

**Sen. A. Smith:** Mr. Vice-President, this is not a résumé. This is tribute which was paid to me. I am dealing with the Motion of the day; I am dealing with constitution reform. I am dealing with where people should be respected for their contributions. I am saying the kind of contribution I made. A question was asked about why I was made a senator. I sat here on the last day and I heard Sen. Ramroop read a statement from the newspaper about Sen. Pundit Persad's brother in a reply. I think that I am entitled to continue.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senator, I would prefer if you would not tell me about what somebody else did at a time when I was not presiding. I ask you to return to the Motion, please.

**Sen. A. Smith:** Mr. Vice-President, I am speaking about a contribution which should be part of a constitution, where people must recognize people's contribution. The Constitution must not only recognize and respect people with papers and according to Mudada, "yuh papers no use". This is what I am speaking about. I would withdraw from referring to another Member's contribution when you were not in the Chair. I ask you please if I can continue.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senators, I hope that we do not try to be defiant as it comes across sometimes. I hope that we try to cooperate with the full understanding that we are serving the same purpose in this Senate.

What the Senator is dealing with has nothing to do with constitution reform. I would always be the first to respect every Senator in this Senate and I would be the first to recognize the national contribution of every Senator. Insofar as it relates to constitution reform, it really does not fit. Could you please get to the point of dealing with this Motion? We have other Senators to speak.

**Sen. A. Smith:** Mr. Vice-President, we have other Senators to speak, but I also know that I have an hour. I am not going beyond the hour to stop anybody from speaking.

As far as constitution reform is concerned, I am making a point where it was asked in the newspaper why I was made a senator. I consider it an attack on my



integrity; on me; my contribution to this country and who I am. I am not challenging you, but I want this honourable Senate to understand that not because Arnim Smith came here and said in his first speech that he “wrestle” with corbeaux and pelt corbeaux to eat, that he is a corbeau. I want this Senate to understand who is Arnim Smith. I was attacked and I believe it is only fair that I inform this Senate about my contribution to this country and why I was made a Senator. I was made a Senator based on my contribution. Can I conclude please?

**Mr. Vice-President:** Go ahead.

**Sen. A. Smith:** I continue.

“His brainchild Champs In Concert was launched with the funds of the organization. This show has developed into one of the biggest shows during the Carnival season. The school steelband music festival follow in the same framework with the organization utilizing its own funds and forcing the authorities to respect the future of pan.

Under his leadership the organization received two national awards, the Merit of Gold and the Trinity Cross, the nation’s highest award. This era also saw the organization being incorporated by an Act of Parliament. Pan Trinbago hosts tuners convention; pan through the eyes of the calypsonians; better organized overseas tours...

He single handedly got the affiliation of almost all Caribbean steelband associations, more recently the establishment of the North American Chapter of Pan Trinbago. Committees were established to deal effectively with pan in school; pan factory, standardization. He brought a new level of democracy, accountability and respect to the movement, bringing with it a new image which brought people from all walks of life and the society to work with the organization. No other organization in Trinidad and Tobago, be it culture or otherwise, has achieved what Pan Trinbago has achieved under his leadership.”

I do not want to go on and on where they paid tribute for placing the organization on a sound foot.

**Sen. Dr. Saith:** When you complete it, can you tell us who wrote it?

**Sen. A. Smith:** Pan Trinbago.

**Sen. Dr. Saith:** Who in Pan Trinbago?

**Sen. A. Smith:** I do not know. Everybody in Trinidad could tell you that, not one person is in PanTrinbago.

Mr. Vice-President, people must respect people for who they are and for their contributions, not for papers and they do nothing with them. The Member who questioned why I was a senator could not be made a minister, even though his leader said that all you need to be a minister is a level head and common sense. I have that in abundance. I could share to all of them over there and those in the Lower House. Few of them could match this contribution that I have made to my country and the national instrument.

I heard Sen. Danny Montano say that Panday said that he would sleep with the devil for political power. I want to put that record straight. Panday never said that he would sleep with the devil for political power. Those Johnny-come-lately in politics must do their research and understand. Panday said that he would sleep with the devil to get rid of the PNM. That says something about the PNM. When he said that he was having alliance talks with Lloyd Best who received the Order of Caricom, Karl Hudson-Phillip who became the first international judge and the President who put the PNM in power, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson. If those three distinguished sons of the soil are the devil, tell me something. If he wants to call them devil, I know better than that. When you want to compare that with talking to community leaders who are gangsters, it is an insult and a disgrace to these three distinguished gentlemen.

We must have class and we must not put words for words and class people with class people. We must have respect for our distinguished sons of the soil. We are talking about constitution reform and the Constitution must provide for people to account when they come here to deliberately mislead the Senate. He said that the police advised them on the no bail situation. The Commissioner of Police in a report said that they never had any discussions with them. We cannot encourage these things to continue in an august House like this. How would we develop as a society, when we have no respect; come here and mislead; tell untruths? Young people and our children are watching us on television telling untruths. Once he said that his son hacked a computer and saw that someone had \$12 million in the bank. He promised to bring the information but he never did. We cannot encourage those things just for political fame and mileage. We must curve the society for the young people.

Easter Monday morning I was at home and heard an announcer saying that on the Beetham there is a speed trap. I find that the police should have found out who she was and lock her up. Somebody close to me asked why? She is not doing anything. Look how many people are committing big crimes. My position is that if we want to correct this society, it does not have any small crime and big crime. It does not have small sin and big sin. Sin is sin and crime is crime. When people are speeding with someone they kidnapped in the trunk, and you tell them that on the radio, they slow

down and pass the police, the police could stop people from speeding and hold them for different kinds of crime. I am saying that we must be serious about this society. Deal with constitution reform in every form and fashion so that we can curve a good society.

I end with a good quote from my friend that I read recently in the newspaper. We must have constitution reform and we must be serious about this society because in the land of CEPEP nothing lasts forever.

Thank you.

**Mr. Vice-President:** Hon. Senators, the Senate would now be suspended for five minutes so that the President could take the Chair.

**3.20 p.m.:** *Sitting suspended.*

**3.25 p.m.:** *Sitting resumed.*

[MADAM PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Knowlson Gift):** Madam President, as we deal with the question of constitutional reform, we have been hearing many comments from the other side. There are those who would argue about the entitlement or the qualifications about Senators on this side who may not have faced the polls. We believe that the Senators on this side were appointed according to the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Those of us who did not face the polls are not here by reason of a coup d'état or some other unlawful means, but we were appointed in keeping with the anticipated abilities as the political leader and the party see the potential on this side of the Senate.

There are 16 of us on this side and we believe that for the time being the country is very well served. When the political leader and the Government talk about constitutional reform, I am sure at the end of the day that reform would redound to the better service of the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. There is nothing to be feared as far as we are concerned. We have made the question of constitution reform a matter of our manifesto during the last election campaign. What could not be accomplished in a period of six years by those who preceded us, I am sure that it would be well and properly done at the appropriate time and after adequate and ample consultation with the public at large.

I believe that the people of Trinidad and Tobago would see the wisdom in the approach being adopted by this Government insofar as providing for their future via constitution reform. I believe that the wisdom that has been manifested on this side of the Senate on this matter, I am sure that we do not need to prolong this discussion,

hypothesizing but to reassure the public that the Government is in good hands and it would be in better hands at the completion of the exercise of constitution reform.

Thank you.

**The Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education (Sen. The Hon. Danny Montano):** Madam President, this afternoon we had a classic example of the need for understanding law and regulations and the importance of having a document, a supreme governing law that we can understand, subscribe to and follow. “Follow” is the most important word. What we saw earlier in the proceedings this afternoon was some of the worst abuse of indiscipline, not understanding one’s job; duty to the Constitution; one’s role in this august Senate and one’s duty and role with respect to people at large. With the greatest of respect, whatever constitution we have would not necessarily instruct those who come here, as to what they should and should not do. A constitution is a very serious document, as I am sure everybody here understands.

From the beginning of organized society, it managed to find ways in which to regulate itself. In the early days of society it founded religious law. Canon law was the easiest way to regulate society. Things have moved on and the secular state evolved separate and apart from the canon state. Secular laws have governed us for many centuries.

In Trinidad and Tobago we are fortunate to have a written Constitution that governs us in our daily lives. Understanding one’s responsibilities and duties to the Constitution is a very serious matter and must not be taken lightly. The statement that was made by the penultimate speaker that was attributed to the Leader of his party—I am absolutely shocked that he would try to correct whatever I may have said on a previous occasion and to repeat what his Leader is reported to have said. The fact that a political leader of a party who aspires to govern the people should say that he would sleep with the devil to achieve any objective is horrifying! It is absolutely shocking! In the Preamble of this Constitution it says:

“...is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in fundamental human rights and freedoms...”

**3.30 p.m.**

And we have a leader, a former Prime Minister of the country, talking about sleeping with the devil. Madam President, I do not know what point the goodly Senator thought he was making. I do not know if he thought that he was being clever but I say to him: Shame on you to even begin to suggest that that is an honourable motive! Madam President, to accomplish any objective, that is a dishonourable act!

[*Desk thumping*] It is instructive because it sets the tenor for everything that their party does. It sets the scope that what they do; what they say; what they think; is based on dishonour.

The Constitution of the people of Trinidad and Tobago is a sacred document and as long as we have a constitution it must be defended and it must be protected. While we can challenge some of the provisions and while we can question amongst ourselves the wisdom of some of the provisions of the Constitution, the Constitution must be obeyed, understood and followed in its spirit. Laws do not exist only for the courts. Laws must be understood. Laws are the laws of men. They are laws that we created. We created them because we had a vision of what our society should look like. We must understand what are the intentions of our laws. Laws do not exist in a vacuum. Laws exist so that men and women could understand and live with one another in peace and harmony, and with the rights and freedoms that we cherish. Law comes from the hearts and minds of mankind. It comes from the hearts and minds of men and women. It does not exist in isolation of our wants and desires. It exists because we want things in a special way.

I had the misfortune to spend six years in Opposition on the other side of this Senate and saw the corruption of the Constitution where, over and over again, laws were being passed that should have had constitutional majorities but the then Attorney General said it was not needed. The damage that is done there, Madam President, is that the lowly citizen who was then wronged as a result of the bad laws that we passed, for him to try to prove his rights, he now has to go through a long and expensive court battle to challenge the constitutionality of what we did here that was wrong.

Madam President, we have to come back to the spirit. The spirit of the law must always be obeyed, the principle; the honour of it, but there are those among us who are without the dignity and the honour to do what they know is right and not necessarily that which is simply expedient. In any environment there are rules. In the Chamber here, we have rules that govern how we must behave. There are certain rules that must be understood. There is the spirit of the legislation that we must follow. You know very well, Madam President, because you have had on occasions to speak to us about our manners and about how we are conducting ourselves. This afternoon when I heard the Leader of Opposition Business call out across the floor—while he was not on his leg—to one of my colleagues that he was a racist, Madam President, not only is the language unparliamentary but it is completely contrary to the spirit of the Standing Orders. While there is no Standing Order that specifically forbids that, the spirit of the Standing Orders says no, you cannot do that. If that were

the case, Madam President, I could refer to him as having come into the world by accident, that would be unparliamentary! I would not say that about my colleague. I would not call him a jerk or sleazebag either, that would be unparliamentary!

**Sen. Mark:** On a point of order. I hope the hon. Senator is not going on and going on. Madam President, you would see that under Standing Order 35(4). I hope that he does not continue along that line.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** [*Inaudible*]

**Sen. Mark:** Madam President, I spoke on a point of order and you have to rule.

**Madam President:** Sen. D. Montano, if you have made your point maybe you could get back to the Constitution Motion.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** Madam President, that is exactly the point I am making. Earlier on in the afternoon the Leader of Opposition Business was attempting to turn this Senate into a circus—

**Sen. Mark:** On a point of order, Madam President, under Standing Order 35(3), the Senator is trying to revive a matter that has been closed by the Senate.

**Madam President:** I disagree. I do not think the Senator was trying to revive a matter; he was just making a reference. Please continue.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** Thank you very much, Madam President. The Senator was making a circus out of the proceedings because he was not following the rules and procedures here. [*Desk thumping*] He wanted to make a circus out of the place. He wanted to draw references. In a situation that had nothing to do with the proceedings of the day, he talked about scandals this and scandals that which had absolutely nothing to do with anything at all. This is the Senate. This is not a rum shop. There are rules here. There are rules within the Constitution and one must follow, not only the rules as they are written, but how they are intended to be interpreted. That is the point, Madam President.

The constitution of a country sets out, basically, two things. It sets out the form and the method of government. That is what it does. When we start now to talk about constitutional reform of the entire Constitution one has to consider what is the form of government that we wish, and what is the method of government that we wish. This is not an easy thing to decide. We have a situation where—for the umpteenth occasion—the Leader of the official Opposition has said that they are not going to participate; they are not going to agree; they are not going to do anything at all until—I am not quite sure what he wants—somehow we have constitutional reform.

In fact, something has started but the process takes a long time. It does not happen in a week; in a month; it may not even happen within a year. This is a country and the Constitution is of such significance that everybody has to take part in it. The reality is that while we are certainly moving down the road towards constitutional reform, it is going to take quite a while and at the end of the day everybody has to be in agreement because the new constitution will never be passed unless we have agreement with the Opposition. But the Opposition says they are not going to agree with anything at all. So it is like a rat on the little wheel, you put the rat there—the name is Bas—and it goes on the wheel and it keeps going, going, going.

**Sen. Mark:** Madam President, on a point of order. It is improper, under Standing Order 35(4), to refer to any Member in either Chamber in any insulting way. He referred to Bas as a rat. That is what he did, Madam President. He referred to Basdeo Panday, the Leader of the official Opposition as the rat! He must withdraw that remark! It is insulting and offensive! It should be expunged from the record!

**Madam President:** Sen. Mark, please.

**Sen. Mark:** Yes, Madam President.

**Madam President:** Sen. D. Montano, if you did call anybody's name then I think you should—I must admit I did not hear a name, I just heard something about a rat.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** Madam President, I did not call anybody a rat I called the rat Bas. I did not call anybody a rat. I gave a name to the rat. I did not call anybody a rat. I find it instructive—*[Interruption]*

**Madam President:** He did not call a specific name. Did he call the name of anybody in this Senate?

**Sen. Mark:** Yes, Madam President, he called the name of Mr. Panday.

**Madam President:** Did he say Mr. Panday?

**Hon. Senators:** No.

**Madam President:** No, I am afraid that was—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Mark:** He did say Panday!

**Madam President:** Ladies and gentlemen and, Sen. Mark, you in particular, please! As the person in the Chair, I did not hear the word “Panday” spoken.

**Hon. Senator:** He said “Bas”.

**Madam President:** Well, “Bas” could be anybody in Trinidad and Tobago. Please continue Senator.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** Thank you, Madam President. I have completely lost my place but I would try to get back to the subject. We are talking about the form and method of government and the reality is that it is going to take a long time before we can decide on the new form, structure and method of government we would want to have. In the meantime, however, we have an Opposition that says: “We are not going to take part. We are going to mash up the whole place. We are going to mash up your party and make a mess out of things.” Madam President, they are free to do that. They are free to oppose anything that they wish because the Constitution certainly gives them that right and that is a very good thing. However, in terms of the spirit of the Constitution, is that what the people of the country really want? Do the people of the country want opposition for opposition sake? If that is what they want, then when we bring the new constitution we could put in the constitution that the Opposition shall oppose every single matter of the Government. We could legislate and say that but I would suggest to you, Madam President, that would be as absurd as the position the Opposition is taking now, that is to simply oppose everything on the part of the Government.

We have been called evil, sinister and all kinds of things. When we sat on that side—it is very strange how things look. Sen. Seepersad-Bachan frequently says: Oh, so this is how it is going to be. We are not going to take you on. We are going to ignore you and so on. The Senator fails to understand the cut and thrust—

**Sen. Seepersad-Bachan:** Madam President, on a point of clarification. I have never said anything like that.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** Madam President, repeatedly, she says that we are not going to take on the suggestions of the Opposition and so on; we are just going to do it in a highhanded way. Those are not her words; that is my interpretation of what she has been saying. I hope that you would give me some licence but that is the point. The reality is that the Senator fails to understand the cut and thrust of debate and that is what we come here to do. We come here to test ourselves—one against the other—to test the validity of what we say against what you say. We do not have to necessarily accept what you say, and in the cut and thrust of the political debate we would use language and would adopt a posture that necessarily suits our side. The fact that you do not like it, I humbly apologize, but that is the cut and thrust of debate and it is time that you understood that. Insofar as what you do not like we are, in fact, executing our responsibility under the Constitution and within the spirit of the Constitution.

Madam President, all of us have stood here on many occasions and said that we would, in fact, accept suggestions from the other side, and we have done so. The fact that you do not get your way all the time does not mean that we are a bad



Government or that we are highhanded or arrogant, it means only that from the policy perspective of the Government, what is being suggested is not appropriate to the policy objectives of the Government. That is all that means.

A new constitution will probably be a good thing. Over recent years we have come to see that there are a number of deficiencies in the Constitution. There are a number of things that need to be strengthened and tightened. There are ancillary aspects of the Constitution in terms of the method of Government that certainly need to be seriously addressed. One of them, as you know, Madam President, is the police service. You would recall that during the first term of the UNC, crime had begun to escalate to alarming proportions. Having had the experience in Government; having invited Scotland Yard to Trinidad and Tobago; and having understood the deficiencies and the weaknesses of the police service and the commissions that govern them, we—the PNM, in Opposition at that time—felt that what was necessary, immediately, was to reform the method by which the police are governed and managed.

In order to do that—it comes out of the Constitution—we needed constitutional majority. We approached the Government of the day—the UNC administration—a committee was set up, and the legislation was drafted; the legislation was drafted by the UNC—but it never saw the light of day. When we came into Government the Opposition said, yes, we would support it and then in an about face they said: well, maybe, if you put it out for the public and we do this, and we slip around, you know—[*Senator makes dance-like movements to his words*] Unfortunately the *Hansard* reporter cannot type in my—[*Senator repeats dance-like movements*] [*Laughter*] But, nevertheless, the reality is you can see that there is the need for reform of the Constitution in a number of different areas.

Madam President, law is a funny thing, it does not mean that because one part of it may be deficient that you have to throw out the entire document and do it all over again. You can, in fact, work on the piecemeal basis. If there are areas of the existing Constitution that you know are defective, that you can fix; then does it not make sense to go ahead and fix it? Let me give you a little analogy. If you had a motorcar and you knew that one of the tyres was bad; you need a new tyre but the car is wearing down because it is starting to give you all kinds of problems; it shuts down every now and again. You know you need a new car but you are not sure which one you should buy but you have a tyre that is flat. Does that mean that you should wait and not fix the tyre until you buy a whole new car? Madam President, that makes absolutely no sense whatever! [*Interruption*] Well, you see I cannot afford that! Maybe you, in the UNC, can afford to buy a new car just because you have a flat tyre but I cannot afford that and I do not think the country can either.

We need to do certain things and we need to recognize what are our constitutional responsibilities. We need to take that on very seriously. You think that you can gain some short-term political points but, in fact, it does not work. History has shown that it does not work. The Opposition is likely to damage itself more than anything else and that is not in the interest of the people and it is not in the interest of the Government. It is not! It is in the interest of the Government and in the interest of the people that we have a dynamic, vibrant and intelligent Opposition. It is in the interest of the people to have that and we are crying out for that! Madam President, I repeat, we are crying out for that! We are dying to have intelligent Opposition here! What we get is intelligent comments from the Independent Bench and that is the value of a Chamber like this. A Chamber like this is a check and balance on the other place. That is the role of the Senate.

There are 15 Senators on the other side. From nine Senators we get very intelligent responses; from six—I do not know what to call it—you get misbehaviour; you get things said and done in a most inappropriate way and we are longing to hear contributions that make sense that we can work with. So, Madam President, the spirit of the Constitution is not understood by the Opposition. It is not understood! When the Leader of the Opposition says there must be constitutional reform, I shudder to think what is in his mind. I can only imagine the confusion that lies therein and what could possibly come out of constitutional reform from the minds on that side. Nevertheless, we are committed to working with them. They are, after all, the legitimate Opposition of the day within the Constitution and we are willing to work with them. We are very happy to work with them. The fact that it is like pulling teeth—[*Interruption*]

**Hon. Senator:** Without anaesthetic.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** We will do it! [*Laughter*] But for the benefit of the people—and we are only one people. We are many persons with 1.3 million persons but we are only one people. People tend to forget that. When we hear things like calling someone a racist and so on, quite apart from the fact that it is unparliamentary, it is just so silly. When we went to school we were all in short pants; we all played together and now we come here and there are those who would like to divide the Constitution in two and say this part is for me and this is for you. Madam President, that will not happen under the watch of the People's National Movement! [*Desk thumping*] There will be one Constitution only for the people. We will do our best to find the best laws to fit every person in the country so that every person has a place to fit in our young country. [*Interruption*]

**Madam President:** Silence, please.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** You see, Madam President, the indiscipline to which I refer? The lack of understanding of what one's role and responsibilities are? When they do not like what is being said and they do not like what is happening; it hurts. Somebody over there said the truth hurts. Madam President, when you hear that and then you start to hear noises on that side—[*Interruption*] I have been here a long time and that Senator over there, as noisy as he is, is like a tick and it does not really matter, you just take it off and flick it away. It does not really matter.

**Sen. Mark:** Madam President, on a point of order, I think that the Senator is really going off course.

**Madam President:** I agree. Sen. The Hon. D. Montano, please do not call Senators by names like that? Please withdraw it.

**Sen. Smith:** Madam President, he is talking about indiscipline—

**Madam President:** Hon. Senator, I have made my ruling.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** I apologize if I offended anybody. I certainly did not intend to call anybody a tick. I said: "Like a tick". If that offends anyone, I withdraw it. I have no difficulty with that. I will also abide by your rulings, Madam President. I will do my best to—

Madam President, allow me to come back to something I was saying earlier. I was talking about what Sen. Seepersad-Bachan was saying. I have the *Hansard* here from—

**Sen. Smith:** Madam President, on a point of order, Standing Order 35(1), I do not think the Senator withdrew the statement.

**Madam President:** He did. Please continue.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** I have no difficulty doing the right thing, Madam President, unlike Senators on that side. If I have offended anyone, again, I apologize. I did not call him a tick, I said like a tick. If that offends him, I apologize. I will abide by your rulings, Madam President. [*Interruption*]

[*Madam President pounds the gavel*]

What I was referring to—and this is an example of what Sen. Seepersad-Bachan said and I quote from the *Hansard*. In fact it was from her contribution on this very Motion between 2.30 and 3.30 p.m. It says:

"Many times I listen and every time we have to make a contribution in this Parliament it is almost as if it goes unheeded; it is not important, 'We do not want

to hear you'. We just have to look at the body language,..."

That is what I was referring to but that is not the case. Indeed, Sen. Seepersad-Bachan is one of the speakers on that side who makes contributions that one can listen to; there is a point to what she says. Insofar as we have it on that side, it is something that we can listen to and certainly we listen to her. I do not know why she is complaining because she is one of the more sensible ones on that side. [*Desk thumping*] It is always entertaining and it certainly represents a valid point of view. It may not be right but it is a valid point of view and we listen to it, as we always do, with grace and dignity. We listen and we take it on.

Madam President, the Constitution and constitutional reform is a very serious subject and it cannot be done lightly or frivolously. It takes a lot of time and effort to draft a constitution. You have to engage thinkers who have a tremendous amount of experience and understanding. When it comes to that, I just want to refer to something that happened earlier in this proceeding—you were not here at the time, Madam President. Much was being said about the salaries and wages of top executives and so on. I shudder to think what they are going to say about the minds that we might have to engage in order to produce a working document. Legal minds, as you know, are very expensive but for the most part you get a tremendous amount of output. Let me just give you a little example, Madam President, of how things can be expensive.

The University of the West Indies falls under my portfolio and we have professors at the university earning in excess of \$25,000 a month and working six hours a week. When you extrapolate that it works out—if they were to work 150 hours a month—to \$150,000 a month; that is the relative pay scale. The point of the matter is when you want to talk about salaries—when we are looking at the Constitution it is very clear that the minds that we are going to have to engage are going to be expensive. Are we going to have frivolous questions about how much we are paying this one and how much we are paying that one?

**Sen. Mark:** Madam President, on a point of order, how could the Senator accuse the Opposition Senators or even the Senators on the Independent Bench of asking frivolous questions? This is our democratic right under the Constitution. I think he is out of place. I really feel that he is exhausted. He is not making sense! I am disappointed!

**Madam President:** Sen. The Hon. D. Montano, you could say what you have to say by phrasing it differently and not imputing improper motives to the Senators on the other side.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** Madam President, I would never do that on purpose but I want to draw your attention to the use of adjectives in this Senate and if it is my opinion that his questions are frivolous, that is my opinion. I am free to express that opinion here. That does not make it so. If he does not agree with me then that is his problem.

**Sen. Mark:** Madam President, on a point of order, you have ruled on this matter and he is querying your ruling. He is saying—

**Madam President:** Sen. Mark, he did not question my ruling, he was explaining that he was just using an adjective and it was his opinion. Please continue, Senator.

**Sen. The Hon. D. Montano:** Madam President, let me just put the hon. Senator's mind at rest. I do not make laws when I stand and say things. The fact that I say that his question is frivolous—it may be a hard statement; he may not like it and it may hit home—[*Laughter*]—but it does not make it law. It is just my opinion. I can express it. He uses adjectives all over the place—sotto voce not so sotto voce, you know? [*Laughter*] I lost my point. [*Laughter*] You see that is the intention, however, I am not lost. I may have lost that point but I am not lost, Madam President. [*Laughter*] There are others in here who may be lost. I am not lost, I can see my way with crystal clarity. I see the future. I can see the way.

Let us get back to the Constitution and the need for constitutional reform. When my good friend, Sen. Prof. Ramchand, in fact, filed the Motion, I thought, yes, it is a good thing. It might need to be, perhaps, modified a bit, but I think it is a good thing to put this on the burner and to have a debate on constitutional reform. For instance, what exactly should be the relationship of our sister island to Trinidad? Are we happy with the status quo? Should it be any different? My own view is that I simply see Tobago as part of the country like I see Monos Island or Chacachacare as being part of the country. I do not personally see it as different but there are those who do. There are those who have a slightly different opinion and therefore all of that needs to be considered as well.

There are also larger issues because what is happening in the wider world in terms of trading blocs and so on, you see countries like Europe, which for centuries were at war with one another, coming to form one single monetary entity and setting up a parliament that is as yet not a supreme entity over all the other parliaments. When we see things like that happening we have to stop and think for ourselves. If this is happening in the rest of the wider world, what should we be doing? Should we, in fact, be thinking of widening the scope of our Constitution that would enable us to embrace our neighbours—some of the smaller countries in this region? Is that what

we should be doing? I really do not know but I definitely feel that it has to be talked about; it has to be thought about and we need to, at least, have some kind of position on it as we go forward. It is a burning issue and we need to consider these things.

Madam President, I will wind up at this point. I would like to congratulate Sen. Prof. Ramchand on his Motion and to say with one or two minor changes, I think, we are likely to support it and we will move forward from here.

I thank you very much, Madam President.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith):** Madam President, I beg to move that the Senate be now adjourned to Tuesday, May 06, 2003 at 1.30 p.m.

On that day we would continue the debate on the Kidnapping Bill and then move to the Bill dealing with the Fourth Report of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government). Madam President, I can assure that there will be movers for the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Senate adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 4.09 p.m.*

The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:

**Airports Authority  
(New workers)**

- 32.** Could the Minister of Works and Transport inform the Senate of:
- (i) The number of new workers employed at the Airports Authority from January 2002 to date;
  - (ii) Their names and positions; and
  - (iii) Their qualifications?

*Pursuant to his reply to question 32, earlier in the proceedings, the Minister of Works and Transport (Hon. Franklin Khan) caused to be circulated to Members of the Senate the following appendix:*

**PERSONS EMPLOYED AT AATT FROM JANUARY 2002 TO DATE**

NO	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	D.O.E	QUALIFICATIONS
1	Shazard	Abdul	Facilities Attendant	6/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
2	Garnett	Ali	Information Assistant	21/2/200	9 CXC, 4 A Levels
3	Kim	Ambrose-Parris	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
4	Tracee	Anderson	Technical Help Desk Assistant	2/1/2002	6 CXC, Interior Designing
5	Lima	Andrews	Clerk 1	24/2/200	5 CXC, 1 A Level, Computer Certificate, Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.)
6	Ghansham	Anoop	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School

NO	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	D.O.E	QUALIFICATIONS
7	Anesha	Archibald	Technical Help Desk Assistant	2/1/2002	4 CXC, 2 GCE O'Levels, Computer Literacy
8	Rudra	Bachan	Facilities Technician	2/1/2002	8 CXC, 1 A'Level
9	Lydia	Baker	Administrative Assistant	8/10/2002	3 CXC, Management Certificate
10	Maud	Balfour	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
11	Giselle	Belle	Clerk 1	2/1/2002	4 CXC.
12	Giselle	Best	Information Assistant	1/2/2003	8 CXC, 5 A'Levels, 1 GCE, Computer Certificate
13	Sherwyn	Branche	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	2 CXC
14	Kevin	Brown	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
15	Cagney	Casimire	Deputy General Manager	17/2/200	M.B.A. and Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc)
16	Sandra	Charles	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
17	Norma	Clarke	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
18	Michelle	Daniel	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	School Leaving Certificate
19	Tedica	David	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
20	Debra	De La Rosa	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate, Certificate in Quality Customer Service
21	Carol	Dominique	Customer Service Representative	2/1/2002	5 CXC (Falsified Cert./Terminated 22/11/02 )
22	Yamuna	Dookie	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
23	Karen	Dubar	Customer Service Representative	7/1/2002	* "6 CXC, Computer Literate, Peachtree".
24	Sherrill	Duff	P.R. Consultant	2/1/2002	2 CXC & Diplomas
25	Ann Marie	Edwards	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School



NO	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	D.O.E	QUALIFICATION
26	Marla	Edwards	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
27	Adrian	Emmons	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary Leaving Certificate
28	Ingrid	Felice	Human Resource Coordinator	1/11/2002	Bachelor of Arts General Degree (B.A.)
29	Hertia	Foncette	Information Assistant	1/2/2003	5 CXC, 3 A'Levels, Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc)
30	Leslie Ann	Forgenie	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	1 CXC Pass
31	Patricia	Francis	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	3 CXC, Computer Literacy
32	Pauline	Francis	Administrative Assistant	1/10/2002	7 CXC, Computer Certificate
33	Vanessa	Frank	Customer Service Representative	1/1/2002	6 CXC, 1GCE, 2 A'Levels
34	Sabrina	Fraser	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	1 GCE O'Level, Certificate in Photography
35	Joanna	Fridy	Information Assistant	21/2/200	7 CXC, 5 A'Levels, Information Technology Certificate
36	Gary	Fullerton	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
37	Gail	Griffith	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	School Leaving Certificate
38	Marsha	Griffith	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
39	Kerl-Ann	Guerra-Sims	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	2 CXC
40	Ingrid	Gurusaransingh	Customer Service Representative	2/1/2002	No CXC, Computer Literate, Public Relations Course.
41	Michael	Hackshaw	Facilities Technician	7/2/2002	Certificate in Electronics
42	Debra	Harris	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	School Leaving Certificate, Intermediate Typing Certificate

NO	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	D.O.E	QUALIFICATIONS
43	Janelle	Herbert	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	School Leaving Certificate, Computer Literacy
44	Cheryl Ann	Hernandez	Customer Service Representative	2/1/2002	2 CXC, Computer Literacy
45	Peter	Hunte	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate, Computer Literacy Certificate
46	Cheryl Ann	Hutchins	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
47	Bassiran	Jankie	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	School Leaving Certificate
48	Rose	Janniere	Executive Assistant to the Chairman	6/5/2002	5 GCE & Diplomas
49	Brian	John	Customer Service Representative	2/1/2002	6 CXC, 1 GCE O'Level
50	Ophelia	John	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	School Leaving Certificate, Practical Nursing Certificate
51	Nickesha	Joseph-Charles	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	1 CXC
52	Lawrence	Jules	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	4 GCE O'Levels, Information Technology Certificate
53	Michelle	Kelly	Departure Tax Clerk	1/1/2002	5 CXC, Computer Literate.
54	Ricky	Kelly	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
55	Melisa	Khan	Customer Service Representative	2/1/2002	Cert. In Airline Reservation & Ticketing, NEC - Intro. To Computers
56	Satrohan	Krishnanan	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	4 CXC
57	Amrita	Kumarsingh	Customer Service Representative	21/1/2002	No CXC, Cert. In Business Administration, Computer Literate.
58	Shirley	Leacock	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	School Leaving Certificate, Computer Literacy

*Written Answer to Question**Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

NO	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	D.O.E	QUALIFICATIONS
59	Roxanne	Lee	Customer Service Representative	1/1/2002	7 CXC, 1 ALevel
60	Simon	Lezama	Maintenance Asst.	2/1/2002	No Info. Submitted.
61	Joy	Lyons	Project Architect	16/5/2002	Bachelor of Architecture
62	Terrence	Miller	Facilities Maintenance Coordinator	3/6/2002	Quality Training Course, Cert. In Safety Training.
63	Avril	Modeste	Clerk 1	24/2/2003	7 CXC, 4 ALevels, Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc)
64	Anneika	Mohammed	Information Assistant	21/2/2003	7 CXC, 4 ALevels
65	Azard	Mohammed	Facilities Technician	7/2/2002	Electrical Certificate
66	Reavie	Mohammed	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
67	Glen	Moses	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
68	Russell	Mundy (Jr.)	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
69	Shivana	Narace	Clerk	2/1/2002	No Info. Submitted.
70	Inshan	Narine	Driver	20/1/2003	1 CXC
71	Janelle	Nesbit	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
72	Giselle	Niles	Facilities Attendant	6/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
73	Olive	Nottingham	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate, Certificate in Quality Customer Service
74	Lynette	Olliviera	Protocol Assistant	9/9/2002	Diploma in Marketing & Public Relations
75	Ricardo	O'Niel	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
76	Darrel	Pantin	Facilities Technician	2/1/2002	
77	Nigel	Parris	Facilities Technician	3/1/2002	

NO	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	D.O.E	QUALIFICATIONS
78	Cathy	Parris-Ramlogan	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	School Leaving Certificate
79	Lesley Ann	Paul	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
80	Stacy	Phillip	Customer Service Representative	2/1/2002	No CXC Passes
81	Dane	Phillip	Commercial Officer	1/3/2002	7 CXC, 3 A Levels, Advanced Diploma
82	Shamini	Pooransingh	Customer Service Representative	7/1/2002	No CXC, Computer Literate
83	Seeraj	Ragbir	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
84	Taramatie	Raghunath	Technical Help Desk Assistant	2/1/2002	5 CXC, Computer Certificate, Airline Reservation
85	Natasha	Rajab	Clerk 1	23/01/2002	7 CXC, 3 A Levels, Computer Certificate, Human Resource Management Course
86	Christopher	Ralph	Facilities Technician	7/1/2002	No Info. Submitted.
87	Sheraz	Rambaran	Maintenance Assistant	1/3/2002	2 CXC
88	Vijaya	Rampersad	Customer Service Rep. Administrative Assistant / Secretary	4/1/2002	6 CXC
89	Janette	Reece	Secretary	17/5/2002	2 CXC, 3 GCE O Levels, Accounting Certificate
90	Eugene	Richardson	Facilities Attendant	1/2/2003	Secondary School Completion Certificate
91	Anastasia	Russel	Customer Service Representative	2/1/2002	* "3CXC".
92	Lt. Col. Wendell	Salandy	Security Coordinator	1/2/2003	Certificate in Logistics, Distribution Management & Security Management
93	Hamewatie	Seelal	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
94	Randisen	Shah	Clerk 1	17/01/2002	5 CXC, Associate Degree In Info. Tech., Completed Comp. Tech. Studies

NO	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	D.O.E	QUALIFICATIONS
95	Aneeta	Singh	Clerical Asst.	17/12/2002	5 CXC, 2 GCE O' Levels, Computer Literate.
96	Premdath	Singh	Facilities Technician	7/2/2002	1 CXC, Certificate in Electronics
97	La Toya	Smith	Information Assistant	1/2/2003	6 CXC, 3 A'Levels, Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc)
98	Troy	Smith	Facilities Attendant	1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School
99	Rawle	Stater	Engineering Asst.	17/9/20/02	* "3 GCE O' Levels, Computer Aided Drawing".
100	Robert	Subryan	Internal Auditor	1/1/2003	6 CXC , 4 A'Levles, Computer Certificate, Chartered Accountant Certificate
101	Sasha	Telesford	Information Assistant	1/2/2003	6 CXC, 3 A'Levels, Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc)
102	Della	Thompson	P.R. Assistant	12/8/2002	5 CXC, 3 A'Levels, Computer Literacy Certificate
103	Alicia	Tyson	Clerk 1	25/2/2003	Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.)
104	Juliana	Williamson	Information Assistant Customer Service Representative	21/22/2003	6 CXC , 4 A'Levels
105	Denesa	Winston	Facilities Attendant	2/1/2002	3 CXC, Computer Literacy
106	Irving	Wright Jr.		1/3/2003	Completed Secondary School