

SENATE

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[MR. VICE-PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION) BILL

Bill to provide for the supplementary appropriation for the service of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ending September 30, 2003, [*The Minister of Finance*]; read the first time.

Motion made, That the next stage be taken at a later stage of the proceedings.
[*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]

Question put and agreed to.

PAPERS LAID

1. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation for the nine-month period ended September 30, 1998. [*The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill)*]
2. The National Insurance (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]

**National Insurance (Benefits) (Amdt.)
Regulations and Rules**

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill):
Mr. Vice-President, I also wish to advise that the regulations and rules were considered by the Statutory Instruments Committee and that the minutes of the committee were circulated to hon. Senators.

3. The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amdt.) Rules, 2002. [*The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean)*]
4. The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amdt.) (No. 2) Rules, 2002 [*Sen. The Hon. G. Morean*]
5. The Supreme Court of Judicature (Judicial Review) (Amdt.) Rules, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. G. Morean*]

**Supreme Court of Judicature (Judicial Review) (Amdt.)
Regulations and Rules**

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President, I also wish to advise hon. Senators that the regulations and rules were considered by the Statutory Instruments Committee and that the minutes of the committee were circulated to hon. Senators.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

(Presentation)

Sen. Sadiq Baksh: Mr. Vice-President, I beg to lay on the Table, the Report of the Statutory Instruments Committee of the Senate for the period 2002/2003.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, I wish to draw to your attention that the written reply to question No. 10 was circulated in accordance with Standing Order No. 16(3).

The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:

**Water and Sewerage Authority
(Contractors Engaged)**

- 10.** (a) Could the hon. Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment state:
- (i) The names of all the contractors engaged by the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) for the period December 2001 to the present time?
 - (ii) The exact nature of work these contractors have been engaged to perform?
 - (iii) The duration of these contracts and the financial value of each contract?
- (b) Could the Minister also state:
- (i) How many contractors have been paid to date?
 - (ii) How many contractors have not been paid and exactly when would they be paid?
- (c) Would the Minister indicate whether the taxpayer is getting value for money on each contract?

Vide end of sitting for written answer.

The following question was asked by Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan:

**Accelerated Land Distribution Programme
(Status of)**

- 15.** Could the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources inform the Senate of:
- (i) The status of the Accelerated Land Distribution Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources;
 - (ii) The number of leases delivered to recipients from December 2001 to May 2003;
 - (iii) The names and addresses of recipients, and;
 - (iv) The location and size of plots of each recipient under this programme?

Vide end of sitting for written answer.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Bankruptcy Protection Laws (USA)
(Introduction of Legislation)**

- 90. Sen. Wade Mark** asked the hon. Attorney General:
- A. Could the Minister indicate to this Senate if the Government intends to introduce legislation similar to that contained in Chap. 11 of Bankruptcy Protection Laws in the USA?
 - B. If the answer is in the affirmative, could she state how soon the Government intends to bring this legislation?
 - C. Could the Minister indicate whether it is Government's intention to extend this facility to only bankrupt companies or also to provide for private citizens experiencing serious financial difficulties?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is already working on drafting legislation similar to that provided for in Chap. 11 of the Bankruptcy Protection Laws of the United States of America. The Bankruptcy Laws of Trinidad and Tobago, namely, the Bankruptcy Act, Chap. 9:70, and the Companies Act 1995, that is Act No. 35 of 1995, currently provide no alternatives to liquidation. Under Chap. 11, "Protection", a company burdened by debt has a better chance of

avoiding the loss of control and devastation often associated with liquidation, and of remaining intact through re-organization.

No timetable has as yet been established for bringing the legislation to the Parliament. Bankruptcy laws can be quite complex. Consequently, it would be necessary to undertake an extensive review of the current bankruptcy laws, as well as consult with the various stakeholders to determine what variations, if any, of the Chap. 11 procedures would need to be made to take account of the local environment and a consultant has already been sourced to work with the officers involved.

In fact, the Law Reform Commission and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's Department of the Ministry of the Attorney General have already been requested to commence the review and preparation of the preliminary draft law, after which consultation on the draft bill with the major stakeholders would take place. In fact, a rough draft has already been done and the consultants have been going through it, with a view to making further recommendations, especially in light of recent developments of a model legislation by the United Nations.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, could I ask the hon. Attorney General whether the new law that is being contemplated would facilitate private individuals who are experiencing serious financial difficulties in the country?

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: Mr. Vice-President, the review is intended to be as comprehensive as possible. That means, we would be considering both the private individual and the company.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, again, could the hon. Attorney General indicate to us—I know that it is difficult to provide some time frame—whether such a matter could probably reach Parliament, or at least some drafting stage within 18 months and whether she would like to hazard an estimated time for such a piece of legislation to be brought as a draft before the Parliament?

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: Mr. Vice-President, this is just a guess, because we have to go through the consultation process, and I would say that we could probably look at about six months.

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, through you, I did not quite understand what the Attorney General meant when she said, “consultation with the major stakeholders.” Does she mean that she is going to ask the opinion of the banks which, of course, are the ones that perpetrate the problems in the first place?

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: Mr. Vice-President, all those who are stakeholders would be consulted. If the banks can be regarded as stakeholders they, too, would be consulted.

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, I represent several companies that have problems with the banks, does that mean that my clients, whom I represent, would be stakeholders and, therefore, would I be consulted specifically?

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: Mr. Vice-President, I do not think I should answer that because the hon. Senator is part of the process; he is in the Parliament. So that I mean—

Sen. R. Montano: I am talking about it in a private capacity. If the Attorney General could consult with the banks well I, too, want to be consulted.

**Private Nursing Homes
(Moneys owing)**

91. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Minister of Health:

- A. Could the Minister tell the Senate about the total amount of moneys owing to private nursing homes for the provision of medical services arising out of the impasse with the nation's doctors?
- B. Could he identify the names of the private nursing homes and the sums of money owed to each one of them?
- C. Could the Minister of Health indicate when the sum of money owed will be remitted to the owners of the nursing homes?

The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith): Mr. Vice-President, the total amount of moneys claimed by private nursing homes for the provision of medical services arising out of the impasse with the nation's doctors is \$2,850,907.

The names of the private nursing homes and the sums of money claimed by each nursing home for the period January to May are as follows: Cross Crossing Medical Centre—\$268,149; Victoria Nursing Home—\$201,695; Surgi-Med Clinic—\$577,765; Gulf View Medical Centre Limited—\$573,050; Southern Medical Clinic—\$317,139; Augustus Long Medical Centre—\$364,256. These are in respect of the South West Regional Health Authority.

In respect of the North West Regional Health Authority, Medicorp Limited—\$313,005; Seventh Day Adventist Community Hospital—\$235,847.

The sum of \$1 million was released to the South West Regional Health Authority on June 05, 2003 to make interim payments on claims for services rendered by the private nursing homes in January 2003. Payments would be made to the owners as soon as the claims are fully investigated and certified by the regional authorities. The balance of funds would be released to the South West Regional Health Authority and the North West Regional Health Authority before the close of the 2003 fiscal year.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I know that Sen. Dr. L. Saith is not the Minister of Health, but I do not know if he can help us. Could the Minister indicate to us whether the \$2 million represents the total that is owed by the Government to private health institutions? Or, is there any outstanding sum outside the \$2 million that he has represented here this evening?

Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith: Mr. Vice-President, the Minister of Health is out of the country today that is why I have answered but I do not know. The figure that I have given is the amount that was outstanding for work done between January and May of this year.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, again, I am sorry to put my honourable colleague in this situation, but we on this side would like to know whether there is a continuation of use by the Government of these private health institutions? Is the Minister aware of that still taking place, or is everything back to normal with the arrival of the Cuban doctors?

Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith: Mr. Vice-President, again, I do not have that information. I am sure the hon. Senator has contacts in all these places and he can find out.

Excessive Bank Charges (Steps to Regulate)

92. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Minister of Finance:

In order to arrest the continued imposition of excessive bank charges levelled on private citizens with limited savings in the pursuit of excess profit by the banks, could the Minister state what steps, if any, are being taken by the Minister of Finance to regulate commercial banks from arbitrarily imposing and raising bank charges?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President, as a Government our vision 2020 for the development of Trinidad and Tobago puts capital emphasis on making people our priority. Part of this goal

is the alleviation of poverty amongst our citizenry. One link to this goal of alleviation of poverty is the management of money.

Towards this end, an alarm was sounded by the Minister of Legal Affairs with regard to the issue of bank charges and fees imposed on consumers. This was done against a background of numerous reports lodged with the Consumer Affairs Division of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and innumerable letters and feature articles published in the press, highlighting what consumers described as unfair treatment by the banking sector. There has always been a very strong undercurrent of official and customer concern and discontent about the range of level of bank charges. This becomes more voluble in periods, such as the present, when revenue for fees and charges for banking services are on the rise, and when banks enjoy an increasing share of income and profits. It is for this reason that the Minister of Legal Affairs, in the interest of consumers and the national community as a whole, raised the issue of transaction charges, whilst contributing to the debate on the 2002/2003 Appropriation Bill.

The hon. Minister thereafter embarked on a series of initiatives, with a view to alleviating these problems on behalf of consumers. In this regard, within two months of the debate, collaborative meetings were held with the Governor of the Central Bank and later with representatives of the Bankers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago. Following these meetings, it was determined that because operations of commercial banks in Trinidad and Tobago are governed by the Central Bank, under the Central Bank Act, Chap. 79:02, immediate steps would be taken by the Central Bank, in collaboration with the Consumer Affairs Division to establish a consultancy aimed at assessing the operations of the banking sector. In particular, the consultancy sought to collect data related to the scope of information regarding fees that was provided to consumers by banks, and whether this information was communicated in a manner that would allow consumers to make informed decisions.

The consultancy targeted four areas: banking charges, savings accounts, loan facilities and banking services. The results of the study—*[Interruption]* Mr. Vice-President, may I be allowed to answer the question? If the hon. Senator does not want the answer I would sit.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, time and time again, I have asked for us to desist from disturbing—common sense and good manners could eliminate our having to refer to the book on Standing Orders all of the time. Could we just do the right thing? Sen. R. Montano, please, do not disturb. Allow the answer to be completed. There is a period for you to ask your questions. Thank you.

Sen. R. Montano: The hon. Attorney General is not answering the question.

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. R. Montano, please, I am on my feet. I have advised that you allow the Attorney General to finish answering the question and then you can ask your questions.

Sen. R. Montano: Very well.

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. The results of the study have been used by the Consumer Affairs Division, to heighten the awareness of the citizenry regarding bank charges and fees via consumer tips published in the daily newspapers and other programmes in the media.

Arising out of meetings with the Bankers' Association, the assurance was given to the Minister of Legal Affairs that her concerns expressed on behalf of the people of Trinidad and Tobago would be communicated to its Members. Since then, there have been two significant developments. First, all commercial banks entered into a new agreement with the utility companies reversing bill payment charges to customers. This was indicated in a letter dated June 16, 2003 to the hon. Minister of Legal Affairs, from the President of the Bankers' Association. The letter states:

“...I am happy to say that the new agreement came into effect on June 01, 2003, whereby each utility company will pay to each bank a fee of \$3.00 plus VAT per transaction. You will be pleased to note that, as stated previously, our individual customers will not be required to pay a service charge when they use our teller service to pay their utility bills.

We look forward to working with you in future on matters of mutual interest.”

The second significant development occurred recently when a leading commercial bank introduced the annual percentage rate (APR), as the means of quoting interest rates. Such an initiative would bring relief to customers who have long lamented the inexplicable and onerous add-on rate that has been a serious bone of contention. This development is in support of Government's policy outlined in its *Social, Economic and Reform Policy Framework 2003/2005*, which states, in part, the Government is committed to promoting the continued development of the banking sector in line with our vision for the development of our economy which includes making Trinidad and Tobago a major financial sector, not only in the Caribbean but also in the western hemisphere. The use of APR, which is the only acceptable way of quoting interest rates in many developed

countries, is a precursor to this Government's progressive vision. We anticipate that other banks would follow suit.

Another leading commercial bank, which has been most responsive to the appeals of the Minister of Legal Affairs to reduce fees and charges to customers, has made small but significant steps in that direction. With respect to consumers with personal chequing accounts, whereas previously they were charged the given fee for 10 transactions, deposit or withdrawals, the same fee is now being charged for 10 withdrawals, and deposits being free of charge.

In addition, the practice was that customers having overdrawn savings accounts were required to pay a fee per item on that account. The same fee is currently being charged on overdrawn balances once per month. Customers of that bank have also benefited from having a standard charge for unlimited standing orders where they previously paid the same fee for each standing order.

The honorable Senate and, by extension, the people of Trinidad and Tobago must feel assured that this Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, in particular, remain committed to working with all stakeholders such as the Central Bank, the commercial banks and banking customers, to ensure that consumers are fairly treated.

Thank you.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I do not know if the hon. Attorney General could indicate specifically—whilst what she has said are small steps—what measures are being taken by the Governor of the Central Bank, in collaboration with the Minister of Finance, to address the arbitrary imposition of all kinds of service charges and other bank charges on ordinary consumers? At the end of the year banks are making half a billion dollars in profits. So we really want to find out what steps and measures were being taken by the Governor of the Central Bank and the Minister of Finance to ease the burden on the ordinary citizenry, given the hefty and unfair level of bank charges that are currently being imposed on the population at will by these commercial banks?

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, as you know, the Government is committed to doing a reduction in the reserve requirement. At this time there are discussions between the Governor and the banks to ensure that whenever we do the reserve requirement reduction some of the benefits will, in fact, be passed on to the consumers. That discussion is ongoing. It has not yet been concluded, but it is a significant part of moving forward.

As it relates to the other issue, the question of arbitrariness and those issues, all the costs that are associated with business are reflected in particular transactions and the consumer has a choice. I think the Ministry of Legal Affairs sought to make sure that the consumer was aware of that information so that he or she could make a more informed decision.

Additionally, during the last year, we have put in place the Banking Ombudsman, whose responsibility, in part, is to look at issues like that coming from consumers, and to make appropriate recommendations to the Central Bank.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, could the hon. Minister in the Ministry of Finance indicate to us whether he intends to follow in his colleague's footsteps, the Minister of Consumer Affairs? Just as how they sought to impose guidelines, and action was taken to bring the poultry producers into line, what steps would the Minister in the Ministry of Finance be prepared to take as it relates to the bankers in this country? Are we going to follow the same steps that we took in the case of the poultry producers?

Sen. The Hon. C. Enill: Mr. Vice-President, the financial services sector is one that deals with people's finances over the long term. Therefore, this particular Minister is not going to do anything to interfere with the financial services sector. However, insofar as charges seemed to be exorbitant, we would continue to ensure that whatever benefit we pass on to the bankers, some portion goes back to the consumers.

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, is the hon. Attorney General aware that the annual percentage rate (APR) is not the same as the actual rate of interest charged? By just moving it from the add-on rate to the annual percentage rate, the banks still have the opportunity to mislead the general public of Trinidad and Tobago. As far as the United National Congress and I are concerned, the public of Trinidad and Tobago, in this case, are the major stakeholders and not the banks.

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: Mr. Vice-President, I do not think that was intended for a response. That is really to debate the point.

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, it is intended for a response. Is the hon. Attorney General aware that the annual percentage rate is not the same as actual interest charged? Dumb!

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. R. Montano, could you please withdraw the last statement?

Sen. R. Montano: That the APR is not—

Mr. Vice-President: The last word!

Sen. R. Montano: Either you are aware?

Mr. Vice-President: What was the last word you said?

Sen. R. Montano: I cannot remember, but whatever it is—

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. R. Montano, please take your seat.

Sen. R. Montano: Thank you.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senator, I would like to advise that you refrain from being tempted to go overboard.

Sen. R. Montano: Of course.

Mr. Vice-President: Please, Sen. R. Montano! You know I have been a teacher for 39 years and I usually tell bad boys in the class to give someone else a chance to give trouble. Sen. R. Montano, could we please be discreet and respectful of the Senate, and could we not toss any remarks across the floor that could be considered disrespectful?

Sen. R. Montano: Of course.

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. R. Montano, I have asked you to do something and I would just like you to do it.

2.00 p.m.

**CEPEP Compost Sites
(Details of)**

124. Sen. Sadiq Baksh asked the hon. Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment:

- A. Could the Minister inform this Senate of the exact location, address, light pole number and/or directions to sites (location) of all compost sites established under the CEPEP programme to date?
- B. Could the Minister also provide the names and addresses of the CEPEP contractors responsible for the various sites?
- C. Could the Minister inform this Senate of the amount paid to the contractors for the establishment and upkeep of these sites?

The Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment (Sen. The Hon. Rennie Dumas): Mr. Vice-President, information with respect to the location,

address, directions to all the compost sites, as well as the names of the contractors under the CEPEP Programme as at June 2003 are as follows.

Area one—St. Ann's East. The location of the compost site is 30 metres from the recreation area along Waterfall Road, Maracas Valley, St. Joseph. The contractor is Dockland Services. The address is Post Office Box 4974, Tunapuna.

Area number two—Tunapuna. The location of the compost site is 60 metres east of Timbasson Junction, Caura valley. The contractor is Agronomics Incorporated Limited. The address is 9 Ramcharran Street, Tunapuna.

The area of Diego Martin West—La Horquette Valley Road, La Horquette. This site was removed because of vandalism. The contractor is Iardanus Limited of 37 Cipriani Boulevard, Port of Spain.

I am sure that the Senator is satisfied. Thank you.

The following question stood on the Order Paper in the name of Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand:

**Red House Restoration
(Status of)**

125. Could the Minister as Leader of the House and as Chairman of the House Committee of the House of Representatives make an up-to-date statement on the status of restoration work on the Red House indicating:

- A. All the work already completed?
- B. The work scheduled to be completed over the next six months?
- C. The extent to which the concerns of Members as represented by the House Committee of the House who are responsible for all matters relating to the convenience and comfort of Members are being taken into account? And
- D. Whether he would welcome the opportunity to provide up-to-date information to Members of Parliament in response to a question like this being asked every six months?

Sen. Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie: Mr. Vice-President, as you know, Sen. Prof. Ramchand is on leave and did not give me permission to put forward the question on his behalf. I ask that the answer be deferred for another time.

Question, by leave, deferred.

**State Bodies/Boards
(Non-Appointment of Members)**

126. Sen. Robin Montano asked the hon. Attorney General:

- A. Would the Minister please provide a list of all bodies, statutory authorities, boards, commissions or any other tribunals established by law and intended to exercise judicial or quasi-judicial functions but the members of whom up to June 15, 2003 have not been appointed?
- B. Would the Minister please state whether or not citizens' rights are being infringed by the State's refusal and/or neglect and/or omission to appoint and/or duly constitute such bodies?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. The information being sought by the hon. Senator is not clear as no focused time period has been specified. A determination of a list of all bodies, statutory authorities, boards, commissions or any other tribunals established by law and intended to exercise judicial or quasi-judicial functions but the members of whom up to June 15, 2003 have not been appointed could conceivably require an examination of all the laws in force since independence. It is also unclear whether the answer to the question should be limited to those cases where none of the required members have been appointed.

Another possible interpretation of the question could be that information should also be provided where, say, there is a vacancy, one vacancy, on any board. In the circumstances, Mr. Vice-President, it is impossible for me to provide an oral answer to question No. 126.

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, perhaps I could help the hon. Attorney General a little. The intent of the question, I thought, was clear and the intent was this: to find out basically up to June 15, 2003 what statutory authorities, boards, commissions or any other tribunals established by law and intended to exercise judicial or quasi-judicial functions were functioning or not because of the non-appointment of the members.

Now, obviously, if one member has not been appointed, the tribunal can function, but my information is, Mr. Vice-President, that there are a number of bodies, statutory authorities, boards, commissions and tribunals established by law which are supposed to exercise judicial or quasi-judicial functions which are simply not functioning and, as a result of that, citizens' rights are being infringed. Well, the Attorney General does not want to answer it, what a surprise; what a

surprise. Do not answer. Do not tell the public; but I have never heard such nonsense in my life.

**Piarco Airport Runway Overlay Project
(Details of)**

127. Sen. Sadiq Baksh asked the hon. Minister of Works and Transport:

- A. Could the Minister state whether there was a pre-qualification exercise for the Piarco Airport Runway Overlay Project?
- B. If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, could the Minister inform this Senate of:
 - (i) the names of the contractors who qualified?
 - (ii) how many of those contractors submitted responsive bids to the tender?
 - (iii) the number of tenders received?
- C. The name of the contractor awarded the contract and the value of the contract inclusive of VAT?

The Minister of Works and Transport (Hon. Franklin Khan): In response to question No. 127A, yes, a pre-qualification exercise was undertaken for the Piarco Airport runway overlay project. However, the pre-qualification exercise took place after the responsive stage. Because of the answer to part A, it will make more sense answering part B(iii) coming up.

Part B (iii)—seven tenders were received for the project.

B(ii)—the responsive six bids were as follows:

Aztec Pavers Limited	Lutchmeesingh Construction Limited
Jusamco Pavers Limited	Seereeram Brothers Limited
Super Industrial Systems Limited	Trinidad Contractors Limited.

In response to part B(i) the name of the contractors who qualified are as follows: Lutchmeesingh Construction Limited, Jusamco Pavers Limited and Seereeram Brothers Limited.

In response to part C, the name of the successful contractor is Jusamco Pavers Limited at a contract sum of \$23,078,652.74 VAT inclusive.

**EXTRADITION (COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN
TERRITORIES) (EXTRADITABLE OFFENCES) ORDER**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Knowlson Gift): Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name:

Whereas section 6(5) of the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, 1985 provides that the Attorney General may by Order, subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament, amend the First Schedule of the said Act;

And whereas the Attorney General for the purpose of amending the said First Schedule has on the 23rd day of June, 2003 made an Order entitled, The Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) (Extradition Offences) Order, 2003;

And whereas it is expedient that the Order be now affirmed;

Be it resolved that the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) (Extraditable Offences) Order, 2003 be now affirmed.

Mr. Vice-President, Members of this honourable Senate, we have before us for affirmation an Order entitled the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) (Extraditable Offences) Order, 2003. The Order was made by the Attorney General on June 23, 2003 in accordance with the powers vested in her by section 6(5) of the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, 1985. Section 6(5) of the 1985 Extradition Act also requires that every Order so made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament. The purpose of this Order is to be found at clause 2 which states that:

“The First Schedule to the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, 1985 is amended by adding the following offences:

- ‘33. Offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1987;
- 34. Offences under the Computer Misuse Act, 2000;
- 35. Offences under the Electronic Transfer of Funds Crime Act, 2000.’”

States require international instruments and cooperative arrangements to provide the legal framework to fight crime. This amendment puts Trinidad and Tobago in a better position to defend itself and its nationals against crimes relating to corruption, computer misuse and electronic transfer of funds as well as

Extradition (Extraditable Offences) Order
[SEN. THE HON. K. GIFT]

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to play its part in the international effort to combat these kinds of crimes. The main objective of the Order is to strengthen the capability of Trinidad and Tobago to respond to legitimate requests from other states for mutual assistance in these areas and also to put this country in a position to seek assistance from other states in respect of these crimes. This Order, in consonance with the law as stated in the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, 1985 merely seeks to assist and receive assistance from other states in respect of the investigation and prosecution of crimes relating to corruption, computer misuse and electronic transfer of funds.

Mr. Vice-President, solidarity and cooperation between countries in this field is not the fruit of any generosity of spirit. It is in fact reflective of the collective responsibility and concrete interest of all international actors that have a stake in ensuring that the society in which we live is free of the scourge of drug trafficking, money laundering and other electronic, economic and organized crimes which, by threatening socio-economic development, political stability and the internal and external security of states do so much to reduce the quality of life of all citizens. This Order represents an increment step in this larger effort.

In conclusion, Mr. Vice-President, I am sure that Senators will agree that this Order is a simple one indeed and that the rationale for it is very clear. The danger our society faces from crime is unprecedented and unparalleled. I therefore unhesitatingly recommend, Mr. Vice-President, that hon. Members of this Senate support affirmation of the Order entitled the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) (Extraditable Offences) Order, 2003 as made by the Attorney General on June 23, 2003 under section 6(5) of the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, 1985.

Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move. [*Desk thumping*]

Question proposed.

Sen. Wade Mark: [*Desk thumping*] Mr. Vice-President, the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs has provided us with a very brief insight into this matter this afternoon. I join this debate by indicating to you that this particular Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act of 1985 covers under the First Schedule of the Act itself a list of offences—I think there are some 30—and there are some others that were brought about as a result of amendments and, of course, these offences include murder, fraud, manslaughter, rape, drug trafficking, and a number of other offences. Sometime ago the State also incorporated offences under the Treason Act and any other indictable offences under the Firearms Act.

Mr. Vice-President, it was under the United National Congress administration that the fight against corruption—because you remember in this particular schedule you have offences related to bribery and corruption and it was the United National Congress that, in 1998, signed and ratified the 1996 Inter-American Convention on Corruption. It was the UNC in 1997, along with some 92 other countries that signed the Lima Declaration on Corruption.

Now, Mr. Vice-President, as you are aware, these international conventions provide guidelines to facilitate better investigation, prosecution and prevention of corruption. So whilst we have been accused by the other side of all kinds of acts, the reality is that it was the UNC that signed on these particular agreements and, further, it was the UNC that brought into being the Integrity in Public Life Act of 2000. However, when we listened to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in terms of the fight against drug trafficking and corruption and crime, you would believe that, for instance, his administration led the struggle or led the fight in this particular battle but the record is very plain that the PNM, the ruling party, during its 40 years or more of existence, never introduced a single piece of legislation to address the issue of corruption in Trinidad and Tobago.

Do you recall, Mr. Vice-President, it was the NAR in 1987 that introduced the first piece of legislation on integrity matters called the Integrity in Public Life Act of 1987? We would hope that as we speak to the issue of extradition—and I am glad to see that the hon. Minister of National Security is back here. I thought we would have had to extradite him from England because the rate of crime in this land—he was probably a little too comfortable whilst he was in London. Mr. Vice-President, the reality is that we would like, as we deal with extradition matters and as we focus on corruption and bribery and drug trafficking, the hon. Attorney General to take the opportunity very rapidly to introduce into this Parliament the integrity forms.

We feel that the forms that are needed to really address the assets, the income, the earnings of public officials, including us in Parliament, could be addressed very rapidly, Mr. Vice-President. This is why we believe that this particular matter of extradition as it relates to the issues that he has outlined and the fact that this particular Act has addressed a number of very important offences, it is important that the PNM address in a very positive way the issue of corruption in not only the Act but within their very ranks, because, you know, it is easy when we come here to debate a Motion like this to be very brief and to make statements as to the purpose of this Motion, but we would like the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to address a lot of issues that continue to disturb our country, our population.

Mr. Vice-President, I was just reading on Sunday—I do not know if you read this same article—but I read somewhere in the Sunday newspaper where one, I think, Mr. Michael Williams, a former President of the Senate, was making reference to what he considers to be the PNM's performance in office. Whilst we talk about corruption and bribery as they relate to this extradition Motion, and we on this side are being pilloried almost every day by the other side and accused of all kinds of acts of corruption, here we have one Mr. Michael Williams, on page 8 of the *Sunday Guardian*—I was shocked, coming from the mouth of Mr. Michael Williams, where he says 20 years after, that is the PNM, any transaction, and I quote:

“I believe myself that what is delaying the PNM from performing today as occurred 20 years ago, was that before they made any transaction they had to make a deal.”

He went on in this article to outline deals that are taking place within the PNM. So whilst we are dealing with an extradition order focusing on bribery and corruption and drug trafficking and new offences, we also have to focus on whether the PNM has put its house in order in Trinidad and Tobago because we are seeing where the chickens are coming home to roost at this time.

Mr. Vice-President, you are aware, as I am, that all kinds of developments are taking place under the very eyes of the Attorney General at this time and we would like her to take action on them. We would like, as we deal with bribery and corruption under the extradition treaty that some attention be paid to what is happening in WASA. We have not forgotten WASA, Mr. Vice-President. We have not forgotten the misbehaviour in public office by commissioners attached to the board of WASA, including its chairman. We have not and we will not forget the \$40 million that has gone missing in the Water Farms scandal and we would hope that as we deal with extradition, bribery and corruption, that the PNM and the Attorney General would not only confine themselves to exporting criminals but they would also look at what is taking place within their own household and rank.

We would like, Mr. Vice-President, as we speak to this issue, to examine what is taking place as it relates to bribery in our land as well. You know, there is a chap called Mr. Bob Lindquist who you would have known is a foreign forensic accountant. He is a foreigner. We are talking about bribery, we are talking about corruption, and he seems to be the major corruption buster for the PNM at this time. That is the same Bob Lindquist who could not even find the paper trail for some \$30 million in the Water Farms scandal—a cover-up, watered-down report submitted by him to this country.

Do you know what has happened, Mr. Vice-President, to the so-called bribery and corruption under this Extradition Act? We have a situation where the scandal that took place in the Piarco enquiry some time ago, that report has now been referred to the gentleman. Why was that report not referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions? Why? You know why, Mr. Vice-President? We expect a cover-up. We expect, for instance, Bob Lindquist, the hired mercenary of the PNM, to manufacture whatever he has to manufacture, and we hope that the Attorney General will pay attention in this matter because the hon. Attorney General is supposed to be the guardian of our Constitution and she has to ensure that the rights of people are properly defended in this land and not violated, but then, Mr. Vice-President, as you are aware, the AG herself is in trouble. *[Interruption]* Yes, I am coming to the treaty, man. Do not worry.

Mr. Vice-President, I want to find out from you, Sir, where was this treaty, where was this Extradition Act, when we had Johnny O'Halloran leaving this country, millions of dollars of taxpayers' money being taken along? We had this Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act since 1985 but these people were able to get away scot-free. Where was the PNM in dealing with these matters?

The Order that is now before us, as I understand it, is aimed at expanding the number of crimes which will now attract extradition proceedings. That is what I understand this Order to be. Computer crimes are supposed to be incorporated. Credit card fraud under the Computer Misuse Act of 2000 and Electronic Transfer of Funds Act, these are some of the offences coming with these respective Acts that are now supposed to be incorporated into this present Act and this is why the Motion is before us. However, the question that we must ask is whether—and maybe the Attorney General could answer this—the central authority, which we understand is now responsible for extradition proceedings and matters, located in the Attorney General's office, is really up to the task. In other words, Mr. Vice-President, does that authority have the resources, the material, the financial and the human resources to tackle this most important issue?

We would like to know because we are being asked to affirm a Motion where certain additional crimes or offences would be incorporated and there is an authority established in law that is responsible for addressing these issues of extradition proceedings. I think it is important for us as parliamentarians, as Members of the Senate, to have an update on this central authority. We want to know, for instance, its composition. We want to know what kind of resources it has in order to execute its duties, or maybe the Attorney General could tell us

about this central authority, because we have been hearing all kinds of stories coming out of the Attorney General's office and we need to find out what is the truth. Many allegations have been coming out fast and furious and we need to understand what is taking place in the Attorney General's department. We believe that the whole question of competence becomes critical in the context of this exercise, in the context of the central authority, Mr. Vice-President.

The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke about dangers facing our society as they relate to crime. I wonder, whilst we are seeking to ensure that new offences are incorporated under the Extradition Act of 1985, including serious crime committed by citizens of our country in other countries, whether the Minister is aware of the state of affairs in this land. Mr. Vice-President, Trinidad and Tobago is in the grip of a crime wave and the Minister of National Security is sleeping on the job. He has been sleeping since he was appointed. He has not awakened from his slumber and then you have the Prime Minister of this country, the glib-speaking Prime Minister, in an article in the *Guardian* on Friday, September 12, saying, on the murder of Vernon Roopnarine—the headline, “New group on the prowl”.

What does the Prime Minister mean by this, Mr. Vice-President? A man is murdered. We do not hear from the Minister of National Security, we hear from the Prime Minister. He says, “There is a new group on the prowl”. Who is this new group? Who are the members of this new group? He does not say. He goes on in the same article, this same column, and there is a headline, “T&T a very secure country”. Where is the Prime Minister living? Is he orbiting in space, Mr. Vice-President? We do not know the name of the old group because the Prime Minister is on record as saying that there is a new group. We are talking about crime, Mr. Vice-President, and we have a Prime Minister saying that there is a new group kidnapping people in this country. So we want to know the old group. Who were the old group members and who are now the new group members? Maybe the Minister of National Security can tell us, or the Attorney General.

Mr. Vice-President, I do not know about you but I can tell you that the citizens of this country are living in fear and we come here to deal with an extradition Motion to add additional crimes or offences to the Order, and in Trinidad and Tobago there is disorder and chaos. As you would be aware, Sir, we are talking about crime. The Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke in his presentation about the serious nature of crime and why they have to tackle this issue under the extradition arrangement. Some group of bandits used the Internet service to get a text message to some 40,000 citizens last Sunday between the hours of 8.17 p.m.

right up to the time when TSTT had to stop their main server, because it was coming in fast and furious. Criminals are operating at all levels and the Government is sleeping whilst citizens are insecure, and the Prime Minister tells the people that this country is more secure than most other countries in the world! He is a dreamer.

Mr. Vice-President, would you believe, a message coming on your cell—crime—hear what it says:

“Handle your real business before you lose your daughter. That is if you still care.”

The next day, a prominent south businessman’s daughter, 26 years, just got married, “she gone”, they kidnapped her. We have heard nothing from the Minister of National Security on this matter. This is a serious thing and we are talking about extradition, new crimes and new offences when the Minister of National Security of this country has not addressed the nation on this crisis where a person can now hack into the system and send out text messages threatening people in this country, and nobody does anything about it and the Prime Minister says that Trinidad and Tobago is the most secure country in the world!

I raise these issues because the Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke about the serious dangers in the society as they relate to crime and that is why we need to ensure that these additional offences are incorporated under this particular Motion in question. Mr. Vice-President, I do not know if you are aware but I would ask the foreign Minister through you, how is this new Order going to help facilitate extradition proceedings involving criminal elements who misuse the computer in order to promote crime, as we have seen in the text message? I also want to find out whether this Order that has been brought here is not a time-wasting exercise. Is it a waste of time? I ask and I want to develop on this.

Mr. Vice-President, as parliamentarians, when we are adding new offences to the Act in question, one of the things that we must ensure at all times is that there is evidential compatibility between the laws of Trinidad and Tobago and those countries with which we have an extradition treaty or arrangement. I make reference to the fact that, as far as we are concerned, our laws, based on the research that we have conducted, especially the Computer Misuse Act of 2000, this particular Act is incompatible and inconsistent with that of the United Kingdom.

So here it is, Mr. Vice-President, we are adding to the First Schedule of the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act additional offences—

credit card fraud and misuse of computers—electronic crimes. The question that we have to ask is, the Act that currently governs the misuse of computers in this country and the illegal electronic transfer of moneys through credit card fraud, among other things, is it compatible? We would like the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs—because if the Act is not compatible, then why are we seeking to have passed a Motion that would have no real consequence at the end of the day? Would it not have been better to make the necessary amendments to the Acts in question where the offences originate before this Motion is brought to the Parliament? That is why I am asking whether we are not engaging in parliamentary acrobatics. It is a waste of time and I would like the learned Attorney General to advise us on this matter, whether there is a gap between what I call the evidential compatibility of the laws here in Trinidad and Tobago and the laws of the United Kingdom and other territories with which we have these extradition arrangements.

Now, Mr. Vice-President, we are committed to and we support action against anyone found guilty of criminal activity as outlined in the First Schedule of this Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act. Make no mistake about that. We have always maintained, those who do the crime must do the time. We have no problem with that whatsoever but there must be fairness, there must be independence and there must be equality in the process and we do not want anyone to be used like Bob Lindquist to manufacture charges in an effort to just embarrass the Opposition United National Congress.

I would charge today in this Parliament that the Attorney General has no confidence in the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The Prime Minister does not have confidence in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions because, if they had, Mr. Vice-President, that Piarco report, the scandal report, the tainted report, the discredited report, would have been sent, if it had any basis, to the Director of Public Prosecutions and not to a hired mercenary in the personality of Bob Lindquist who is now a paid hand of the PNM. Whatever they tell Bob Lindquist to do he does because he gets money from the PNM, and I understand he is getting millions of dollars from the public purse. So he is a discredited person. He should leave this country. Let us have our own people investigate ourselves. We have an office called the DPP. Let the DPP investigate people in this country. We do not want Bob Lindquist to come and investigate us. He has been tainted already, particularly with the Water Farms scandal.

So, Mr. Vice-President, we are in support of extraditing criminals as we have done whilst we were there. We extradited a number of people to the United States

as you recall, Sir. We want to ensure that whatever Motion we are debating, at the end of the day it is not a waste of time and, therefore, if there is faulty legislation, we call on the Attorney General to address it forthwith. *[Interruption]* No, I am saying if there is a lacuna in the law—*[Interruption]*

Yes, you know that. The only thing that does not change is change. You know that. Nothing is constant, Dr. Saith. Everything moves. *[Interruption]* You know that. Everything moves. *[Interruption]* Everything moves. *[Interruption]* No, not to change Panday; I think they must change Manning and put Joan. “Yuh see, Joan vex since de last time ah talk, you know. She still vex, yuh know. She ain’ recover yet.” *[Interruption]* Sen. The Hon. Joan Yuille-Williams.

Sen. Yuille-Williams: Last week I allowed him to do it. He said all sorts of things, including the fact that I resigned from the PNM and “all kind ah t’ing”. I am not going to stand for that this year because it stays on the record. Just tell him to—

Sen. Dr. Saith: Withdraw it.

Sen. Yuille-Williams: You know, you need to address people in the Senate properly. I am tired with you.

Sen. W. Mark: Oh no, no. Mr. Vice-President, that is a lady—*[Interruption]*

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark.

Sen. W. Mark: Yes Sir.

Mr. Vice-President: Could we try not to say those things?

Sen. W. Mark: Yes Sir.

Mr. Vice-President: And could we just stick with the matter being debated?

Sen. W. Mark: We shall have conversation behind the Chair. You know, I like her very much. She is a very decent lady; very decent lady. “In spite ah all de pressure dey putting on Joan, I love her and I will always support her.” I know she is in trouble, Sir, but I support her. *[Interruption]* She would make an excellent Prime Minister of this country.

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, please, please?

Sen. W. Mark: Sorry, sorry Sir. Let me get back to this thing.

Mr. Vice-President, another concern of the UNC as it relates to this Motion before the honourable Senate is what we consider the absence of proper control and monitoring of our borders. If we are going to extradite persons and we cannot

deal with our internal criminals—if you never patrol your borders and you have to extradite a criminal and he is aware that you are coming for him, he will slip out. As we know right now the police are looking for people. “Dey cyar find dem. Dey in Guyana, in de high jungles of Guyana—cannot locate them.” So I would like the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to pay attention to this question of proper control and monitoring of our borders, Mr. Vice-President. We need to patrol our borders. Our borders are—the patrols are poor, poor.

When the UNC was in office, we revitalized and re-energized the defence forces of our land. We established radar surveillance throughout Trinidad and Tobago where we could have seen what was happening on the high seas, what was coming in and what was going out, Mr. Vice-President. Today I understand things have collapsed under the PNM and you know what is going on. The reality is, this regime cannot even protect its citizens far less extradite citizens. Before you extradite, try to protect your own. People are dying here like flies. People are living in fear. “You born here, you live here, what kind ah economy we have here, Mr. Vice-President? You cyar talk about economic freedom when you cyar earn. You work hard, you earn your dollars, you cyar spend dem because some bandit say that you have money that he wants”, and they are murdering people in the process; and the Minister tells the whole country he sleeps well at nights?

Sen. R. Montano: Of course he does.

Sen. W. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I believe that the PNM is not to be blamed. “De PNM say doh blame them fuh nutten.” The time has come for “de people to fire de PNM”. They should have an election here you know, very soon, because people are “fed up of de PNM already, fed up wid dem—just fool de people”, as Williams said here. “Dey talk one thing on de platform but one ah de most corrupt regime that we have right now is the PNM”. Imagine, Mr. Vice-President, Michael Williams said they were supposed to construct a building for \$100 million and “because dey partner ain’ get de contract they re-invite tenders”. This is coming from Mr. Michael Williams—\$100 million. All that is part of the question of criminal activity under the extradition treaty.

It is our view that the crime situation is very frightening. Mr. Vice-President, are you aware that on Saturday, within the space of 12 hours, four citizens of this country were murdered? Sen. Rennie Dumas, within the space of 12 hours, four persons were murdered in this country and one person was kidnapped. Mr. Vice-President, Tobago—you are a great Tobagonian person like my colleague here, Sen. Dumas, but the crime disease, the crime virus, has now infected Tobago. Tobago is in trouble with crime now. So we feel that the Minister has a Motion

which, if he does not provide the necessary mechanisms and infrastructure to ensure that it works, will not work. So you come here to get our support on a matter and, at the end of the day, the infrastructure is not there to make sure it does work.

Mr. Vice-President, are you aware that we have failed to establish in this country in the year 2003, after some 40 years of PNM rule, misrule, mismanagement, corruption, squandermania—you know, Mr. Vice-President, we do not have a proper computerized database that could easily identify criminals in a flash? “We doh have it, buh we talking about extradition, you know, Mr. Vice-President.” How can we talk about extraditing criminals when this country does not have, as we speak, a properly well-constituted computerized database? How are you going to fight crime? “You could talk crime buh yuh cyar fight crime” and, if you want to fight crime to deal with the criminals who we have to extradite to whichever Commonwealth country, you have to invest in high technology—high-tech—because the criminals have gone high-tech.

Today they can send a text message to you and me, Mr. Vice-President, and say, “We coming for you” and nobody—there is no system in place. They have to send the matter to the Anti-Kidnapping Squad (AKS). If you have a central authority or you have some competent group of people to investigate these matters, Mr. Vice-President, where is the competence? So we would ask the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, as he concludes when he winds up his presentation, to tell us what steps are being taken by his administration to establish a proper computerized database. We want him to tell us what steps are being taken to deal with that. The PNM cannot fight crime, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs is aware of that, because the PNM is in alliance with the criminals. How can you fight crime when you are in alliance with the criminals? You call them community leaders.

Mr. Vice-President, I do not know if you look at international news from time to time but I was shocked to see that Trinidad and Tobago was featured prominently on the screen of CNN over the weekend—13 babies killed at the Mount Hope Medical Complex—13—and I saw it on CNN the whole of Saturday afternoon. “We making international news, yuh know”, but not the type that we would like. We like more positive news coming out of Trinidad and Tobago.

So, Mr. Vice-President, we would indicate to you that this question is one in which we would like the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to let us know, as he adds additional offences under this particular Order and Schedule, whether the ability and skills are there to monitor and detect these new types of crime. If we

are talking about high-tech, we are talking about misuse of computers and we are talking about the electronic transfer of funds in terms of credit card fraud, could the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs tell this Parliament what skills and abilities exist to monitor and detect these new types of crime so that we can arrest these persons who are guilty of them?

What system exists, Mr. Vice-President? Where are the competent and capable persons to deal with these matters? I believe that the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs should provide us with some answers. We have no difficulty with a Motion that deals with the question of crime, adding new offences to the Schedule and to deal with those elements who are guilty of criminal activity in our midst as outlined under the First Schedule of the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act. What we are saying is that the Government has to first put its house in order, deal with crime in Trinidad and Tobago first, make sure that your citizens and their properties are secured and protected.

Mr. Vice-President, I saw and heard on television sometime ago the gentleman, whose daughter is now in the hands of criminals in this country, saying “he ge’ing out”. He is leaving. People are leaving. Mr. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sen. The Hon. Knowlson Gift, people are scared, they are frightened, and we want to know what the Government is doing. If the Government continues to allow the situation to slide as it is sliding, people will have to take to the streets of this country, you know! We will have to take to the streets and remove you!

If the Government does not want to tackle the criminals because they are in bed with them, then the masses of people will be mobilized to get rid of the PNM! [*Desk thumping*] We have to save our country. If the PNM cannot protect us, we cannot allow ourselves to be fenced around with all kind “ah”—in steel jungles against them because the PNM is not doing anything to protect the country. We must mobilize the country, get all the NGOs, all the business organizations and the labour organizations and march against the PNM and get rid of them as quickly as possible because they are the problem.

Mr. Vice-President, I want to tell you, on this Motion, we have no difficulty. We support measures that, as far as we are concerned, are going to address crime. We want to deal with criminals but, at the same time, we want justice. We want justice. [*Interruption*] “No, we eh voting now.” We want justice and equality. “Dah is wha we want.” We want you to end discrimination. That is what we want. Until you provide justice, equality and fair play to the citizenry of this country, then you are in trouble.

So, Mr. Vice-President, on this simple measure as described by my colleague, there were grave implications and I took the opportunity to highlight some of these implications. I hope that my hon. colleague and friend, Sen. Knowlson Gift, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, would be able to treat with these issues and provide us with some clarification on these matters that I have raised.

With these few words, Mr. Vice-President, I thank you very much.

3.00 p.m.

Sen. Arnim Smith: Mr. Vice-President, I believe that any laws coming to this Senate now, should deal with the operations of the police service. We cannot deal with any level of crime in this country, if we do not seriously deal with the restructuring of and rogue cops in the police service. The public has absolutely no confidence in the police service, and so would not cooperate with the police. They would not give the police any information at all, regardless of our bringing any laws to get them to do so, because they feel that the police would “set them up” to lose their lives or to get kidnapped. Nobody is dealing with that.

We just have to look at the latest case of Shaun McLeod, and the outrage of the citizens of this country against the police. We are telling ourselves that we expect cooperation from the public to help the police do their job, but we must seriously bring laws to weed out the rogue police, the ones who are giving the entire police service a bad name, and to restore the public’s confidence in the police service.

In this country the police are brutalizing and arresting people. The police are involved in all kinds of bribery, kidnapping and corruption, left, right and centre, and nobody is prepared to deal with it seriously. This Government cannot be serious about dealing with crime if it allows what goes on in the police service to continue. If the police brutalize someone and the person takes the matter to court and wins, what happens? The State pays that person with the taxpayers’ money, but the policeman continues to be a member of the police service. There is nothing to discipline him.

In a case of two or three years ago, a policeman shot a man in his face in a bar. From my understanding, that policeman has now been promoted, even though the judge condemned the action of the police saying that there should be an investigation. Nobody is dealing with the police, yet we want to bring laws here to deal with crime! We cannot solve anything when we have a police service operating as a law unto itself.

Extradition Order
[SEN. SMITH]

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

While I am prepared to support this Bill, I will like to get a commitment from the Attorney General that very soon some kind of legislation would be brought to this Senate to clean up the police service.

I thank you.

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President, I would like to respond to two points made by Sen. Mark. *[Interruption]* *[Laughter]* Yes, I found two. One was the question with respect to the legislation, whether there were any flaws in the legislation relating to computer misuse. I think the Senator knows very well that there are some flaws in the legislation, although they would not affect what we are doing today. The flaws are in relation to admitting evidence from a computer, where you have to get somebody to say that the computer was or was not working at the time, and so on. That is being addressed in the Miscellaneous Provisions Bill that is at present being drafted to amend several defects in some of the legislation passed during his tenure.

With respect to the question of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), I think that we are all familiar with section 90 of the Constitution, which sets out the powers and functions of the DPP. Nowhere in section 90 would you see that the DPP is invested with investigative powers. So if you have certain evidence that really would not indicate that a charge should be made against a person, or if you have incomplete evidence, you do not send it to the DPP; you either engage the services of someone to get that evidence for you or you give it to the police, if the police have the capability of getting that evidence.

Mr. Vice-President, I refer Sen. Mark to section 90 of the Constitution, which sets out clearly in subsection (3) the powers of the DPP:

“to institute and undertake criminal proceedings against any person before any court and in respect of any offence against the laws of Trinidad and Tobago; to take over and continue any such criminal proceedings that may have been instituted by any other person or authority; and to discontinue at any stage before judgment is delivered any such criminal proceedings instituted or undertaken by himself or any other person or authority.”

His is really the function to institute and undertake proceedings; to determine whether he would continue or discontinue proceedings, as he has done in about 700 minor cases that were clogging up the courts. Therefore, as far as obtaining evidence is concerned, that is not under the purview of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Let me just point out that the purpose of the extradition is really to bring back the person, who is accused of whatever, to face the judicial process; in other words, to bring that person for prosecution. The actual procedure for initiating extradition proceedings is not a trial of the person; it is just a procedure based on prima facie evidence that you bring the person back to face the trial. [Interruption]

Mr. Vice-President, Sen. Smith did raise some good points in relation to the police. That is why we still have the Police Reform Bills before the Parliament, because we all know that we need reform in the police service; not only in the management and discipline, we do need it. He is really arguing the case for reform of the police service. Perhaps, having said what he has just said, he will certainly be supporting the Police Reform Bills. [Crosstalk]

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Knowlson Gift): Mr. Vice-President, the comments made by fellow Senators on this side of the Senate really facilitate my response to the questions posed both by Sen. Mark and his colleague on the other side.

We have before us an Order dealing specifically with extradition. It is merely an extension of the areas of crime, which the presently structured Act covers. Sen. Mark raised the question as to whether this action constitutes a waste of time. The response to that question is very obvious: it does not constitute a waste of time.

The present extradition Act under the First Schedule covers a multiplicity of areas involving crimes that are extraditable. Some of these, if I might list them, include murder, manslaughter, rape, abduction, child stealing, bigamy, fraud, arson, bribery and so forth. This Motion merely seeks to add three other offences to that list, which fall, more or less, under the same rubric.

It is clear, therefore, from events that we are witnessing even today, that the timeliness of this Order is extremely favourable. We have just seen examples of cases where offences involving the computer misuse may be relevant here. We have seen cases recently involving the electronic transfer of funds belonging to other people by fraudulent means. So that, indeed, it is not a question of asking whether these additions are in harmony with what already exists, the fact that there is a functioning extradition provision is a clear indication that adding two or three more crimes to the list does not entail one seeking the compatibility of these additions with what already exists out there.

Extradition (Extraditable Offences) Order
[SEN. THE HON. K. GIFT]

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

If I might just terminate here, Mr. Vice-President, insofar as the monitoring of our borders is concerned, already we have in existence a number of cooperation instruments with other countries around us, the closest of which, of course, is Venezuela. Indeed we have seen instances and evidence where when crimes of an extraditable nature are committed, the cooperation between both governments, from the standpoint of foreign affairs, is very self-evident. We have had instances where, by reason of the border patrols and other security measures and devices, extradition has been forthcoming from our neighbours to the south.

With these clarifications, Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) (Extraditable Offences) Order, 2003 be now affirmed. [*Interruption*]

POLICE SERVICE REFORM BILLS

Joint Select Committee Report (Adoption)

Mr. Vice-President: The Attorney General.

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President—[*Interruption*]

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order, I take it that what is happening now is that debate on the Motion that the Attorney General had last week is going to continue. If it is continuing, I wish to speak on that. The Attorney General has already spoken, and she only has a right of reply, so if you are calling on her to wind up this Motion that we were continuing from last week, I would like to speak on it. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Vice-President: Let me just clarify that, please. The Motion was ruled not proper for debate last week; it has been started over. Please proceed, Madam Attorney General.

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move the following Motion:

Be it resolved that this Senate adopt the Third Special Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Police Service Reform Bills, to wit:

- (i) The Constitution (Amdt.) Bill, 2002;
- (ii) The Police Service Bill, 2002; and
- (iii) The Police Complaints Authority Bill, 2002.

The purpose of this Motion is very simple. It is one, and only one, purpose, and a simple one at that. That purpose is contained on page 5 of the Report that is before this honourable Senate under "Recommendations". It is simply to save the work of the committee, since Parliament is being prorogued, so that the record of all that has been done before by your committee be preserved for the new committee to be appointed.

The procedure adopted by the committee, as was reported to the Senate.
[*Interruption*]

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order, with the greatest of respect, I am looking at Standing Orders 28, 29 and 30. As I understand it, what happened last week was that the Motion was adjourned to this week, and debate on the Motion was also adjourned. The Motion was not withdrawn to start again. As I understand it, if the Motion was withdrawn, Standing Order 30(1) kicks in:

"A motion may be withdrawn, at the request of the mover, after it has been moved by leave of the Senate..."

But then it may not be moved again in the same session according to Standing Order 30(2). What is happening?

The Attorney General presented the Motion last week. As I understand it, debate began on the Motion, and then the hon. Leader of Government Business in the Senate said, "Okay, we are going to stand it down and adjourn debate on the Motion", but the Motion was not withdrawn. If the Motion was withdrawn, then it has now fallen by the way, according to the Standing Orders. So with the greatest of respect, the Attorney General has no right, at this stage, to stand and move the Motion afresh. Debate, as I understand it, can continue, but the Attorney General has no right to move the Motion again. [*Crosstalk*]

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. R. Montano, I do not remember telling this Senate that the Motion was withdrawn. I said that the Motion was ruled improper for debate at the last sitting. The Motion was not withdrawn. [*Crosstalk*]

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: May I continue, Mr. Vice-President?

Mr. Vice-President: Yes.

Sen. The Hon. G. Morean: At the first meeting, the committee appointed a secretary, Mr. Neil Jaggassar, Parliamentary Clerk II. The committee is a parliamentary committee, and the Parliament secretariat provided secretarial services. On Friday 05, September, I was called by the secretary with respect to the report that is before us.

The object of the report, as was stated by the secretary, was to save the work of the committee; that was all. It was not necessary for a meeting to take place between the members of the committee, so the secretary, as any good secretary would have done, called all the members of the committee, including Sen. Mark, to find out whether he had any objection. Sen. Mark said that he had no objection. *[Interruption]* This is what I was told by the secretary. *[Interruption]* It is reported here.

The secretariat sent a clerk of the Parliament with the report to Sen. Mark's office for him to sign. According to the clerk of the Parliament, the report was given to the Senator, who was on the telephone speaking to someone by the name of "Gillian". He read out a part of the report to the person, and then handed it back to the clerk saying that he was not going to sign it. This report was seen by Sen. Mark before last Tuesday; it was also seen by him on the Friday.

Mr. Vice-President, notwithstanding the fact that the report was already seen, so that the Senator was fully aware of what was in the report, what we are seeking to do here is not something that is underhand or something indicative of a person who is arrogant and insensitive at all. The same secretary spoke to me, and to all the members of the committee. I am sure Sen. Prof. Deosaran was spoken to, and he signed the report, because I see his signature appended.

All this report is seeking to do is to ensure that we do not throw the taxpayers' dollars down the drain, for all those advertisements, those thousands of dollars we spent advertising and setting out the dates of the consultations, the cost of the consultations and the work of the technical team; just to preserve all that so that whoever comes after could continue the work of the Parliament. That is what this Motion is all about.

Rather than characterize the Attorney General as being arrogant and insensitive, I would think that she is humble and caring. *[Laughter]* *[Desk thumping]* She did all that was necessary to have this report brought to the Parliament to preserve the integrity of the process and the work that was being done on behalf of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Sen. Robin Montano: Mr. Vice-President, I listened to the Attorney General this afternoon with dismay. Probably the kindest thing that could be said about the Attorney General is that she clearly does not understand the parliamentary process. What she has said this afternoon is in direct contradiction to what Sen. Mark said last week Tuesday, when it comes to dealing with the handing of the report to him. Obviously, the report that the hon. Attorney General has got from the clerk was not correct. It is either that or Sen. Mark was not telling the truth. I prefer to take the word of a Senator over that of a clerk. The Attorney General should have and could have listened last week to what Sen. Mark was saying.

Between last week and now, I have spoken to the Member of Parliament for Siparia and the Member of Parliament for Pointe-a-Pierre, whose name happens to be Gillian Lucky, and all three of them have told me the same thing; that is to say, that there was no meeting of the committee since May or June of this year. I was told the date, but I cannot remember exactly now. Even for the question of the delay between Tuesday last and today, a simple thing could have been done; the Attorney General could have called the committee today, a few hours before the Senate. My colleagues have told me that they would have signed the report; they would have said, "Yes, here is your signature," but no such thing was done. Why? The Attorney General said that it was not arrogance. Then what was it? Is it that she does not care about the people of this country?

The UNC represents approximately half the people of this country. When you treat their representatives with scant courtesy and contempt, basically, what you are doing is that you are telling that half of the country that supports the UNC, "We really do not care about you; we do not care about your representatives; your representatives could suck socks; they could do whatever they like; we do not care, because we do care about you; these are the people that you have put up, and we could not care less about them; we are not going to treat them with any kind of courtesy."

So what happens, Mr. Vice-President? The humble Attorney General does not bother to call a meeting of the committee, to save the taxpayers' dollars, the thousands of dollars to which she referred. She does not bother with them, "We do not need the UNC representatives to sign, because we have already got the seven signatures". You know what? "Parliament pass it, rubber stamp it, let it go." Who cares about the opinion of the UNC? They only represent half the country. The winner-takes-all system is of such, that the winner takes all. So, "We do not have to pay attention to whatever you say, because we rule". That is wrong! It cannot be right, no matter which way you slice it; no matter how you look at it.

Mr. Vice-President, if you tell me that this was done yesterday, when we were in power, then that was wrong. If you tell me it was done when the PNM was in power, then that was wrong. If you tell me that it was done when the National Alliance for Reconstruction was in power, then that, too, was wrong. Two, three, four, five wrongs do not make a right. You cannot come to me this afternoon and say, "Well, we adjourned last week, and I promised that I would get in touch with everybody, and we will do the thing properly." You did nothing for the whole week, and come back here with some bamboozling type of excuse, and say, "Ah well, I spoke to the clerk and the clerk said that Sen. Mark was talking to some Gillian somebody". Who does the Attorney General think that Gillian somebody was? I mean, come on!

Are we playing games here or are we about the people's business? If we are about the people's business, then pay attention. We represent half the people of this country, whether you like it or not. No, Mr. Vice-President, this behaviour is wrong. If we do not take a moral or spiritual stand now, then we will lose it all together. It cannot be right! No amount of explanation can make something that is wrong right. When something is right, you have only got to look at it to see that it is right.

It is wrong to produce a report and not go through the proper processes. We are insisting on the processes for very good reason. One, because the rules were laid down to make sure that everything was done properly and, two, because we refuse to allow the people that we represent to be treated with contempt. In these circumstances, this afternoon the UNC will vote no when this Motion is put up.

Thank you.

Sen. Prof. Ramesh Deosaran: Mr. Vice-President, I have just a few remarks. I was called by an officer of the Parliament, and an explanation was given to me, Sir, as to why a signature was required. The clerk asked me if I was going to sign, and I duly said that I could not sign something that I had not seen. She quickly understood that, and the report, as compiled, was brought to me at my office in the university. I read the report, and then made a distinction, in my own judgment, between a signature that supported a substantive report, and a signature that was required on a procedural matter. The procedural matter being—and in good faith I saw it as such—to save the work that we had done during so many meetings, and perusing a voluminous amount of documentation; so, I have to say, the work of a particular committee. In that context, I did sign after reading the report.

Concerning the question raised about consultation, the way the Parliament is constructed, views will always vary on this matter. I do not have a strong view on

that except to say that if there was room for consultation then, perhaps, consultation should have taken place. In my own judgment, Sir, the signature was required and I think it was justified that I signed.

Whilst I am on my feet, Sir, the question of consultation should not be easily ignored. I stand here, perhaps feeling, in another sense, as a rejected suitor, I, myself, having had a motion before this Parliament on which several Senators spoke. The motion had to do with broadcasting the proceedings of Parliament, and like a guillotine, I heard that the Senate would be prorogued, and matters of that kind. It is in that context that I believe the question of consultation should be taken seriously.

Again, Mr. Vice-President, I have no strong views on this situation, because I understand the prerogatives of the Government side. I also understand what it means to prorogue Parliament, and how matters must lapse, but having had so many speakers on that motion, on the question of consultation, I believe it would have been sensitive—I would not use the words “courteous” or “proper parliamentary protocol”—to build our tradition. I would merely say that it would have shown some sensitivity if some arrangement could have been made with respect to treating that motion as to save it, in the same way that we now want to save this very important work of the committee.

My motion has lapsed, but especially since it received support from all sides, I thought that some salvaging could have been done and some appropriate consultation. I am not going to ignore the question of consultation wherever it is and should be required. Mr. Vice-President, it is my responsibility to let you know the circumstances under which I felt obligated to sign the particular report in question. I am still satisfied that the reason in those circumstances was justifiable.

Thank you.

Sen. Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie: Mr. Vice-President, I would be very brief. Last week when we came here, we saw the Motion for the first time. When I say that, I mean that it was the first time that it was brought on the Order Paper, and we had the document asking that the work of the committee be saved. I remember, distinctly, that when Sen. Mark got up to speak after the Attorney General presented the Motion, he referred us to Standing Order 75(7), I think it was which, specifically, says that such a motion may be moved by any Member after one clear day's notice.

Because of the fact that we did not have the clear day's notice, and because of the fact that Sen. Mark outlined that he thought there would have been a meeting

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before the presentation of the Motion to the Senate, the hon. Leader of Government Business, Sen. The Hon. Dr. Saith, did ask that we put the Motion off for today; sort of even putting away the fears that the Parliament would have been prorogued before. He explained that this would give an opportunity, if there was need to have the consultation or the meeting or whatever, that Sen. Mark was requesting.

Mr. Vice-President, I know the amount of work it takes for any committee, be it a joint select or a special select committee. I know that the committee came to Tobago, and one of the biggest turnouts they had was in Tobago. It was well organized, and we had a lot of sensible input from the people in Tobago.

We on the Independent Benches have our own experience of going across this country and gathering information from different people and sources, written and otherwise. It takes a tremendous amount of work. I am not on the committee, but I would hate to think that the work of anybody, who would have done so much on a committee, would go to waste. It is in that light that I am going to support the Motion, so that the work done, all the written submissions presented to the committee and all the people who appeared before the committee, that they would not feel that they have done it all in vain.

Mr. Vice-President, I do not like to be irrelevant, but what has happened with the work of this committee has made me realize that those of us who spoke on the Constitutional Reform Motion, were not out of order or out of place when we said that we would not like it to go to a joint select committee of Parliament, because when we have people working from both sides, with the party politics and so on, we could have a lot of drawn-out and unnecessary sorts of conflicts.

I am not disagreeing or objecting to Sen. Mark's stand, because I understand quite well how he felt. He felt that after they had worked together, it would be a simple thing to have one final meeting to say, "Look, we have not completed this exercise, we have sought extensions and gotten them, let us ask the Parliament to save the work we have done, so after the prorogation of Parliament, when Parliament is in session again, that what we have done another committee would take up the work and complete it."

I understand what Sen. Mark is saying, but we are not debating the Motion or the content of what is to come out of the exercise, but we are debating a motion which says, "Let us preserve the work of the committee, that another committee in place could use it." It is in this vein that I am going to support the Motion to allow another committee to continue and complete the work that this committee

had begun and worked so hard to bring to this stage. Probably it could be the same committee, who knows. Let us not misunderstand what has happened. It is because we went according to Standing Order 75(7), that this Motion is being debated today and not last week; it is not because of any other reason. This is my understanding. So, Sir, in light of what I have said, I support the Motion that the work of the committee be preserved.

Thank you.

Sen. Wade Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I do not want to be contentious. I spoke on this matter last week. What I said on record last week is the gospel. I am not deviating from what I said. What I would add, however, is another dimension based on what the hon. Attorney General has indicated during her presentation. Mr. Vice-President, you would know that as members of a joint select committee if we have an assignment we execute it. We may disagree, as we do, because of the nature of the system.

My contention is not a signature, Sir. That is a simple matter, because what the committee is attempting to do through what the Attorney General indicated is to save the work of the committee. What we have a difficulty with, however, is the kind of high-handed approach.

The secretary of our committee, as was indicated, is one Mr. Neil Jaggassar; I have the greatest respect for him. Firstly, Mr. Jaggassar never called me; an agent of Mr. Jaggassar called me, and then a clerk visited my office, as was reported. I believe, that if I am on a call or having a discussion, the staff of Parliament would be non-political. I was having a conversation; I did not put the clerk out of the room. I operate on a basis of confidentiality and trust. This clerk of the Parliament would understand that if I am having a private discussion on the phone, her responsibility is not to relay my conversation to the Attorney General, so that the Attorney General could come here and say, "He was having a discussion with some Gillian." Yes, I was having a discussion with the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre, because I was misled by the clerk acting on behalf of the secretary.

When they called me, they told me that my colleagues had agreed to sign, and I said that if my colleagues have agreed to sign, then I had no problem with the matter. I was misled! When I contacted my colleagues they told me that they never said that. I was talking to my colleague in the presence of the clerk. I really thought that was a confidential matter. I want to serve warning and notice. I am seeing a trend emerging in this Parliament: the staff of the Parliament must understand that they serve the parliamentarians, and they should do so

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objectively, impartially and fairly. They should not allow any Government minister to manipulate them, as some stooge or tool. That is what has happened here.

You have the Attorney General coming now—she is so insensitive to the very clerk. I have nothing against the member of staff; I defend workers, but I have a difficulty when an Attorney General, as responsible as ours in this Parliament, could come here and “set up” the clerk. I am sure the clerk did not tell her in that kind of way, to come here and expose a conversation I had privately and confidentially with the Member of Parliament for Pointe-a-Pierre! How could you do that? *[Interruption]*

Sen. Morean: On a point of order, Mr. Vice-President. The clerk handed the document; this is what I was told. I gave a correct version of what I was told. It was not the confidential conversation that the clerk listened to; the clerk gave this document. *[Crosstalk]* Part of the document was read out by the Senator to the person on the phone by the name of Gillian, and after that it was handed back to her. I had to get a report on what transpired from the secretary, and this is the report. There is no secret about the report.

Sen. W. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I do not want to be contentious. As Members of Parliament, whether we are Government ministers, Opposition or Independent Senators, we must be careful how we utilize, how we execute, how we position ourselves in extracting information that could be misinterpreted. I am very upset over the fact that the Attorney General could come to this Parliament and reveal a private conversation I had with—*[Interruption]* What do you mean? It was a private conversation, and no clerk of the Senate has the authority to come to any Attorney General and tell her verbatim what I discussed on the phone! *[Crosstalk]* This Attorney General, who is supposed to be the guardian of our democracy, in terms of safeguarding people’s rights, comes here and “set up” the clerk; that is what she has done.

I have nothing against the clerk; she is a nice young girl; I know her, she was in my office. The only reason I had some reservations about this matter is the manner in which it was conducted. *[Crosstalk]*

Mr. Vice-President: Senators!

Sen. W. Mark: Now the Attorney General is saying something else, while I am speaking. I do not want to get into that any further, Mr. Vice-President. I will submit to you and to this honourable Senate, that we had sufficient time. This Parliament went into recess some time in July, and we came back last week. We

had sufficient time, as a committee, to meet. If it was merely to save the work, what was wrong with the Attorney General, the Chairman of our Joint Select Committee on Police Service Reforms Bills, calling us out during the recess period and saying, “Members, we have to have an emergency meeting for five or 10 minutes; you know what, we are going to prorogue Parliament shortly, based on advice given to me by Sen. The Hon. Dr. Saith, the Prime Minister or at a Cabinet meeting, and we would need to save all the work we have done”? That is part of the consultative process. Who can have an objection to such a request? I would not have had any objection.

Mr. Vice-President, the problem I have with the Attorney General is that—she said that she is a humble lady, but I think she has been humbled; that is how she became humble. She is not a humble lady; she is an arrogant, insensitive and bombastic individual! Our position is not against saving the work; we would support saving the work, but I have a serious problem with people taking us for granted.

At 8.00 a.m. on Friday I got a call from an agent of the clerk, of the secretary. The secretary seems to be too big to call us, so he assigns it to an agent, a clerk, to call us. He could have called and told us what was happening, but somebody else called and told me what I had to do, someone I did not know. Based on what they told me I said, “Okay, if Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who is a member of the committee, and Gillian Lucky are in agreement, I will go along with it,” only to find out, when I communicated, that it was not so. So I had a reservation, and I simply passed the report back to the clerk without my signature.

Mr. Vice-President, when we came here last week Tuesday, and I protested vehemently at the treatment meted out to myself, as a member of this committee, by the Chair Lady of our committee, I got an undertaking from Sen. The Hon. Dr. Saith—it is on the record of the Parliament—that we would meet behind; he would leave it as it was. I thought that the Attorney General would get a hint from the Leader of Government Business that he was proposing that the Government would like all the signatures. All I asked the Attorney General to do, as Chair Lady, “Madam, Ma’am, Attorney General, call a meeting nuh; I am willing to meet Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday”. No call! The hon. Attorney General comes back here, the report is tabled again, and no consultation, no discussion, no communication!

What is the Attorney General telling us? “Listen, Opposition, we have seven signatures you know, all we need is six.” Mr. Vice-President, they do not need our support; I think that they have seven signatures right now, so they do not need

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the Opposition's support. They do not need our vote, that is why the Attorney General could have done what she did. She ignored the advice, the cue that was given by Sen. The Hon. Dr. Saith, the hon. Minister of Public Administration and Information and Leader of Government Business in this Senate, to summon a meeting of the committee simply to discuss the matter for five minutes. What would it take, in five minutes? I have no problem in signing; I have a problem with the arrogance, and the attempt by the Attorney General to take us on this side for granted, and the disrespect.

Mr. Vice-President, the Senate can proceed without us. I think the Attorney General has her seven members; they have signed the report, so they can proceed. That is our position.

Sen. Dana Seetahal: Mr. Vice-President, now that we have cleared the air on who said what and when and where, I want to indicate that I would be supporting the Motion that we save the work of this committee.

About a month or so after I first sat in Parliament last year, this committee was appointed. It was said at the time that the committee would report in three months. I really expected that that would be so; that must have been very naive of me. When the committee came for an extension, I thought maybe we would get something done, but it has been a year. The first session of the Eighth Parliament will be ending, and we have a record of some nine meetings, submissions and so on, but it seems that whenever we have joint select committees—and I mean no disrespect to this particular committee—that we cannot expect to go anywhere, to move on within a reasonable time. It makes no sense sending legislation to any joint select committee.

These Bills were drafted in 2001, and then they were renumbered 2002. In the last budget it was said that this was one package of legislation that we could expect to see this year, all things being equal, to reform the police service and part of the war against crime. Now, we know what has happened with crime, but the legislation, whether it is because of the amount of consultation that we need to have, seems to be going nowhere.

In paragraph nine we are told that written submissions were forwarded to the technical team that had worked on the Bills. We are told that members of the team reside outside of Trinidad and Tobago, and that submissions contain highly complex legal matters. The fact is that each piece of this legislation is really based on a previous Act or legislation, with certain amendments. There is no magic, no real substantive change in the substance, if I may say so, in terms of the drafting,

as it were. In other words, I do not see any reason why we are spending so long, why any Parliament should spend so long, in dealing with bills of this nature.

Members of the public out there, anyone who chooses to listen to this debate would be wondering what is this about. The people have no confidence in committees. They say it is a lot of talk, people talk the talk and they cannot walk the walk, and they will feel this way about this and other joint select committees. That is my concern in respect of any substantial piece of legislation that may come before this Senate, we will get nowhere; I really feel at a loss. Here it is we need to get on, we need to have a substantial legislative agenda, we do have it on paper, but we are not getting anywhere. I am sadly disappointed in this after one year of sitting as a Member of this Senate.

We have dealt with little bits of legislation amending other pieces of legislation, one liners, one page, but the real thing that we were supposed to get on with this year, we have a report, in essence saying that we want another adjournment. If this were a court, it would be considered that we are adding to the backlog, but this is really what it is. I do not think that the citizens of this country should excuse this or any Parliament for this kind of lackadaisical treatment—I call it that and I am a Member of it—of the potential laws of the country.

Thank you.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, for clarification of the record, if I mentioned the Clerk of the Senate during my contribution, I want to withdraw it. It was not the Clerk of the Senate I was referring to; I was referring to the clerk that was sent to my office. I want to correct that, so the Clerk of the Senate does not feel, in any way, that I am implicating her.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That this Senate adopt the Third Special Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Police Service Reform Bills, to wit:

- (i) The Constitution (Amdt.) Bill, 2002;
- (ii) The Police Service Bill, 2002; and
- (iii) The Police Complaints Authority Bill, 2002.

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, may I point out to you that this Motion has been improperly put; there has been no seconder of the Motion. [*Crosstalk*]

FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill):
Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move,

That a Bill to provide for the supplementary appropriation for the service of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ending September 30, 2003, be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to supplement the appropriation provided for by the Appropriation Act 2003 in order to provide additional funds for the interim Revenue Stabilization Fund.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. Vice-President, by way of background, the Revenue Stabilization Fund was initially proposed in the 1999/2000 Budget by the former administration as a vehicle for promoting fiscal discipline in the event of windfall revenues from petroleum, for cushioning the effects of unexpected drops in oil prices, and for strengthening the public sector savings effort.

The Cabinet that established this particular fund states that the purposes for the fund are a repository for the petroleum taxation revenues as well as the moneys earned by, or arising from investments made in respect of such revenues and for the withdrawal of moneys therefrom, and the transfer of the Trinidad and Tobago currency equivalent of those moneys to the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of offsetting deficits in petroleum taxation revenues in cases where such revenues received in a year are less by an amount of at least 10 per cent than the budgeted revenues estimated for that particular year.

That was the intent of this particular Cabinet decision, and even today the Bill to give effect to this has not yet been introduced and we propose to do that early next year. Notwithstanding, in September 2002, the former administration agreed to establish the interim Revenue Stabilization Fund in accordance with section 43(2) of the Exchequer and Audit Act. The fund was in fact established, and in September 2000, the sum of \$415,272,000 was appropriated. In the year 2001—2002, an additional sum of \$600 million was transferred into the fund. At that time the total principal balance was \$1.15,272 billion.

The manner in which this fund will be accessed is as follows: Insofar as deposits are concerned, where in respect of a financial year it is found that the

petroleum taxation revenues for that year exceeded the budgeted petroleum taxation revenues for the year by 10 per cent or more, a supplementary estimate showing an amount to be charged on the Consolidated Fund equivalent to at least 60 per cent of the excess petroleum taxation revenue received during that year and representing the total positive deviation will be laid before the House of Representatives, and that expenditure will be included in a Supplemental Appropriation Bill. That is what we are seeking to do this afternoon.

The first year when we were in office, 2001—2002, there have been questions asked about revenue stabilization issues. On the last occasion, I reported that as a result of the computations that were done, there were no deposits transferred to that fund and the reasons were simply that notwithstanding there was an increase in the price on the average, computation production actually fell, gas income fell, and capital allowances and expenditure exceeded the budgeted figure. On that basis therefore, no deposits were transferred into the fund.

For the period fiscal 2003 however, the original estimated revenue from oil and gas was \$2.7 billion and the latest revised estimate is \$3,551,794,451 thus resulting in the realizing of excess revenue in the sum of \$829,404,577.

Mr. Vice-President, the Bill seeks to transfer approximately 60 per cent of this estimated excess revenue—that is \$497.4 million—to the Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund. Transfer of this amount together with the sum of \$1,015,272 billion already transferred would bring the total value of this fund to \$1.5 billion. During this fiscal period, Government expects to realize overall increased revenue of \$722.4 million. Due to the higher anticipated prices of petrochemical products as well as lower anticipated expenditure, Government has taken a decision to forego the sale of shares in the National Enterprises Company Limited (NEC).

Given the current rate of expenditure and the forecasted revenue, it is anticipated that the Government will realize a small surplus of \$100 million before taking into account considerations for the transfers to the Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund. After taking into account the proposed transfer to the fund, Government expects to realize an overall deficit of \$395.2 million or .62 per cent of GDP as compared to the budgeted deficit of \$618.9 million.

Mr. Vice-President, what this is simply seeking to do is give effect to that particular transfer and continue the tradition of providing excess funds in the Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund. I wish to state also, that in our review of this particular matter, it is our intention to change the manner in which this fund was distributed and we are looking at savings on the one hand and using additional

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amounts to reduce current debt or the total debt stock. That would be the subject of a different discussion at a future date. All that remains for me to do at this time on this particular matter, is to move that this particular appropriation of \$497.4 million be transferred to the Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund, and, as a consequence of this, to bring our savings balance on that account to \$1.5 billion.

Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Sen. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan: Mr. Vice-President, I am pleased to make my contribution on this Bill, which seeks to supplement the appropriation provided for by the Appropriation Act 2003, by authorizing the issue from the Consolidated Fund in the sum of \$497,400,000.

Mr. Vice-President, we just heard from the Minister of Finance whose presentation tended to be a bit subdued, but to put this in the correct context, probably I should refer Senators back to the minutes of the Finance Committee that indicated the use of a Cabinet Minute, which contents I will outline.

The Minister referred to the conceptualization of this Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund sometime in 1999 when it was announced by the then Minister of Finance in his budget presentation and the intention at that time, as enunciated by the Minister of Finance, was for us to adopt some of the emerging concepts with respect to savings from countries which are energy-rich or oil-rich, and in turn save for future generations.

Subsequently, the Cabinet Minute of September 13, 2000 agreed to the establishment of the Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund under section 43(2) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chap. 69:01 and at that time it was decided that 60 per cent of this excess revenue would be put to this fund.

However, in 2001 another Cabinet Note enunciated that instead of the 67 per cent, 60 per cent will be transferred to the Revenue Stabilization Fund but 20 per cent would be set aside in a dedicated fund to assist in financing the Dollar for Dollar Educational Plan as a one-off arrangement for that year.

Mr. Vice-President, I raise this particular issue because although in 2000 it was agreed to 60 per cent of this excess revenue being placed in this particular fund, the subsequent year, it was decided to forego 7 per cent of that in the Revenue Stabilization Fund in order to promote what we look at in developing the knowledge-based economy, or the human intellectual capital of this nation by allocating 20 per cent to the Dollar for Dollar Education Plan.

I smile when I hear about this Revenue Stabilization Fund because I recall so many criticisms while sitting in this Senate. If I go back to the budget debate of September 19, 2001, I remember Mr. Patrick Manning, the then Leader of the Opposition saying:

“Let it be clear that the PNM considers the establishment of the so-called Revenue Stabilization Fund without the required parliamentary approval to be illegal.”

This is the same fund today into which the Minister is proposing to deposit \$400-plus million. Again, on September 19, 2001 the then Leader of the Opposition said:

“Mr. Speaker, I think you should listen to the outline of this hare-brained scheme. Management aspects. The responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Revenue Stabilization Fund would be vested in the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, subject to the general direction and control of the Minister of Finance.”

I wonder if today the deposit of this \$400 odd million into the Revenue Stabilization Fund is still a hare-brained scheme, if it is still being vested in the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, and if it is still being subject to the general direction and control of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Colm Imbert in the budget debate on September 20, 2001 said:

“Very laudable objective; so you have excess funds, you have surplus funds that you get from unexpected oil prices, you put it in a place which will cushion the country against any unexpected fall in oil prices, but then he goes on to say that he is going to take 20 per cent of that fund, which is supposed to cushion the country against unexpected drops in oil prices, and he put it in the dollar for dollar scam. It does not make any sense. If the fund is to help us deal with problems in the future where oil price may drop below targeted levels, then why are you stealing part of the fund...? How does that help the country to deal with the shock of an oil price collapse...? It is just a slush fund, that is all.

Dr. Morgan Job, October 30, 2000 said:

“They had an oil boom and do you know what they did with it? They frittered it away. And the Member for San Fernando East is on record, last week I think it was, telling people in this country that the Government is wrong to be saving money and having an Oil Stabilization Fund. What we should do is spend the money on infrastructure. He said that. So that what I am trying to get at is that we have... the right ideas.”

Mr. Vice-President, what I am trying to get at is that we have the right ideas because these are the same ideas they are using today. To put this in the context of all these criticisms, today we are now allocating \$497,400,000 to this fund. Why is the Government depositing this sum in this Revenue Stabilization Fund since they are not compelled through any piece of legislation to do so? It goes right back to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Report. Do you remember this famous *International Monetary Fund Article IV Consultation Report* for which we have been calling for the longest while?

I recall sometime in June when we were debating the Supplemental Appropriation Bill, we had asked for the contents of that report to be made public and it did not happen. I remember the Member of Parliament for St. Augustine, Mr. Winston Dookeran, and the Member of Parliament for St. Joseph, Mr. Gerald Yetming making a similar call but instead we found out that the consultation was completed on April 04 and the report was made available sometime in early May. When we asked for the contents of this report and why the Government was not given permission to release it—my only conclusion is that they were afraid, and because of the local government election, did not want the contents of the report to be made public.

The reason the Government is depositing into this fund is because of discussions with the International Monetary Fund, and the staff had to come down heavily on them as to why they were not depositing excess revenues in accordance with the policy initiatives taken by the United National Congress.
[Desk thumping]

Mr. Vice-President, I bring this for us to understand the impact of this deposit in this fund and I want to analyze the genesis of this concept of the Revenue Stabilization Fund. It did not start in Trinidad and Tobago, and if one looks one would see how many countries have set up revenue stabilization funds and why. I want to discuss that in the context of the findings by the IMF with respect to this particular issue, because we have been calling for this for the last year.

When one looks at the countries that have introduced revenue stabilization funds, one sees that in Norway it is named the Government Petroleum Fund and its inception date was 1990. I am reading from a document called *The Global Overview of Oil Funds for the IGAD Symposium* By Dr. Eric D. K. Melby. Approximately US \$82 billion are in that fund because of the deposits they have been able to make from 1990 to now.

The Alaska Permanent Reserve Fund, 1976 was the inception date of this fund and approximately US \$22.7 billion has been deposited in this fund.

If I go to Chad, it is called the Revenue Management Plan and it started in 1999. It is a new plan, which is now getting off the ground and I think the legislation has just been passed.

In Kazakhstan, the National Fund was started in 2000, and it is approximately US \$1.2 billion.

Countries like Venezuela, it is termed the Investment Fund for Macroeconomic Stabilization and approximately US \$3.7 billion has been deposited in this account. That is the size of the account right now.

In Canada, the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, inception date 1976, Can. \$12 billion.

The State General Reserve Fund of Oman, its inception date is 1980, approximately US \$2 billion.

Iran, Foreign Exchange Reserve Account, inception date 1999, approximately US \$1.2 billion. I can go on to Chile and Papua New Guinea and so on, but do you know why I raise this issue? Because when this UNC administration was in office, it was highly criticized for this concept that was being utilized and deployed globally for countries that are energy rich to be able to protect and stabilize their revenue streams against the shocks on the volatility of international market prices in the energy sector.

I also raise this point because throughout the entire IMF Report, the staff had to continuously put arguments forward which the Government, be it the Ministry of Finance, continued to counter as to why it should not put money into this Revenue Stabilization Fund. Do you know what the IMF had to do? I was amazed to see it in this document, they had to actually paint the picture of the 1970s and explain to them why what happened then, happened and the reason for introducing a Revenue Stabilization Fund to protect against the pitfalls of the 1970s, the downfall of this country.

Mr. Vice-President, one of the things we talk about in this Senate is Vision 2020, but it cannot be realized if at the end of the day all we have to show for it is a lot of talk about the vision, because all we would have done is dream. As somebody mentioned earlier, we have to walk the talk, and that is what we need to do in this country. And I say this specifically for the Government because what it says on one hand and its actions are two totally divergent parts and we must understand that.

I was also amazed to see in this *IMF Consultation Report* that the same issue we have brought up here was mentioned; the reserve position. The reason you

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need to make deposits is because you are looking at a depleted natural gas reserve which would be totally depleted by the year 2020, a point that we raised in the Senate which was disregarded and treated flippantly by the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries. It also pointed to the fact that at the rate of the current level of consumption by the present Government, they have calculated that the energy wealth will be consumed in 10 years given the levels or the trend in the spending of this current Government. When we raise these issues with the Government, they treat us flippantly and I am amazed to see that these are the same issues that have come out of this IMF Report.

I feel now that we are vindicated because we were not just raising talk, but serious issues that affect the future of this country when we talked about the future of viability. The IMF also warned about the lack of effort in the diversification of this economy.

Mr. Vice-President, if one looks at what the Central Bank has reported one would see. I have the Central Bank's indicators which I will pull up after the tea break to show that the manufacturing sector has contracted, unemployment is going up, our foreign reserve is in a serious condition.

It is very important for us to understand as a country that we are in what we call a supply boom, we are not in the same type of boom which we had experienced in the 1970s, and there is a message in that because we now have to use our intellectual capacity to determine how best to monetize that supply and maximize the revenue from that depletable natural resource of this country to ensure that it will survive for generations to come. We must look at this as a blessing and not treat it as a boom.

I also advocate in my contribution this afternoon that the way forward, is not repeat some of the pitfalls of the 1970s.

Mr. Vice-President, I do not know if you want to take the tea break now, or should I continue?

Mr. Vice-President: Hon Senators, we shall take the tea break now and we will be returning at 5.10 p.m. The Senate is now suspended for 40 minutes.

4.30 p.m.: *Sitting suspended.*

5.10 p.m.: *Sitting resumed.*

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: Mr. Vice-President, how much time do I have left?

Mr. Vice-President: You have spoken for 20 minutes so far.

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: Mr. Vice-President, just before we broke off for tea, I was discussing the rationale for the Stabilization Fund and I just wanted to outline some of the objectives of this Fund. Most countries whose economies are oil-dependent suffer from what petroleum economists and energy analysts call “a curse of oil”. Nigeria, Mexico, Venezuela, for example, have been told this several times, also Iran, Iraq, Arabia and Indonesia.

The reason for setting up the Stabilization Fund was to escape this curse. This is mainly because when you create this Government Fund which receives revenues from the petroleum sector, you transfer the amount necessary to produce a balanced Government budget and invest it in any surplus abroad. The petroleum fund is a means of storing wealth and redistributing income from oil extraction between generations and for buffering against changes in the oil prices and facilitating demand management.

Added to that, in recent times there are countries which have even used this Fund to buffer against variations in the production levels in oil and gas. There are several such examples, as I started by saying, and I just want to quote from that particular document and, as I mentioned before, the main goal being to smooth the short-term variations of oil revenues and as a mechanism to cope with the long-term challenge of funding pensions.

In the case of Norway, for example, it was used for the funding of pension plans in the face of declining oil revenues. Other countries have used it for varying reasons. For example, in Alaska the objective of their fund was to conserve a portion of the State’s revenue from mineral resources to benefit all generations of Alaskans and preserve principal while maximizing total return. It also served as a savings account for appropriations by the legislature.

The reason I am outlining some of these various sets of objectives is because they are different types of funds. In Trinidad and Tobago our original objective was to look at the possibility of smoothening out the variations in our revenue stream, especially from taxes derived from oil and gas.

When we talk about the mismanagement of the windfall, there is another issue that is brought up when we talk about Stabilization Funds and that is, what we call, the absorptive capacity. There was something called the “Dutch disease” which occurred in the Netherlands where, after they had their boom, much of their revenue, they were actually able to push out; their non-energy sector contracted; their expenditure went way out of norm and they had a lot of inefficient spending and wastage, and this was called “the Dutch disease”.

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So coming out of that, several governments asked: How can we avoid the “Dutch disease”? They said, “Okay, in order to avoid the ‘Dutch disease’, probably we should invest more in infrastructure”. I say this because I know this is a myth that we think about, especially when it comes to revenues from oil and gas. I have heard this from the Prime Minister on Friday evening in the winding up of this particular debate when he talked about, why do we need to put aside funds when we can contribute more money towards development of infrastructure. We have to understand that term that is called the absorptive capacity.

Just to put in the correct context again, there are different types of Funds and I just want to name them very quickly. There is the Stabilization Contingency Fund, which is the one that we know about, and really, it is to protect against the negative effects of volatility due to variation in Government tax revenues. Then there is the other type, which is the savings fund type. What happens there is that they operate a savings fund deposit, a share of income resulting from the sale of finite natural resources into a fund from which future generations can benefit.

So one is actually operating as a Stabilization Fund and the other type of fund is a savings fund which we are putting towards future generations. Again, the rationale being, this is a depletable resource and if we exhaust this resource, what happens to our future generation? Something must be saved for them.

Of course, there is a new type of fund that has evolved which is called the Virtual Fund. It is the one that Norway was based on. Alberta is a savings fund. Really, what happens, it is a merger of the two types of funds and it is integrated into the budget.

I make those points because I want to turn to the *IMF, Article IV Consultation Report, 2003*. I want to take a quick look at page 8 of that Report in terms of the “Medium-Term Outlook And Vulnerability Assessment”. What was very interesting in this Report was that it stated that although there are growth prospects:

“New large oil and gas discoveries are expected to generate expanding LNG exports...”

which we know

“and development of downstream petrochemicals. Based on current estimates of proven reserves and the current extraction rate, the combined real output of oil and gas is projected to double between 2002 and 2006.”

However, it goes on to say that this growth is going to peak at 9 per cent in the year 2005. Subsequent to that there will be a decline, and what would actually happen in 2008 is that we would see a very large deficit. This is what was stated in the IMF Report. This is why, I suppose, the IMF, when they were here, strongly advocated deposits into this Stabilization Fund in anticipation of what could happen in the year 2008.

One of the issues that the IMF addressed in this Report was the whole issue of fiscal prudence. Page 13 gives here the Macroeconomic Framework and it outlines the details of the discussions between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the IMF staff in terms of their arguments for deposits into the Fund, which is the IMF's position, and the counter arguments by the Government and I heard this reiterated by the Prime Minister on Friday evening:

“The Government's priority is to invest a large portion of the energy wealth to transform the economy into a knowledge-based one. They emphasized that in the absence of fiscal surpluses, they are unable to transfer any of the higher-than-budgeted oil revenues to the RSF, as the windfall is being used to finance spending in priority areas. They aim to preserve macroeconomic stability through a balanced budget...”

However, the staff at the IMF raised the point that their concern was, and I quote:

“...that the planned use of projected energy revenues would lead to excessive growth of the government sector and crowd out the non-energy economy.”

This is what happened in several countries, including Trinidad and Tobago during the 1970s and the 1980s. This is the point that the IMF was making. The reason I am making this point is because I heard the Prime Minister on Friday evening say that the Government is not convinced that they are going to go forward with the Revenue Stabilization Fund; that they would adopt it. The deposit in this Fund does not mean they are in any way embracing this concept. They still have not decided if they would adopt the Revenue Stabilization Fund.

This is why the IMF was indicating the crowding out of the non-energy sector. I say this because if we again look at the whole issue of the Central Bank, it also brought out a couple of indicators in the *Business Guardian* some weeks ago and the Minister alluded to them today when he spoke about the Central Bank reducing the reserve requirement and so on. But, again, one of the things that came out is the contraction of the manufacturing sector and that so much emphasis again is being placed on the energy sector. These are things that we need to see. We need to see history repeating itself at this point in time.

Several issues again were raised about the total debt being increased by 4.76 per cent. The external debt level did decline but there was an increase as a direct result of the 12 per cent increase in the local debt. *Standard and Poor's* also highlighted that during the last year the Government issued formal guarantees for public sector debt and we debated that in the Senate, and included in the total debt are letters of comfort amounting to 7 per cent of GDP which are considered contingent liability. The Trinidad and Tobago banking poses a contingent risk to Government, of 11 to 18 per cent.

The Central Bank also indicated that—and again I want to reiterate this point because the Central Bank also highlighted the whole issue of the \$310 million that was used in the last quarter of last year to prop up the foreign exchange rate. Actually, I was a little alarmed when I looked at the recent report which said that another US \$290 million was spent in just the first half of this year.

What was also interesting is that if you look at what is anticipated, because of the major acquisitions of assets by local banks, there will be more pressure on the US dollar and for covering, of course, the end of the year requirements for foreign exchange. On September 04, as the Minister mentioned this afternoon, the Central Bank issued a release stating that it was going to reduce all its rates by 0.25 percentage points. The Repo rate went down from 5.25 to 5 and the discount rate from 7.25 to 7, and the special deposits rates as well. One of the things it indicated was that the prime lending rate will further be reduced as a result of it cutting the reserve requirement which was already dropped from 21 to 18. I think the Bank indicated it but the Minister was saying it did not decide yet. But somewhere I thought I saw in the article that it said it was reducing that reserve requirement by another 4 per cent to make it more on par with the non-financial institutions.

I raise this point because the Central Bank in its monetary policy may be doing so through the Minister of Finance, but if there is no incentive to get our non-energy sector back up in this country, nothing would happen. You can cut rates as much as you want, but if you do not create the incentive for domestic investment, then there would be no production in this country. This is the issue, because we seem to think we have our energy boom, because we keep hearing about that, which I keep saying is just a supply boom, and once again we are back onto the track of focusing all our efforts back into the energy sector and not in the non-energy sector.

However, I still think the points are very important at this point in time, because while agreeing with the staff's concerns on the use of energy revenues,

the authority still differed on the timetable for generating the fiscal surpluses because the staff of the IMF was more advocating that more money should be put towards this Revenue Stabilization Fund.

I remind Senators that when the IMF did its report in 2001 and highly commended the UNC government, it was not just because of the robust economic growth and reinforcing the macroeconomic stability factors, but because of the Revenue Stabilization Fund, the concept of it; being able to ensure that you have some amount of fiscal discipline, and that you would remove the pressure for inefficient spending and wastage, high labour cost and the propping up of inefficient state enterprises. This again is one of the issues that the IMF focused in Box 4 on page 15 of the Report. It went through the history of the '70s to illustrate why it is so important to be careful, because they are seeing the Government of the day taking the same path.

One of the things I always remember under the UNC government is that when we were appointed as chairmen, we were told that our performance would be based on how we were able to bring up the bottom line of these companies and to ensure that they do not have to depend on the State's coffers. This is one of the things that has happened during the years.

Sen. Dr. Saith: Caroni.

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: Sen. Dr. Saith keeps mentioning Caroni (1975) Limited. All we keep hearing about is Caroni (1975) Limited. Nobody in the UNC government ever stated that they were not for the restructuring of Caroni (1975) Limited, but in a humane way. What they have also not understood—and again it falls right back into this—“dispense with Caroni (1975) Limited, dispense with agriculture, we have energy; we have gas”. These are the same questions that we keep asking every day in this Senate. Sen. Dr. Kernahan asked the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources about the land distribution policy. I raised it as a matter on the Motion for the Adjournment and the reason for that is because Caroni (1975) Limited still represents the largest agricultural block of land, and if you look at the land distribution policy enunciated in that document, you would recognize that they talk about the stopping of the fragmentation of agricultural lands, because it reduces the viability and any possibility for agriculture in this country.

That is why I make the point again. We were not against the restructuring of Caroni (1975) Limited. It is how you restructure Caroni (1975) Limited. We recognized it was a structural adjustment programme and it would take some

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time. Their agenda was a political one, to get rid of the support base of the United National Congress. That was all it was. This was their bottom line, but it would come back to haunt them, because look at all the issues that have been raised recently about Caroni (1975) Limited.

Let us go back because, you know, when the IMF talked about Caroni (1975) Limited, it did not talk about them only; it talked about the Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL), WASA, about several state enterprises that are not performing and are a burden on the State's coffers. Why were they not dealt with in the same way and in the same expeditious manner? How come?

So when they start telling me about Caroni (1975) Limited, please, they could try that with anybody else. If they want to be consistent across the board, they would deal with all state enterprises in an equal manner, including the energy companies. The energy companies more so have a right to become efficient. What has happened since this PNM Government has come into office? I could give you an example—National Petroleum. Three hundred people were hired at NP to do what? And by whom? I see your Minister of Energy and Energy Industries asking the other day—I saw it in the *Guardian*—who hired these 300 people over the last year?

Sen. Dr. Saith: The last chairman.

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: It was not the last chairman. It happened after. In my time it was 400 people on the employment; it is now almost 700. [*Interruption*] Ask where? They should ask the CEO whom they appointed, and the one they are always putting to act as CEO, Ms. Corinne Jones, who is always hiring her uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, everybody, inside NP. That has been the complaint of the day, and it has carried up the entire staff to a number that they cannot control.

Furthermore, they are talking of wanting to franchise out the convenience stores. When NP was there, one of the mandates given to us was, you have got to justify your existence.

Sen. Dr. Saith: The chairman's travels.

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: All they could talk about is the chairman's travel. The chairman's travel is what was able to bring in US \$6 billion to this country in foreign direct investment. Tell me how much this Government has brought in since they have been in office. Not one cent they have been able to bring in.

So when they talk about foreign travels—let us talk seriously. They want to crucify me. By the way, I saw the Attorney General make a big release on the newspapers to that effect, talking about my foreign travels. That was already reported in the *Hansard* of 2000. But as usual, she put her version of it. She never stated the reason for the travel; who were the other members of the delegations on all those travels, because in each of those trips there were about 14 to 15 people, inclusive of Ministers, chairmen of other state enterprises and CEOs, including the CEO of National Petroleum. For some reason the Minister is singling me out because she wants to get a whipping girl. That is the problem you have here. She wants a whipping boy and girl.

What has happened to NP over the last two years? Suddenly all their service stations have gone to zero; they are not making a cent; all their convenience stores. This is why I can stand here because it hurts me for the people who worked very hard to bring those service stations up to standard to see today that not a single person in NP is interested in keeping those stations clean. If you go to those stations, customer service is poor. The dispensers are in a terrible condition. They are almost like old stations. There are broken windows; there is theft every day. But what have they done? Nothing. Instead, all they do is complain and talk about the past chairman.

Do something about it! That is the problem with this Government. That is why they could never realize Vision 2020! All they know to do is to blame and blame. But look at what they are doing, right here in the two years that they have been there, the service stations have gone to nothing. They have not been able to build one, and the one that they constructed, they left all the contamination: lead, hydrocarbon and everything undone. The whole objective of opening up that sector was to ensure that they clean up the soil; to take all the brown field sites and clean them up so that we could ensure that our water courses, which would feed this nation—Mr. Dumas told me that is where we are going to be spending on water, the underground aquifers. But these have been so heavily contaminated—

Sen. Dr. Saith: Mr. Vice-President, we appreciate the Senator's expertise in this area but I really do not see the relevance to putting \$400 million into the Stabilization Fund. I wish to raise a point of order on that issue.

Mr. Vice-President: Could we please confine our contribution to the subject matter that we are discussing?

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: Mr. Vice-President, you know, whenever they start something, they cannot take the heat whenever you answer them. This is why

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the IMF had to point out in this same Report that instead of taking moneys and putting it towards propping up inefficient state enterprises, that they restructure these same enterprises and use more of the funds towards the Revenue Stabilization Fund. That is why I was raising the issue, because NP is a perfect example of what they are speaking to in this Report, because all we have seen over the last two years has been wastage.

We had seen this recommendation before and this is why companies like NP had to take on the task of restructuring for efficiency, for fiscal prudence, to ensure at the end of the day we could raise the bottom line. The Attorney General put out in her release—at least she admitted—that the company was able to move from \$10 million on the bottom line to \$60 million. At least she was able to admit to that point. Do you know what happens to them? They have made a faux pas; the system has crashed on them; they put a whole set of people to work on it. I mean, there is no need for the existence of NP anymore, you know. They could tell the IMF tomorrow morning they could close it down. If they are going to franchise out all the service stations, all they need to do is give it back to Petrotrin because all they are doing is transporting fuel at the end of the day. So they could merge it with Petrotrin and shut it down, because there is really no value to NP in the value-added chain anymore, if that is what they are going to be doing.

This is a perfect example of what the IMF is referring to when it talks about not using funds to prop up inefficient state enterprises and use it towards putting it in a Revenue Stabilization Fund. The point is very relevant.

In terms of the fiscal prudence and the crowding out of the non-energy sector, one of the issues that was also raised was in terms of how we develop the next wave of this economy. The United National Congress adopted, and this Government also adopted, the whole issue of the knowledge-based economy, developing the intellectual capacity of the nation. This is why the two policy initiatives adopted by this Government were, one, the Revenue Stabilization Fund and the 20 per cent towards the Dollar-for-Dollar Plan.

What was also surprising was what I read in this IMF Report. Page 10 of the Report states:—

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, the speaking time of the Senator has expired.

Motion made, That the hon. Senator's speaking time be extended by 15 minutes. [*Sen. S. Baksh*]

Question put and agreed to.

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. I just want to quote from page 10 of the IMF Report, which states:

“Given current oil and gas extraction rates, it is estimated that proven reserves will be depleted by 2020, notwithstanding new discoveries. On this basis, and using ten-year production projections by the authorities and a discount rate equal to a long run real interest rate of 3.5 percent, energy wealth is estimated at US \$8,623 million (in constant 2002 prices).”

The last sentence of that paragraph also said:

“If non-energy fiscal deficits are maintained at the current high level or over the medium term, energy wealth would be depleted in about a decade from now.”

You know, when we raise the issue about reserves, it is flippantly dismissed. Even up to Friday evening it was raised again in the Lower House and Mr. Manning decided that he would dismiss the findings of the Ryder Scott Report. One would recall that the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries came to this Senate and actually responded to such a question on the reserve-to-production ratio. He indicated that Ryder Scott said that we had something like 20.7 trillion cubic feet and out of that, only one tcf was proven over the last year. This is proven reserves that we are referring to.

He also indicated that the reserve-to-production rate is about 15 to 16 years and the other calculations have also supported this finding, meaning therefore, that we are talking about the exhaustion and depletion of our natural gas proven reserve somewhere before the realization of this Vision 2020.

The Prime Minister's response to this was that he is not interested in what Ryder Scott had to say because he does not really bother about proven reserves and when he was a geologist in Texaco he based it on some letter in 1905; and that he would be going to the hive, which is a three dimensional model developed by bpTT, and he would be able to determine the reserve position by then.

I want it to be known that proven reserves can only be determined on data derived from exploration wells. It is only when you drill an exploration well would you know how much gas you have, and not a three dimensional model. Everybody knows that. Reserves determined in this manner are not termed proven reserves. That is why they are termed “probable” and “possible”. According to consultants, Ryder Scott and Gathnic Cline Associates, this is what we refer to as bankable reserves, because that is the reserve position that is used; that reserve-to-

production ratio. We do not use “possible” and “probable”. That is what the investors and the bankers use in order to determine their investment. That is how they determine the long-term viability of their project and would only use that figure to determine whether they would invest or not.

Even the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, when he was here answering that question, indicated that there is a certain amount of uncertainty associated with possible and probable reserves. I would give you an example. We always talk about this BHP find. We had expected one billion barrels of oil. What happened at the end of the day? Proven: 200 to 300 million barrels of oil. Where is the one billion? It is not until you drill that exploration well, you would know what you have as proven. Probable and possible reserves do not fit in the equation. That is why at the end of the day, you have to prove your reserves.

5.40 p.m.

Under the United National Congress, we recognized that in order to spur investors to Trinidad and Tobago, it was required to beef up that proven position and increase that reserve to production rate. The government at that time went from 8 to 19 trillion cubic feet (tcf) because of the aggressive exploration programme. The proof of the pudding is in the deep water blocks and thus far, there has been no gas find notwithstanding the exploration thrust. We could talk as much as we want, but it would not change that position until we do something about it.

I find it irresponsible of the Prime Minister of this country to flippantly dismiss the *Ryder Scott Report*, an independent international firm of high repute in this area of study. It is important to know that bankers and investors are not interested in the views of politicians because they recognize that positions advanced by them would be so tainted. The UNC government commissioned this audit by an independent international firm, so they could have issued a reliable report which could be taken objectively. I hear so much about the Prime Minister, but we must not forget that he drilled four dry holes in Texaco and was drilling the fifth, when he decided to enter politics. It did not surprise me when I heard recently that Plataforma Deltana was entering the equation with the maritime border between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. It is also foolhardy of us to base our future economic growth on the monetizing of Venezuelan gas. The Venezuelans have had a notorious reputation of a claustrophobic nature. I hear people say not to worry because the gas position would be improved from Venezuela. This had to be pie in the sky.

In 1996, on one of the same trips that the Attorney General outlined in the newspaper, several of these agreements—

Sen. Morean: Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order. The Senator keeps saying that the Attorney General put in the newspaper. I do not know what she is talking about.

Mr. Vice-President: Madam Attorney General, first of all you did not identify your point of order.

Sen. Seepersad-Bachan, I prefer if you would be distinct with regard to what you are talking about.

Sen. C. Seepersad-Bachan: Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. She likes to attack. They like to talk but they cannot take the heat. The quotation in the newspaper was by Ria Taitt. I wonder if Ria Taitt is here. It was a release from the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General was interested in my trips and paying these managers bonuses, more than anything else. We would deal with that another day.

In 1996, we held discussions with Venezuelan companies, including the Ministry of Energy of Trinidad and Tobago and that of Venezuela. Those discussions eventually culminated with several agreements being signed, inclusive of that for technical cooperation between the both ministries, in addition with technical cooperation between the state enterprises of Trinidad and Tobago and their respective counterparts in Venezuela. At the centre stage of that discussion was the exploration of this field. Eight years have passed and there is no progress in the monetizing of Venezuelan gas. Even if we are able to achieve the conversion of natural gas to LNG using additional trains from ALNG, we have already established a precedent that that plant is nothing more than a tolling plant, with a minimal rate of return of 8 per cent. The real value of such a project comes from the well head. There is no way that we would be able to maximize or benefit from the well head prices because the Venezuelans will never allow that.

We talk about adding and depositing to the Revenue Stabilization Fund. The IMF raised the issue of the depletion of this resource but nothing from the gas find revenue has been assigned to date, to the Revenue Stabilization Fund. They are saying that before this runs out we need to start allocating funds from the gas base revenue streams. So far, we have been coming from the oil side.

I come to the issue of the development of the human intellectual capital. That is the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) and the Trinidad and Tobago Institute

of Technology (TTIT) which were conceptualized, designed and constructed under the UNC's term of office. Today, there is an enrolment of almost 1,200 students. The PNM administration tried for almost eight years with Metal Industries Company (MIC), but to no avail. Eventually this concept had to be abandoned. I see congratulations from the board and management going out to Prof. Julian. I understand that the University of the West Indies is an extension of the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Technology. This is just a nucleus of the university in Trinidad and Tobago. I do not understand the purpose of this 13 member committee. What are they going to do and how would they advance the knowledge-based economy of this country? It is still a very important initiative on the part of the Government to assign money to the Dollar for Dollar Plan. They should have followed the initiative of the UNC and assigned 20 per cent. We are still waiting for \$160 million to go to that fund. We have seen 60 per cent of the excess revenue.

I understand that our future investors in the energy sector have to go to LABIDCO. This is a condition being set down for future investors to which all the potential investors have flatly refused, because of the issues associated with LABIDCO as an industrial site. I find it strange that this Government would pursue such an avenue given the findings of the LABIDCO report. I wonder why even though the former Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Mark Mohammed—I do not know if it was an instruction by the Attorney General. She normally gives all these instructions. Mr. Mark Mohammed had given instructions. I quote from an article by Anand Ramlogan. It states:

I am of the view that a criminal investigation is warranted to determine whether among other offences of conspiracy to defraud and misbehaviour in public office are revealed, I have accordingly forwarded to the Commissioner of Police the documentations submitted with my advice that a criminal investigation be conducted.

We have heard nothing more on this. I wonder if the Attorney General in her usual style has interfered as she interferes in everything. She wants to launch investigation, but she has stopped this particular investigation. The findings of this particular investigation have already told the story. There has been a total misuse of funds and somebody needs to account for it. The same Prime Minister and Prof. Ken Julian who was the then chairman of the National Gas Company (NGC)—I do not know why she does not investigate his travels. His travels far exceeded mine when he was chairman of NGC. There are two different strokes for different people.

To this day, there are still two important policy initiatives which we need to maintain. One is the concept of contributing 60 per cent to the Revenue Stabilization Fund and the development of fiscal prudence. This Government has not enunciated its policy position of the debt to the gross domestic product (GDP) ratio. The UNC government had enunciated that by 2005, this would have gone down to 50 per cent. This issue was brought up by the IMF. They made the point about borrowing and saving. When you borrow to invest, you are sure that the cost of the project and its economic viability would be based on the cost of financing.

Thank you.

Sen. Mary King: Mr. Vice-President, I would like to throw out a question to all Senators here, whether they could identify any one country which the IMF conditionalities have actually developed. Most countries are suffering grossly from IMF conditionalities over the last 15 years. We have to be very careful about following blindly what the IMF is telling us. We are learning as we go along that they are not always correct.

It is heartening to see that the present high energy oil prices and the recent start of a plant in the energy sector have resulted in the surplus which has accrued to the Treasury. This Bill as we have heard seeks to transfer some of those surpluses from the Consolidated Fund, into the Ministry of Finance's Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund. We have also heard that the fund was established in 2000, to address the inherent volatility of oil prices and its impact on government's fiscal position. It is a buffer fund to help smoothen the ability to meet expenditure from the varying revenue streams. We must also note that Cabinet modified the decision of August 2000, in July 2001, with respect to the use of these funds. Sixty per cent of the excess received would be put into the fund and 20 per cent would be set aside in another dedicated fund to help finance the dollar for dollar education plan, as a one-off arrangement.

Whilst we congratulate the initiative of that Cabinet in establishing the Revenue Stabilization Fund, we have to recognize that during the previous oil boom we also saved money. This is not the first attempt of the country at saving some of our surpluses. We note that the excess money that was previously stored in the Consolidated Fund was quickly run down in an attempt to maintain the economy, at an unsustainable level after oil prices fell in 1982. This special fund is an improved instrument and although Parliament has the duty to authorize transfers to the Revenue Stabilization Fund, it does not appear to have the responsibility for doing the same in the case of expenditure from the fund. This is

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clearly Cabinet's prerogative. I suggest one improvement, that we bring the input and output of the fund and the corresponding regulations under the control of Parliament.

I also agree that there are wider issues attached to the use of our surplus funds from energy. Some of us think that the priority use of these savings should be sterilization; put it away in the Revenue Stabilization Fund and send it overseas to accrue interest so coming generations would benefit from the revenue accrued, when we have rapidly depleted our natural resources. Some of it has to be used to help stabilize government's revenue. My approach differs from this viewpoint in that, the first call on any savings has to be for the reinvention of the economy; the reconstruction; spending on education and health; the centres of excellence; business incubation; branding our market development and venture capital with the associated financing relating to the development and creation of our locally-owned companies. The creation of such companies is what economic reconstruction and restructuring is all about.

All this would require expenditure into the present economy. The efficiency of this spending would depend on the ability of the economy to absorb such resources. This absorbed capacity is the fundamental criterion with respect to the spread of the spend, how we do it and where. I also agree that no mother worth her salt would put money in the bank for her children's use when they have grown up, as opposed to spending it now on their education and training, so that they can earn their living when they grow up. Spending money on the restructuring of our economy is tantamount to efficiently passing on the benefits of revenue accruing today, to the future generations. We cannot ignore the restructuring and efficient passing on of the benefits. We have to face the question: How do we reinvent the economy if we are to decide on this? We await the budget statement which should give us a preview of what the Vision 2020 team is thinking about.

I also agree that besides a vision 2020 team, there ought to be some permanent planning and development body required to manage and control this economic transformation. Why not some committee of parliamentarians, so that it would not be "when that government was in power we decided to do this and when we get into power, we are not going to do that, or the other." Perhaps, we could have an economic transformation team from both Houses to look at future development and economic transformation.

I bring to the attention of the Senate that economic development, that is economic reinvention, that is required would not be driven by providing educational facilities for 20 per cent of the current secondary schools cohort. They

may get the education and just migrate. Changing the area landscape will not develop Trinidad and Tobago. We would not develop our economy by investing our money overseas. It may help Government's fiscal activities at times, but it would not create or develop the companies locally, or create necessary economic power to sustain us in the next 50 years.

I conclude by congratulating our Executive on its ability to continue to save when we have surpluses. I would like to warn that the temptation to increase consumption spending for political gain has to be resisted. In my opinion, the first call of the funds has to be the restructuring of the economy. It should be tempered with the ability of the country to absorb the investment without damaging the inflation rates, consumer price index and all the other macroeconomic indicators. The amount that would be saved and invested abroad is the difference between what is needed for economic transformation or reinvention, some price buffer for the oil sector, and, the overall total services. The priority to me is surely not inter-generation transfer of funds. Strategic economic development would take care of that. The IMF has to learn from the mistakes it has made in many, many countries.

My final point is that I feel strongly that parliamentary management of these surpluses is something that this Senate should seriously consider and perhaps, we could have that included in the budget statement coming next month.

Thank you.

Sen. Brother Noble Khan: Mr. Vice-President, this brings back to mind, the promulgation of Act No. 20 of 1959, many years ago. That document established the financial picture for our country that hoped to go into independence and subsequently, did and established the financial framework. At that time, provision was made for the concept of funding with respect to that great challenge before us and that step we were going to make. It also reminds me of the Consolidated Fund which first took place around 1797, and the establishment of an auditor general in the United Kingdom. At that time, history would tell us that it was a great improvement as far as accountability and financial planning for that country. We too followed that pattern. It was over 200 years when it was first initiated with some hope in another country. Subsequently, in 1965, there was readjustment, but basically, the financial laws continued to remain the same. It is so until today.

A great landmark or milepost was in the 70s when we had that first great flow of cash. Some claimed it to be about \$64 billion. The chief mechanism used for utilizing those funds has been referred to as the long-term funds. It is the same mechanism we see here today, where a fund is created under the Exchequer Act

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and money is being transferred, as we are attempting to do today. At that time, substantial sums of money were moved across. The mechanism for spending money when it went into the long-term fund was by way of a Cabinet Minute, authorizing a programme under one of the funds and a warrant issued by the Minister of Finance.

I hope you would bear with me because we are dealing with a lot of money. It was our hope and expectation of building a better country. We did make some strides along those lines. In my humble opinion, planning went out through the window. Here you had a fund being created for one thing and because of the urgency as perceived by the decision maker, some would go here and some would go there. Some will ask: Where did all the money go? Some would say that we have buildings down the road and improvement in living standards. Some development took place. We did not have the capacity as we have now to do some development at home. We had government to government, where one government would get in touch with another government and they would do the same thing. They would get some inefficient people from overseas and bring them here to do what our people could do.

We do not see any attempt being made to institute elements of control. When I speak about control, I am not only speaking about go and come, or stop and go, but also in terms of having planned something and putting the proper systems in place to achieve those goals and objectives. I still feel that one of the biggest challenges in our country, as well as other Third World countries is that of delivery and implementation. Having this great sum of money before us, we are making plans because of the system in place. I try to link it with something that started in 1797. We had an outline of that in our system and we continue along that pattern.

I query the techniques we would be using plus some of the new things we have learnt that we would apply. Would we go the way we have had? This is scary. For some who are as old as I am, I do not know when our young people ask, if we were in a certain situation, what we would tell them about what was frittered away. Some might say they had a sharing. The inter generational equity that is due to our future generations has been noted here today by the Senators. We have heard mention of moral and spiritual. Some responsibility, whether moral or ethical lies with us in thinking forward. When we think about those nations that have gone before and which continue to be sustained, one could think in terms of the horizon being further than that. With the widening of our vision, we could possibly see a better place when these windfalls come our way and what is the maximum use. The maximum use would depend on where our visions lie.

On the ground or from the grassroots you would hear the element of put-aside. Should we continue on the path of consumerism and at the end of the day have nothing to show about what is perceived to be development? The education thrust has been yielding some results, although we would like to see it better. With this Government and previous governments, the thrust has been highlighted on education. If this continues when we deal with our country, we would put managerial emphasis before us in a better way. Justice is something we always mention and today, we had the opening of the new law term. The question is what we owe to the younger generations and those to come.

I think the oversight of Parliament is one area where we could have some control. Very often the system is that you bring Bills before us and some of us feel that we are being used as rubberstamps. We are thinking about giving or allowing Parliament to have a say in the fore. I am not attempting to take away governance from whom the people have imposed that power on, but bringing a better blend to governance and the political element.

When I speak about the political element, I am not speaking about the political parties, but the mass of people. To some extent, there might be contradiction that in here we are supposed to represent the people and very often, we hear what is being represented are specific groups in the society. Coming back to the question of the oversight of Parliament, before the budget process starts to take place—this is the biggest event in our country for the year if there is no war or great catastrophe, as far as the parliamentary or legislative programme is concerned—where the whole nation is concentrated in one area for a plan for the future. We could think in terms of having some mechanism in Parliament. There might be the need for constitutional reform, but that may be one way in which we can go.

With respect to the money that is being put aside, I have heard that in some countries this is done and the international organizations insist that we put aside. When the money was pumping in the last boom, I remember this figure, US \$150 million. Our country borrowed that from one country in the Middle East. I had asked the question in an informal way about why we were borrowing money. In the contribution of the Minister of Finance—a gentleman for whom I have the highest respect for what he has displayed before us and how he carries himself. At that time money was pouring in a country to the middle of the Middle East. I said, why not tap into that? I do not want to call the name of the country because there can be negative effects. From my simple understanding, I am no expert, but if you are going for a loan, the bank would want to know what you have, whether it is a house and how much money you have in the bank. Now we have plenty money. If

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that money starts to go down these questions would arise. The question of money rating on the international scene could fit in, but when the crunch comes you have to face it. I am happy to see that paying off debts and balancing the portfolio are a new outlook.

I do not know what would take place. How people talk and act depend on their styles. As we talk, we could direct some form of how they should approach it. Outside the control of a Cabinet Minute and access to funds, one could expect the traditional way of accountability and transparency. These are the nice terms we like to mention, but to some extent, we do not pay too much attention especially when we hear a commission of enquiry is going on. I do not know what would come out of this. The style of audit that took place and the attempts that were made to streamline these areas have been around for some time. What seems to persist is what always existed. We are thinking about TT \$1.5 billion. Even before we put it aside, we start to cut it up. I am not saying what is going on here is bad or good.

I am thinking about how much control we should have over that money and where it should go. It hangs over our head that if we do not put things in place anything can happen. It might be even more spectacular than what happened before, because we are getting more sophisticated in so many things, not only in our good ways, but also our negative ways. While there are weaknesses, we can look at our strengths. We are a resilient people and when dilemmas face us we can find a way or reliance on Almighty God to come out of it. These are some positives that we do not see in dollars and cents.

Parliament has evolved from money and how you spend it. Here, a substantial sum is reduced to three pieces of paper. I support this Bill. Many things that Sen. Seepersad-Bachan and other Senators said are worthy of consideration.

Thank you.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith): Mr. Vice-President, I move that the Senate continues to sit until the completion of the debate on this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION) BILL

Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan: Mr. Vice-President, thanks for the opportunity to make a small intervention in the Finance (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill. Before beginning my contribution, I offer congratulations to my colleague Sen. Seepersad-Bachan for her brilliant contribution. It saddened me to see the

reception her contribution got from the other side. We are talking about Vision 2020 and we should embrace all the ideas and views of the population of this country, including the Opposition. I do not know if they consider the Opposition as part of the population. That is debatable. If we are going to achieve Vision 2020, the example has to start with Government Ministers and Senators in this honourable Senate. They should seek to embrace the positive views of Senators on this side and the Independent Benches, so that we can reach 2020 faster, unless they think that only ideas from the PNM side have any merit. This should be part of the 2020 vision, a level of maturity, the ability to listen objectively and embrace all the positive ideas that can carry us to 2020.

I agree with Sen. Bro. Khan when he commented on the Minister's view with respect to the use of the Revenue Stabilization Fund, when he said that the fund may be used to redress debts. It is very ominous that every time the question of the Revenue Stabilization Fund comes up, there is a rumbling and sense of discontent in the ranks of the PNM. Our nation, under the UNC, had the foresight and maturity to establish this fund and have it as a buffer and proof of our commitment to future generations of this country. I feel proud to have been part of an administration that had the prudence and foresight to establish this fund in Trinidad and Tobago and make it part of our culture of saving and looking forward to the future.

The history of the PNM, apparently, is bound in this old ideology of live for today because tomorrow we die. This is how the PNM has conducted the people's business over the last 40 years. They are unable to accept that we cannot run a household on that premise. I have a three-year old grand daughter and if I explain to her the importance of savings, and then tell her to forget the saving we would have established and buy Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and Mario's pizza, I am sure that she would have something to say about that. The people of this country can understand the importance of this fund that was established and needs to be part of our culture and policy.

The comment made by the Minister with respect to the other uses for this fund is not new. It is part of the ideology of the PNM. The Prime Minister had a very ambiguous approach or attitude towards the Revenue Stabilization Fund. In the budget debate he said that in recent years the finances of the central government had been presented as being strong. The UNC administration with much fanfare created an Interim Revenue Stabilization Fund. The objective was laudable and it set aside revenues that exceeded the original forecast to be used in the future, when lower commodity prices and or shortfall in production, force painful cuts in

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expenditure. The balance in the fund at the end of last year was about \$1 billion. The full significance of this rainy day savings must be judged in the context of Government's finances as a whole.

He said that your approach to saving can be *vaille qui vaille*. You save when your revenue streams are favourable and you throw the ideology of saving to one side when you start to feel the crunch. Any wise grandmother or elder in our society would say that you have to "ban yuh belly". It is more important to maintain your saving when the going gets rough because you are not looking at the short term, but towards the medium and long term. This is where the Prime Minister and the PNM missed the boat. When the going gets rough, the tough gets going. You have to explain to people what is happening and you cannot make these short-term, "now for now" decisions and play games with the future of the country.

There are people who say that there is no fundamental difference between the PNM and the UNC and the political parties are the same. History will show that in the issues of the Revenue Stabilization Fund and the Dollar for Dollar Plan, initiatives of the UNC, there is a fundamental difference in the ideologies and approach between these two administrations with regard to the people's business.

Sen. Seepersad-Bachan spoke about the *Monetary Policy Report March 2003 Volume III Number 1* by the Central Bank. I am not an economist, but I pride myself on being able to pick sense from nonsense. I would quote some paragraphs and relate them to what is happening with respect to the importance of the Revenue Stabilization Fund and our vision for 2010. Page 8 states:

"On the basis of these factors, the Bank projects GDP growth to increase to about 4 per cent in 2003, and to accelerate further, to about 4 1/2 per cent in 2004. Growth at these rates would generate a further decline in the unemployment rate.

Such a favourable outlook, however, is subject to domestic and external risks. On the external front, there is in particular, a wide range of uncertainty for oil prices, and for demand in external markets, particularly in the aftermath of the war with Iraq.

At home, it would be important that domestic policies continue to focus on maintaining lower inflation, fiscal consolidation to support the low interest rate environment and steps to increase productivity and maintain export competitiveness."

Central Bank is saying that the favourable outlook in the economic indicators are subject to certain conditions externally and internally. There is no question of saying that the outlook is good and we expect 4 1/2 to 6 per cent in the next four to five years and we can dispense with the funds. We do not know what would happen externally. The PNM Government is not serious about the internal factors that would ensure continued growth and putting the support systems to maintain the indicators, in terms of fiscal consolidation to support low interest rates.

I stress steps to increase productivity which I want to link with the Dollar for Dollar Plan. The Government keeps threatening to dispense with the fund which is inextricably linked to increasing productivity and maintaining export competitiveness in this country. We need to talk about the Dollar for Dollar Plan, training and re-training of thousands of young people to make them employable, thus enabling them to take their place in the society. If you dispense with that vision and foresight, you would not be complying with these conditions the bank has set for continued growth. Although you are supposed to do well, you would not, because of the shortsightedness of the vision for dispensing with savings and the Dollar for Dollar Plan.

We have seen GDP growth by 3 per cent in the energy-based industries, but in this country, the energy-based industries are not providing high levels of employment. The economists have elucidated on that *ad nauseam*. The non-oil sectors are the aspects of our economy that employ the majority of our people. In the non-energy sectors real growth slipped by 1 per cent primarily because of weaknesses in the manufacturing, transport, storage and communication services. Although they are predicting increased growth in the sectors in which our people are able to obtain employment, they are slipping. Sen. Seepersad-Bachan said this.

It is very interesting that when all these figures of growth are thrown at us, we do not feel it. The people do not feel that they are better off today than they were last year or two years ago. Take for instance the vendors in the informal sector. There is a situation in the most depressed areas of this country, where hundreds of people are thrown out of their livelihood. This Government does not seem to grasp the link between creating further employment and slippages in this sector. In the midst of all this wealth and plenty, people are hungry and frustrated. The Government does not see the link between that and the escalating crime rate in this country. The figure might mean something to some people, but they mean very little to many people because of where they are placed and poised in this economy.

Sen. Seepersad-Bachan delivered the argument that we are an oil-based economy and the employment level in this sector is low. It is the challenge of any administration in power to increase employment and to train people to make them employable to become productive citizens.

Central Bank also noted that there was some increase in employment in the non-oil sector, but this was not reflected in agriculture. This is extremely startling because the so-called increase in employment in the non-oil sector was due to non-productive work. This is about the Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) gangs that were opened all over the country, literally non-productive work and which can only be characterized as disguised unemployment.

Agriculture which has tremendous potential for real productive employment in raw and agri business, employment in this area has dropped, contrary to all the wild claims being made by the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. If this Government is serious about alleviating poverty which they enunciated so beautifully in their Vision 2020, they would do it in agriculture, manufacturing, goods and services that we can export to earn foreign exchange. The report by the Central Bank which indicates that employment in agriculture is slipping is extremely disturbing and shows that we are moving away from the vision of employment and alleviation of poverty, rather than moving toward it. These are the objective facts. We cannot afford to do that.

I made the link between productivity and the Dollar for Dollar Plan. Our vision was to bring tertiary education to over 20 per cent by 2005, for 50,000 people to benefit. You cannot separate the importance of the financial support system for young people who are willing to be trained to build themselves.

6.40 p.m.

This was to be done by the year 2002 because we recognized that there are private institutions in this country, which do extremely creditable work with young people, where the young people are given access to other types of educational opportunities that other institutions, like the University of the West Indies, do not have. This is why the UNC government, between the years 2001/2002—I am reading from the *Express* July 28, 2001, page 23—projected to spend over a quarter of a billion dollars on the Dollar for Dollar Plan; between 2002/2003, we had expected to spend \$300 million; between 2003/2004, \$366 million; between 2004/2005, \$430 million and between 2005/2006, half a billion dollars. Mr. Vice-President, that was the importance we put on education for our young people; education for the youths of this nation regardless of colour, creed or race.

Mr. Vice-President, we had this dream to exceed the Caricom target of 15 per cent of enrolment in tertiary education by 2005. We were going to exceed that dream and carry it to, at least, 20 per cent. The loss of this dream—with the machinations that saw the UNC's illegal removal from power—has now fuelled the debate in this society where Dr. Selwyn Cudjoe is quoted in the newspapers as saying there is some big plot at the University of the West Indies where afro-Trinidadians are under-represented in the faculties and that there should be some quota system to make sure afro-Trinidadians are represented at the institutes of higher learning and tertiary education.

Mr. Vice-President, I have discussed this with intelligent young persons who have just left school, and who know what is happening. Instead of trying to carry this country down a road of total chaos, anarchy, bloodshed and racial antagonism, what any intelligent person should do—a supposedly intelligent person as Dr. Cudjoe, who is being embraced and sheltered within the arms of the PNM—is go back to the root of this problem to find out if it is true and why it is so. We have not seen any figures to support that as yet, Mr. Vice-President. If it is true that afro-Trinidadians are under-represented at the University of the West Indies, we have to go back to the root of this problem. We have to go back to the question of a society where, under the PNM government for over 30 years, there was very little access to pre-school education in this country. The UNC government built over 25 pre-school centres in this country so children at an early age could have access to quality pre-school education.

As I said, we have to go back to the root of the problem. We should not start at the university level. We have to start in the communities where mothers and fathers in the East-West Corridor were retrenched en masse in the 1980s, after the orgy of misspending in the oil boom by the PNM government. Those mothers and fathers had no money to send their children to school; mothers went to the United States of America, those children were barrel babies, they had no family structure.

One can see all those children from the junior secondary schools in their thousands every day but those children do not have to go home because there is nobody at home to supervise them. Many of those children come from single-parent homes; mothers working and fathers all over the place and there is no onus on them to go home to study or to do anything. This is the root of the problem. How are we going to get those children into universities ten years down the road? Those children would not have the qualifications, discipline, outlook or the vision. They would not have anything and this is where we have to start looking at correcting the problem.

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Mr. Vice-President, with respect to working mothers, we can deal with that. Earlier today I spoke with a group of women who came up with the same idea that I had that mothers of this country should be supported financially to be able to raise their children in a decent manner, so that the children would not become a social burden to the society later down the road. Mr. Vice-President, when one has a mother who is forced to go out to work for minimum wage, which is not even enough for transport and food; she is just on a treadmill; she is not really doing anything; she is not really accomplishing anything; there are no savings because she is living on a day-to-day basis.

How many mothers in this East-West Corridor would be able to say that they have a saving fund for their children's university education? University education is expensive. I have figures where it is \$11,000 and so on for university education. University is not cheap. One has to have some level of savings to send one's child to university when the time comes. If there are thousands of mothers and fathers in this country who are living on basic wages and so on because they were not given the opportunity to develop themselves to earn a livable wage, then those children are not going to enter universities.

This is what it is all about. We have to start with the basics. We have to start at the root of the problem and stop trying to make confusion in the society; stop trying to push race in the society; stop trying to divide the society with all this nonsense about afro-Trinidadians not being represented at the University of the West Indies.

This is where the Dollar for Dollar Plan—which is like when the devil see holy water, that is the attitude the PNM has towards this plan—is vitally important to the same people in the East-West Corridor; the heart of the PNM; the PNM's children. Mr. Vice-President, before it would have been totally impossible for some of those youths to access university education but it is now made more affordable; more reachable. If you “ban yuh belly” and you work hard you could make half the fees, at least, and you could sacrifice and send your child to a university.

Mr. Vice-President, every morning they are threatening to disband and disburse this Dollar for Dollar Plan and at the same time they are talking about alleviating poverty. How is the Government going to alleviate poverty? How is the Government going to achieve Vision 2020 if it does not put in place financial structures, which everybody who makes the sacrifice could access, regardless of race, colour or creed? Tertiary education is not just about learning by rote; it is about a culture. It is the culture of advancement; it is the culture of wanting to

know more about the world and the people around you; wanting to relate, wanting to learn; open to ideas and so on. We have to have a culture of that openness. Mr. Vice-President, if we leave those children in the state in which they are now, we are going to get a situation whereby all kinds of spurious reasons would be given for why they are left out and the real reasons would remain untouched. We would never get anywhere in this country.

Mr. Vice-President, in that context, I would like to call for the expansion; I would like to ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education to deal with this situation; forget about whose idea it was. It is a good idea; it is a brilliant idea; it is an idea that many parents have embraced.

This programme has to be expanded to the private institutions in this country which are doing yeoman service. This would enable more young people to be trained, to be productive and to be part of the sectors which I have identified: the service sector—the agricultural sector and the manufacturing sector. This programme would allow them to be part of that sector, which the Central Bank has identified is slipping and is not contributing as it should to the development of this country.

The Government cannot laugh at the Dollar for Dollar Plan and then bring all those fancy words in the budget speech and expect anybody to take it seriously. Mr. Vice-President, long gone are the days when politicians could come to this country and make all those fancy speeches and not deliver. If there is nothing else that the UNC accomplished in its six years of governance, it established standards by which all other governments in this country would be judged—past and future because we were able to deliver on our commitment to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Desk thumping*]

I would like, before I close, to ask the Minister of Community Development and Gender Affairs—I know she is aware of this problem. We are talking about alleviating poverty; we are talking about developing all those young people in the East-West Corridor. We cannot isolate that from maintaining our commitment to small business development, community development and so on. When you have a situation where over the last two to three months Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) refused to follow through on its commitments made to a number of small and large contractors in the East-West Corridor—from Toco to Port of Spain—to build playfields, community centres and so on, this is where discrimination comes in.

Over the last two to three months, a number of small contractors in this East-West Corridor have been going virtually bankrupt because SWMCOL—for no

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reasons advanced—is refusing to advance funds to those contractors to continue. We are talking about over 40 to 50 contractors, with over 500 employees. Mr. Vice-President, when that is multiplied by the number of households, one is talking about serious hardship in this East-West Corridor.

When we talk about this budget speech and we see all those lovely programmes and small business developments, what are they going to do for people to help them to develop their lives? They took the small contractors and gave them that kind of pressure. SWMCOL refused to pay them. They have workers on the jobs for weeks and weeks. They lose money on the jobs and can no longer function and they would then say: “You see those people cannot do business; those people cannot function.” That is pure discrimination.

Mr. Vice-President, these are small contractors who need the support and a system in place to enable them to do their work. The larger contractors might have reserves that they could call on and they might have links with the financial institutions to overcome glitches in the system. But when there are over 40 to 50 small contractors who are not able to do that, the Government is putting pressure on hundreds of families who are its supporters; families whom the PNM claim to care so much about—PNM is about “We Care”.

Letters have been written to the management of SWMCOL; letters have been written to the national social development project and so on; letters have been written to Minister Eulalie James and Minister Joan Yuille-Williams, but nobody bothers to reply because the small man does not matter, Mr. Vice-President. The only time that the small man matters is at election time when they knock on his door and ask for his vote. This is the reality of governance PNM style. The small man is the one who benefits the least. The people who do all the electioneering and the flag waving, those are the people who are under serious pressure anytime that government gets into power. Those are PNM supporters; they are not UNC supporters. It is the PNM supporters who are suffering like that.

Mr. Vice-President, if we are talking about development and getting people into universities; if we are talking about alleviating poverty in this country, we have to deal with those things a little more seriously. We have to deal with the poor man a little more fairly and stop the discrimination. Discrimination is a word that vibrates the hearts of all citizens of this country from Carenage to South. We are not talking about any one race in this country. It is the very supporters of the PNM Government in the East-West Corridor who are most horribly discriminated against, when it comes to basic rights and privileges. They are the ones who suffer the most; you cannot get away from that.

Mr. Vice-President, I would like to reiterate my call for the Government to take its responsibilities to the future generation of this country seriously and to maintain the Revenue Stabilization Fund; maintain and expand the Dollar for Dollar Plan so that we could get more trained and productive young people on board who would be able to make their contribution in the sectors in this country that most provide employment that would bring us out of poverty and would carry us to a vision of developed country status.

I thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

The Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education (Sen. The Hon. Danny Montano): Mr. Vice-President, I rise just to make a very short intervention to respond very quickly to some of the comments made a few minutes ago on the Dollar for Dollar Plan. It is really quite surprising the level of ignorance about the Dollar for Dollar Plan from the very architects of the plan. There is nothing magical or mystical about it. In fact, when one understands it, one really wonders why the UNC government set up this mechanism through the Revenue Stabilization Fund and why it was done in that way. Let me just explain how it works.

Some time ago, I think it was under the NAR administration, when our economy was in some difficulty, the government decided on a path of cost recovery because the State found itself in a position where it simply could not bear the burden of carrying all the tertiary institutions at that time. All the institutions which are now under the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT): the University of the West Indies, Cipriani Labour College, Hotel and Tourism Institute—I do not think the Institute of Business had been started yet—just about then—but that was a private sector initiative. What happened then, it was agreed that the students should pay approximately 20 per cent of the economic cost of their education. That was the agreement way back then, so the State is paying 80 per cent of it. Under the Dollar for Dollar Plan the last administration said: “We will help you pay the other 20 per cent. We will give you half of it. We will give you another 10 per cent from another pocket.” So the State is, in effect, paying 90 per cent.

It is a fairly simple policy situation except that the Dollar for Dollar Plan did not work exactly that way because it actually left out certain programmes at the University of the West Indies. It is not universal. It is not every student who goes to the University of the West Indies or any one of the programmes who actually gets the benefit of the Dollar for Dollar Plan. Although it would have been simpler to dictate to the state-run schools, rather than the State paying 80 per cent

of the cost, the State will now pay 90 per cent of the cost; it is six of one and half a dozen of the other. Arithmetically it makes no difference. There is no point in going through this elaborate sterilization of \$240 million a year and then to pull it back out of the fund; that just does not make sense.

Does it make sense to help students? Absolutely. One of the basic flaws in the Dollar for Dollar Plan—If one is genuine and understands the needs of the under-classes in the society, one would realize that the Dollar for Dollar Plan assumes that one has the first dollar. When one does not have the first dollar, what happens? One goes nowhere. Now that is a completely iniquitous system and this administration is looking at the plan with the view to finding a way of making sure that every deserving student would have an opportunity to attend a tertiary institution in the Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Vice-President, one has to understand that as it is presently set up, the dollar for dollar system is merely a grant mechanism. Let us use the historical word that we all understand; it is all a grant and therefore what simply needs to happen is that a system of grants and/or loans needs to be expanded so that everybody has access to it.

There is no magic to it. For the Senator to say: “Every Monday morning they...” whoever “they” are, “talk about doing away with the Dollar for Dollar Plan”, is just nonsense. Nobody has said that at all. As a matter of fact, one of their Members asked a question in the other place which I answered and I confirmed that the Dollar for Dollar Plan, at least for this year, would not be interfered with. If anything, the benefit of the State funding for students would be enhanced. We are not interfering with it, if anything we are making it better. We have already done so. We have already widened some of the programmes and we are looking at that now to make sure that nobody falls in-between the cracks.

More than that, Senator, just to give you a little idea, last year the University of the West Indies offered places to, I think, something like 2,700 students. When I say last year I am talking about 2002. Approximately 1,800 students accepted, and went. For some reason 900 students did not accept the places that were offered. The question is, why not? There is the demand for it, why did they not go? Even with the Dollar for Dollar Plan, clearly, logic is telling us that they simply did not have the resources to make it and, therefore, it is the 900 students we have to find out about.

I asked the university what happened to the 900 students that were offered places that were not taken up. They said: “We do not know.” I said: “Find out and

make sure that this year no student rejects an offer on the basis that he cannot afford. If you get any of that, tell me and we will figure out a way to make sure that he has access to your resources.” The result is, in my discussion with the principal of the St Augustine campus, in about March or April of this year I said to him: “How many students can the university presently hold for it to be chock-a-block?” He said: “About 12,000 students.” I said: “How many do you presently have? He said: “Just under 9,000 students.” I said: “You have to get to 12,000 students as fast as you possibly can.”

Based on the discussions that I had and because I have said to him: “Do not let any child fall behind” this year they have offered over 5,000 spaces and they are taking in, well it looks like just over 3,500 students. The cohort at the University of the West Indies is going up to just over 11,000 this year alone. That is only policy, I have not put my hand in my pocket for a single dollar yet because we understand and we have asked the institutions this year to take it as far as they possibly could.

More than that, the engineering students at John S. Donaldson Technical Institute and San Fernando Technical Institute are hard done by it because the equipment they use is, at least, 40 years old. Engineering alone is where we have a shortfall in this country. The forecast for the next seven years is close to 300 students a year; a shortfall in the supply compared with the demand. I called the executives at COSTAATT and at the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Technology (TTIT) and I said I would not have this situation anymore, I want all the engineering students at COSTAATT assigned to TTIT so that they could have access to the facilities there. [*Desk thumping*] So said, so done, Mr. Vice-President. In January of 2004, all the engineering students at COSTAATT would now be attending the facilities at TTIT. Use it where it could benefit the most number of persons; optimize the capacity. We will not have segments in the society where some citizens have access to excellent education and some do not.

Mr. Vice-President, the best-kept secret of the UNC is no longer a secret. It is now exposed. We will now use it for the benefit of all students of Trinidad and Tobago. We will have equitable access to all the resources of the State and by all the children. [*Desk thumping*] That is what we are about.

Now, Senator, if I have done anything wrong; if you can find any fault with what we are doing on this side, then I challenge you to stand and say so. Given the time that we have been here; given the understanding and resources that we have and given what exists in the infrastructure, you tell me what we have done wrong. Let me tell you something, I have not even begun to tell you where we are

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going as yet. I have not even begun to give you the whole story but you will hear it very soon.

Mr. Vice-President, let me assure my colleagues that the Dollar for Dollar Plan, as it is presently, is secure. There is no need to finance it through any Revenue Stabilization Fund. The reality is that this is recurrent expenditure and once the State makes a decision that it is going to fund tertiary education—like secondary education—it does so under its recurrent expenditure budget and that is all that is necessary. No special funding mechanism is necessary. In fact, the idea of sterilizing hundreds of millions of dollars that can be drawn down in fits and starts really does not make any financial sense whatever. The State can do it out of its annual revenues and that is the way we will be doing it. No child is going to suffer under this administration.

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President.

7.10 p.m.

Sen. Wade Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I would like to make a brief contribution. I want to address some issues. The Finance (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill before us, is aimed at authorizing the issue from the Consolidated Fund of some \$497 million, and that is to be transferred as we have seen, in the schedule that is before us, into sub-item 12, the Revenue Stabilization Fund.

I will begin by sharing with you, and the honourable Senate, the vision of the United National Congress. The reality is that you can steal one's ideas, as the PNM has attempted to steal ours, but because of the intellectual fossilization of that group, it is very difficult to implement. It cannot implement. Our vision, as a political party, is the creation of a knowledge-based society, a society that is technologically driven, highly diversified in terms of the economy and seeking to establish equality of opportunity for all, ensuring that education is accessible to everyone, ensuring that there is full employment in the society, and ensuring that there is security for each person and his or her property.

That, in a nutshell, represents the United National Congress vision for Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Vice-President, you would know that if you want to build a nation, if you want to promote sustainable development, if you want to emphasize human development, where people have choices, where they have equal opportunity, education as you indicated earlier—Mr. Vice-President, you have been in this for 39 years—education is the weapon for transformation. That is the weapon for

genuine emancipation and liberation. And this is why, I think, the hon. Minister in the Ministry of Finance ought to have—even if he wanted to do it in a grudging way—been able to recognize the kind of revolutionary policy that was introduced by the UNC in 2000. And that was through the establishment by the Government of the Revenue Stabilization Fund.

In addition to that Fund, we did something else, and whether there were and are deficiencies in the Plan called the Dollar for Dollar Plan, that Plan has resulted from its inception in 2001, to the present time, in a large intake of students at the University of the West Indies. We are happy that the hon. Minister who is responsible for Technology, Science and Tertiary Education is able to recognize and appreciate the importance of education. The PNM was virtually asleep for the years that they were in office. Yes, they talked about education but there is a big debate as we speak, as to the real rate, the real level of adult literacy in our nation.

Mr. Vice-President, you would see and would have examined the facts. We are happy that the University of the West Indies, in fact, has taken steps to accommodate the 2,000 persons who they claimed from what the hon. Minister has said, could be accommodated at the University of the West Indies. That is a positive development. You cannot build an intelligent and knowledge-based economy and society if you do not emphasize, if you do not mobilize resources and direct those resources into the education sector. There must be a revolution in education from the early childhood education centres, that is, the so-called kindergarten level, right through to the tertiary level including vocational and technical that are manifested in COSTAATT and the TITT.

I am happy the hon. Minister, Danny Montano, was able to clarify it for the national community this evening. He did it some time ago but he was clearer this evening, that the reason citizens are unable to take up their respective places at the university is not because of race. This gentleman called Dr. Selwyn Cudjoe should be removed from the Central Bank. He is an insult to the board. *[Interruption]* Yes! How? He is the man who is insulting you and the PNM. He is embarrassing you because the hon. Minister just indicated to us that it was more financial reasons, and he is doing everything in his power to ensure that no child is left behind in this academic year, and the years to come. Some people would like to go to the University of the West Indies. There are certain basic qualifications that one has to satisfy in order to enter the University of the West Indies. But you have a chap who lived all his life in the United States, has made no effective and meaningful contribution to Trinidad and Tobago; he was a subversive under the UNC administration. He organized illegal demonstrations

under the UNC. He illegally confronted the police under the UNC and now he is parroting, as my colleague said recently, a kind of agenda that seems to have a kind of quiet acceptance within this administration. I am not hearing the Prime Minister denouncing Cudjoe. So he is supporting Cudjoe.

Sen. Yuille-Williams: Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order. I do not think that is relevant to the debate we are having at this time.

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, I have to rule in favour of the objectionable statements—I have to rule in favour of Sen. The Hon. Yuille-Williams. You are, in fact, straying. We have gone very long into this session and I have advised earlier that we stick to the topic being debated. Please, could we do that in the interest of expediency?

Sen. W. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I am always guided by your wisdom and experience, I should say. The reality, however, is that we have in this country the need for the Government to establish the appropriate legal framework to give effect to the Revenue Stabilization Fund. You would know when this Fund was introduced we were heavily criticized by the PNM. We are happy that the International Monetary Fund, in spite of all its limitations—and I agree with Sen. Mary King, that institution has a number of limitations—but, we are happy to see that the PNM was either badgered or calmly influenced by the IMF in an effort to recognize the importance of both the principles and concepts establishing this particular fund. But, we had been told by the hon. Minister in the last budget, that a Bill would be brought to the Parliament that would give legal meaning to this particular fund because, when this fund was established, it was described as an illegal fund. It was an interim revenue stabilization fund and it was described as an illegal fund. The PNM has been in power for the last two years, and is yet to bring to this Parliament the appropriate legislation to govern this particular fund that it is now placing some half a billion dollars into. We are happy about that. A bit late in the day, but better late than never.

We believe, when we look at, for instance, the work that was done by us, the United National Congress, in terms of economic management, in terms of prudence, there is no doubt in my mind and in anybody's mind that any government, including the one that is currently in office, would be able to not only match, but to surpass. So while we were attacked, the reality is we are over here because the former President of this country, in conspiracy with their leader, undermined the democratic process and illegally and unconstitutionally installed them. That is why they are there and we are here. If we were revolutionaries we could have taken up arms against them but we did not do that because we believe

in the democratic process. If they want to know why we are here, they must know why we are here. We are here because we were overthrown. The only difference this time is instead of using weapons to overthrow us, a fellow used, for instance, the Constitution to manipulate the whole process. He has been highly rewarded now. I am not going on to that. We would deal with that later.

Whilst we have been attacked and all kinds of negative images created of the UNC, the reality is that the United National Congress was able, in its six short years, to establish not only stability at the macroeconomic level in this society, but it had a level of security that when one looks at what is taking place under the PNM, it is chalk and cheese. You know that even though we had difficulties in this country, we did not, like the PNM, use the resources merely to win an election and to bribe a population. We put aside \$1 billion we could have used in a Revenue Stabilization Fund. We could have used those moneys to bribe the population but we put country before party. That is what we did! [*Desk thumping*]

The hon. Basdeo Panday did not have to go to Robinson and dissolve the Parliament. We could have done like Manning and held on to power and never called the election. No! We believe in democracy and that is why, for instance, we are here and they are there. But it is only a matter of time before they come back on this side. All their friends are deserting them, including Abu Bakr. So, we know it is only a matter of time for them.

I feel proud, as a citizen of this Republic, as a player in the arrangement of 1995—2000 that we were able to create a society where people became energized. People had hope. There was a certain sense of confidence. People were leaving London, New York and Toronto, and they were returning home in droves in order to invest and in order to be part of the process of transformation and development. All these things have stopped now. There is a situation where this Revenue Stabilization Fund is crucial, and I compliment the Government in the sense that it is following on the very positive footpath that we have established. We have blazed a trail and they have followed. We compliment them for that. When you do something good we must give you some credit. Hon. Minister of Finance, you have done yourself well. I think history will give you some element of support at the end of the day, not totally, because you are in a bad group. I told you that already. "Fellas, like Sen. Danny Montano, who mean well, I am sure—bad group of men. Do not talk about you, Joan, I like you too bad! The next Prime Minister.

As I said, the Revenue Stabilization Fund is a positive thing because in this society the global economy is so uncertain and so volatile that we need to ensure

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that there is a buffer as Sen. King said, in order to safeguard and to ensure future fiscal stability for this society. We do not want to spend all our moneys as the PNM did. The PNM saved money in the 1970s but they were so concerned with winning elections, they spent out all and in 1985 this economy was bankrupt. They went home and we had to pick up the pieces.

Mr. Vice-President, Trinidad and Tobago is not poor. It is the people of Trinidad and Tobago who are poor. The country is rich but the resources are not being properly distributed in the society. You still have a small group of people creaming off the wealth of this nation. We need positive policy interventions in an effort to ensure a greater level of distribution in the society. You need greater levels of social justice. We started it and that is why there is no doubt in our minds that education is the key to liberation. I do not have to convince myself. I am part of that process; you are now part and we are all part, Mr. Vice-President.

I believe when we looked at the various submissions—I have a report from the International Monetary Fund. I listened to Sen. King very carefully. I know about that institution very well, and I know the conditionalities of that institution. They wrecked many economies. I am aware of that. You live in a global economy. It is either you collapse this economy and become a socialist and communist state, or you stay within the capitalist orbit. We are within the international capitalist orbit and if you are within that orbit, there are certain institutions that you have to be aligned with. The IMF is one of them. Cuba is not aligned to the IMF. You know that. So you have to understand, for instance, that is a reality that we face.

I want to quote from page 3 of a report. This is the *IMF, Article IV*, report dated 2001. On page 3 of this report, the Executive Board Discussion, it states and I quote:

“Directors commended the Trinidad and Tobago authorities...”

(the UNC)

“for their strong track record of economic performance in recent years, as evidenced by robust output growth, low inflation and a strengthening of the external position. Further, unemployment has declined and there has been progress in most social indicators.”

That was in the year 2001, after six years of being in power. That is the report that was coming in. Unemployment was on the decline. As we speak today, unemployment is on the rise.

When the PNM came into office in 2001, unemployment was just about under 10 per cent. Today, unemployment is 11.5 per cent according to the Central Bank statistics, and that was before the 10,000 sugar workers were sent home. Just last week, as you would recall—in fact, last week—down at Point, they gone, 400 workers on the breadline”. Unemployment is rising under the PNM, so you have economic growth, but you also have a phenomena called “jobless growth”. While the economy appears to be expanding, unemployment is rising at the same time.

Mr. Vice-President, let me indulge you a little further, because sometimes for the records, we must remind you and the population, through this Parliament, that the UNC represented good for this country and it was organized propaganda and a conspiracy combined that have us where we are today. Let me quote for you.

“Directors noted that these achievements are due largely to sound policies.... these achievements are due largely to sound policies, in particular to broadly balanced budgets, and effective liquidity management. In addition, though, over the past two years, the fiscal and external positions have benefited from high energy prices. Directors commended the authorities for setting aside a portion of the windfall energy-related revenues in an interim revenue stabilization fund (RSF). They urged that the fund be formalized promptly, based on clear, comprehensive rules, and full accountability.”

We have—Kuei Tung started it. Yes of course. Yetming continued it before you and your former President conspired and drove us out of power. Anyway, God does not sleep. They say he wears pajamas, he never sleeps.

If you look at page 4 of this article on the consultation that was recently done—July 2003, which we got from the Internet. It is a good thing that the IMF is an organization that believes in transparency. Had it not believed in transparency, we would not have been able to see this report. When I called for the report Sen. The Hon. Danny Montano said, “Why do you want this report? When you all were there and we asked for it we did not get it.” Well, we did not get it from the Government, we got it off the Internet, and that is a very good thing. We were able to get it off the Internet. Here is what it says on page 4 of this report.

“Rising energy revenues should facilitate budget surpluses, part of which should be invested offshore through the revenue stabilization fund (RSF). A strengthened RSF could help dampen inflationary pressures from the large foreign exchange inflows in the energy sector from spilling over into the non-energy sector; assist in building a stock of wealth for future generations from peak earnings years; and reduce vulnerability to external shocks.”

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In this report the IMF—“No! You have to invest, Sen. Dr. Saith, whether you invest overseas and you earn interest you bring it back home to satisfy Sen. Mary King’s concern, fine.” Because let us face the reality. It is a blot on the conscience of this nation, after some 40 years of independence, it does not have a proper health care delivery system. With \$70 billion passing through the PNM when they were in power, and they still were not able to establish a proper health care system. If you look at Costa Rica, which is a small developing country, they are very advanced in terms of the basic fundamental issues that they have to address to help the people. They take health care very seriously. They take education very seriously. They take infrastructure very seriously, and after 40 years of independence, I am ashamed as a citizen of this Republic to see the kind of, almost dilapidated state, the tragedy, and the excuse that passes for health care in this country. All of us should be ashamed of that. I am saying, for instance, our country had sufficient resources in order to make every citizen proud in terms of access to health care.

Mr. Vice-President, take your case. For so many years the people of Tobago have been crying out for a hospital. Because of our intervention—if we were in government, you would have gotten it as well; they are just doing the work because we are out. The PNM has done nothing, you know that!

I think that the United National Congress, and I represent that party here this evening, along with my colleagues, we feel very proud. Everything is transitory. Everything is for a time. At one time you were a powerful man. You now have become powerless and I know that. Everything is for a time. You know that.

We feel very proud to know that the Government has allocated half a billion dollars towards this Fund. We urge the Government, as more revenues come in, based on the base price that we would have set, that they continue to put aside a certain portion, 60 per cent towards the Revenue Stabilization Fund. I want to also urge that in spite of whatever reservations they may have about the Dollar for Dollar Plan that they allocate some money, more than they have done this year towards the Dollar for Dollar Education Plan.

I want to challenge the Minister of Finance. We must stop murdering our children in this country. We must stop murdering our babies at the hospitals. Somebody must be held criminally liable and responsible for the deaths of those 13 or 15 children.

Mr. Vice-President, I would like, through you, to urge the Government and the Minister of Finance in particular, to allocate in this year’s budget 4 per cent of

our gross domestic product. If you are not going four, go three. But 2 per cent is too small a part of our GDP towards the health sector of this country, and if you are talking about developed nation state, you are talking a little above 5 per cent of our GDP towards the health sector. I urge the Minister of Finance to see what could be done to help in that department. There is a crisis in education and there is a crisis in health and one has to begin addressing those crises. We have to address them. Resources are needed. Professionals are needed. Personnel are needed and so forth to resolve these issues.

I think, once the Government recognizes that it cannot go forward without us—the PNM Government cannot go forward and Trinidad and Tobago cannot move without the United National Congress and, therefore, it calls for solidarity, it calls for unity, it calls for harmony. But to get that, we must recognize that there is need for equality of opportunity and, therefore, we urge the Government to pay attention to this statement: equality of opportunity; give every citizen an equal chance.

Whether one is Indian, African Caucasian, Chinese, Syrian, or whatever, everybody must have an equal chance. Do not allow people like Selwyn Cudjoe to derail you. I am happy for our good friend, Sen. The Hon. Danny Montano, who is the only Minister of Government that has distinguished from the rest. He has said in no uncertain terms, “Dr. Cudjoe, you are talking nonsense, it is finance and not race”. I want to compliment him for that. I do not compliment him often, but I think he must take credit for that one, Mr. Vice-President.

7.40 p.m.

Mr. Vice-President, the night is getting still and quiet so I do not want to detain my colleagues any longer, but I thought it was important for us to put on the record of Parliament that—[*Interruption*] No, well that gone out again. I had a press conference on that, so you will hear about that later.

Mr. Vice-President, we had to intervene and at least establish for the record that the UNC is proud of this fund that was established. We call on the Government to bring the legal framework to give this thing sustenance and longevity. We urge the Government to focus, as we said, on the Dollar for Dollar Plan. We urge the Government to work with the population, work with us, but bring about changes, because you cannot work with us without changes. That is why we will continue to sing that song and ring that bell until we get justice. We need revolutionary constitutional changes in this country to ensure—When we come to the Caribbean Court of Justice, there was something said that we are

softening our position? Let me say this as I want to make it very clear. The press could write what they want to write. They are free to write what they want to write, but when we come here to debate we will have one position. I would not tell what it is now, but we will have one united position on the question of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Mr. Vice-President, I thank you for your patience and look forward to seeing you in the new session of Parliament.

Sen. Prof. Ramesh Deosaran: Let me assure you, Sir, that I would be very brief, just a few minutes. I want to assure the Leader of Government Business and Sen. Yuille-Williams that I would be very, very brief indeed, but after listening to the exposition by Sen. Mark I am quite sure you will not deny me my few minutes.

I was very impressed with the contributions made in this debate on the Bill, starting with the Minister, and I support my colleague, Sen. King, with her call once again for thrift and diligence in managing the State's resources. I was impressed by the passion expressed by Sen. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, which was quite informative, and, perhaps, equally so the compassionate contribution by Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan.

I rise, Sir, to comment, very briefly, as I said—in fact, I am always impressed by the phenomenal memory of Sen. Mark and I think Minister Chin Lee would be disappointed that when he spoke about the crisis in health and education, he omitted to speak about the crisis in crime as well because I believe all three are related. However, it is to my very distinguished and amiable friend, Sen. Danny Montano, that I wish to direct my few remarks.

In the first place he is correct, there is a need to expand the enrolment at the University of the West Indies if, indeed, there are 900 students who have been left out, after having been offered places. Even so, there is a significant increase in this year's enrolment at the University of the West Indies, but the commendation and the note of that fact should not stop there; of greater concern, perhaps, at the present time, is the pressures put upon the accommodation at the University. The traffic within the campus, putting it mildly, is chaotic. There are accidents and mishaps, and there is anger on the campus because at certain times there is, in fact, almost no room for lecturers to park. There is no parking space.

I do not wish to make the debate very mundane in this respect, but this is one indicator that you have to plan for such enrolment. You have to set up the infrastructure to accommodate the desired target which, to me, needs to be brought in line with what is rightly desired, increased enrolment. There is the

question now—I have something to do with the university, as you know—of actual seats during lectures now being under heavy pressure, never mind the other resources such as additional technology which can certainly help some of the problems of class size, more lectures and so on.

I briefly want to put on the record, Mr. President—I call you Mr. President because you are presiding as a chairman and I do not want to make it sound as if I am not using the correct protocol, but I see you as a president presiding at present. I just want to put on the record that other things need to be done by the university's administration, of course, in conjunction with the Minister, to accommodate that increased enrolment.

The question of equality has taken on new heights in this debate and I think that is where many of our problems begin in this country, the quest and attempt to balance different factors in coming to equal output. If you say that everybody must have a chance, it cannot be so random. It has to be on certain conditions, and I would like to feel that we are still a country based on meritocracy even at the university.

The real question of equality or inequality is not at the university's level. The crisis of inequality exists at the secondary school level most pervasively. Therefore, if you want to configure that problem it may end at the university. It might even end further above in terms of whether we have the socio economic capacity to absorb university graduates. That is why the institute of technology is so very vital. I wish you well in that enterprise because it will help, to a great extent, solve the problem of inequality in terms of occupational stratification, family life and where those things eventually matter.

We have—at another occasion, possibly, Mr. President—to get into the inequalities in the secondary school system. There are many measures I can use and, perhaps, I can tell you as good as anybody else—I can make a very convincing case about the crisis of inequality in the secondary school system—but I will launch to you just one indicator. We should be aware that almost 90 per cent—if that is an indicator because you go to secondary school to achieve academically, primarily so—of scholarships come from a certain kind of secondary school. The implication is that the vast majority of the secondary schools produce a very small number of such scholarship winners. That means there is a gross imbalance in the system and that is what contributes, eventually, to what you get in the university level.

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In my view, it has little or perhaps nothing to do with ethnicity per se, but it is the ladder that needs to be straightened if we want fuller equality at the university level and in the occupational system in the country.

So, with those few brief remarks I am happy to join the debate, but I wish to put the Minister on alert about the need for resources and at a different debate at another time we will get into the fuller question of the educational system and the extent to which it creates inequality rather than solving the problem of equality.

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President.

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, let me thank all those who have contributed for the contributions they have made because I think they are very important contributions.

There is a view that the IMF, somehow or the other, caused the Government to take this particular position. I quote from a report that was done on June, 03 by the Western Hemisphere Division of the IMF in which a number of issues were discussed and we looked at them. These issues included, among others, past and present energy booms in Trinidad and Tobago and lessons for fiscal policy. It talks about things like a historical perspective and the fiscal policy during the oil boom of 1970—1980; characteristics of the current energy boom; fiscal policy issues and a conclusion. It also talked about proposals for sustainable fiscal policy in Trinidad and Tobago during the energy boom and it talked about the theoretical underpinnings of fiscal sustainability based on permanent income hypothesis and resource funds as policy tools to achieve fiscal sustainability. It also talked about recent developments and main policy issues in the state-owned non financial enterprise sectors among others.

I want to just put on record what it says about resource funds as policy tools to achieve fiscal sustainability because there is another side to the story that has been painted. It says on page 19 of the report:

“Resource savings funds are policy tools that have been used by a number of countries to help put aside part of their resource wealth. Such funds, when used in conjunction with prudent fiscal measures, can be effective tools to build a store of national wealth for future generations, while at the same time being able to insulate the economy from volatility if the need arises. However, as cross country evidence suggests, resource funds have had mixed success in achieving efficient resource management. This less than desired performance is thought to be due to two main factors: poor design of the fund rules, and

inability to coordinate the fund's operations with countercyclical fiscal policy.”

It goes on to say that:

“The current administration must now decide...”

That is this administration.

“whether to reinvigorate the fund,...or to simply close it.”

That is an IMF recommendation and, therefore, it is not correct to give the impression that the IMF had some kind of influence in causing this particular decision to be made because the IMF recommendations in part says, “you may simply close it” and be done with that.

Why did they say that? Let me go back to a quote that has been used in many instances in this particular place, “rising energy revenues should facilitate budget surpluses, part of which should be invested through the Revenue Stabilization Fund”. Over the last couple of months we did a very interesting exercise called “Budget Preparation” at the Ministry of Finance. The method we used was basically to go to the ministries and say to them, “Given the objectives you have, the plans you have, let us understand what you want to do and what are the funding requirements for that.” We found ourselves in a situation where the demand for services outweighed available revenue somewhere in the vicinity of about \$4.5 billion or \$1.6 billion.

One asks the question: What has caused that to occur and why is it doing that? There are those who say that Vision 2020 is a pipe dream and they say that because they understand two things. At this point in time the Government has recognized and we have identified the following as our priority sectors: education, health, housing, national security and social services. But, when I look at what we inherited in a real sense from those that went before us, this is what I see.

If I were to combine, and I did, the allocations for the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Housing, in terms of fixed commitment, that cost is TT \$5.8 billion. When I look at charges on account of the public debt, that is to say, those that went before us and basically borrowed so that we could repay it, that amounts to \$5.4 billion, so here is the issue.

Somebody took the decision that you should borrow and pay in the future. The consequences of that is, today we cannot spend money on education as we want to because as soon as we get an additional dollar it goes into debt. When the

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Prime Minister is on record as saying it should go into infrastructure, this is the question he is asking. If you have \$5 billion worth of debt to deal with immediately you come into Government, and you have demands for health services and for education, does it not make sense to deal with those issues first and then deal with the issue of savings? That is the context in which the Prime Minister makes the comment and it is really unreasonable to say that it is made in any other context.

The fact is that we inherited from an administration a situation in which we have debt that is going to strangle us if we do not do a couple of things. In order for us to make the kinds of interventions that we have to make in education we are going to have to borrow because the last administration, or whoever did this, had not allowed us sufficient latitude to change our circumstances based on the structure of the fiscals. I think that is an important statement and it is an important issue that we must understand. We cannot continue to make statements without understanding what is before us.

The Revenue Stabilization Fund, therefore, is a tool that is used by the international agencies as part of the whole evaluation process. What we propose to do with excess revenue is, basically, to put some in the Revenue Stabilization Fund but to use the rest to try to get rid of this particular difficulty that we face, charges on account of the public debt.

There was a discussion, in fact, about the report of the IMF not being available. Well, the only way that the report could be available on the website, quite frankly, is if we authorize it, and we did. So, again, to create the impression that there is some secrecy is an incorrect statement. The fact is that we authorized that it should go and, in fact, they were surprised that we authorized it without sanitizing it, but to the extent that the report identified for us what we met, we felt that it was a great idea for the population to understand what it is we are dealing with. You cannot have those kinds of issues developing within 12 months. You cannot have those kinds of systemic problems within 12 months. Simply to say that it is our fault or your fault does not seem to make sense to me. The facts of the matter really happen to be that these are the issues we have to deal with and we are proposing to deal with them. We are going to challenge them and we are going to treat with them in a manner that makes sense.

Mr. Vice-President, I happen to think that the debate was of a high quality. I happen to think that many of the views expressed were based, quite frankly, on information that was available. My own view is that if Members have different information they would have come to different conclusions, but I do feel that

there are very important things that we must do. There is a lot of work that we have to do because this particular problem of debt management—this particular problem of every dollar that we get a significant amount is going to be put simply to repay past debt—is one that is going to haunt us for a little while. I think, collectively, we are going to have to find a solution for that.

Sen. Mary King's situation about the economic transformation team, I think we need to put on record as well that the planning initiative in this Government is currently being handled by the Ministry of Planning through a mechanism called the Vision 2020 Team.

As you might know the mandate from Cabinet, the Prime Minister, is that we must set up plans/policies that will cause us to be, in the shortest possible time—certainly by the year 2020—a developed nation. What we did in this process was to engage everybody that we can talk to in the society—It is our intention also to engage Members of the other side because we think they are an important part of the process. We want to make sure that everybody is involved in the process. In the interim, I believe there are about 100 subcommittees that are working, basically, on different sectors of the economy, the end result being to have everything flow into a plan or policy that will identify a way forward for Trinidad and Tobago.

One of the strengths of Trinidad and Tobago's culture is that every political party to date has, basically, followed some principles that have caused us to be where we are today. These principles really talk to good fiscal policy, good macroeconomic fundamentals and, basically, trying to do surplus budgets or balanced budgets. Our mode of implementation is what distinguishes us but, quite frankly, we do believe, all of us, that education, health, housing, national security and social services are indeed priorities. I have heard nothing different. We have heard different implementation methods, but I have not heard the priorities to change. Therefore, even as we disagree as we move forward, we are still focusing on the same issues and I think that is commendable and that is well for us.

I am heartened, notwithstanding the delivery enthusiasm that we can agree and we can also disagree. I, therefore, feel particularly pleased to hear those on the other side support the position taken by this particular administration in continuing a measure that we consider to be good in the interest of the country in particular and for all our citizens in general.

Mr. Vice-President, on that particular development note, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

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The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, in accordance with Standing Order 63, I beg to move that the Bill not be committed to a committee of the whole Senate.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith): Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn to a date to be fixed and to take this opportunity to thank all Members for their contributions during the course of the year. Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 8.06 p.m.

**Water and Sewerage Authority
(Contractors Engaged)**

10. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark earlier in the proceedings:*

- (a) Could the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment state:
 - The names of all the contractors engaged by the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) for the period December 2001 to the present time?
 - (i) The exact nature of work these contractors have been engaged to perform?
 - (ii) The duration of these contracts and the financial value of each contract?
- (b) Could the Minister also state:
 - (i) How many contractors have been paid to date?
 - (ii) How many contractors have not been paid and exactly when would they be paid?
- (c) Would the Minister indicate whether the taxpayer is getting value for money on each contract?

The Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment (Sen. The Hon. Rennie Dumas):

- (a) Information with respect to the names of all contractors engaged by the Water and Sewerage Authority for the period December 2001 to the present, the exact nature of work these contractors have been engaged to perform, the duration of these contracts, and the financial value of these contracts, has been circulated for the benefit of honourable Senators in the form of an Appendix.
- (b) 131 contractors have been paid to date; 16 contractors have not yet been paid. It is expected that outstanding payment shall be made by the end of the financial year.

- (c) In order to determine whether the taxpayer is getting value for money, a case-by-case study will have to be done on each individual contract. This process of continuous monitoring and review is in place, and in most cases, the Government will only be able to determine whether the taxpayer is getting value for money, when contract works are completed and any dispute settled.

**WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 01, 2001 TO DECEMBER 31, 2002**

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
1	Janoura's Custom Design Limited	42-44 Sackville Street, Port of Spain	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Estate Police Uniforms, equipment and Footwear-St Joseph	18-Dec-01	\$32,655.00	1 YEAR
	National Shoe Manufacture Co. Ltd.	500 Eastern Main Road, Arouca			\$36,511.00	
	Eagle Shirt Factory Company Ltd.	5 Coffee Street, San Fernando			\$39,280.00	
2	D. Rampersad Limited	Endeavour Industrial Estate, Chaguanas	Construction Works for DP Booster Pumping Stations under the North Water Project	28-Dec-01	\$2,134,115.49	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
3	Rooks Oilfield and Engineering Supplies Ltd.	P.O. Box 74, San Fernando	Construction Works for DP Booster Pumping Stations under the South Water Project	28-Dec-01	\$1,961,063.85	1 YEAR
4	Trinsult	Valpark Shopping Plaza, # 1 Morequito Lane, Valsayn	Consultancy Services for an Independent Engineering Auditor for the North Water Project	28-Dec-01	\$921,600.00	2 YEARS
5	Thomas Peake and Co Limited	177 Western Main Road, Cocorite	Tender for the Provision of Maintenance Services for the 255 ton York Absorption Recirculating Liquid Chiller System for a one (1) year period. - St Joseph	29-Jan-02	\$139,300.00	1 YEAR
6	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Moka Wells Project - Road Restoration	30-Jan-02	\$87,695.00	1 YEAR
7	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Achong Trace, Tunapuna - Road Restoration	18-Feb-02	\$54,890.00	1 YEAR
8	Marketing and Distribution	Macoya Road and Churchill Roosevelt Highway, Tunapuna	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of 30 Metric Tonnes Powdered Activated Carbon to WASA St Joseph	20-Feb-02	\$184,869.00	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
9	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Drive Point Lisas	Mission Road, San Juan - Road Restoration	25-Feb-02	\$101,644.52	1 YEAR
10	Modern Electrical Supplies Limited	265 Eastern Main Road, Tunapuna	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Electrical Items to WASA for a twelve (12) Month period - St Joseph	25-Feb-02	Rates	1 YEAR
	Hadco Ltd	Bhagoutie Trace, San Juan		25-Feb-02	Rates	1 YEAR
11	Bruce Elevators Services Limited	16 Victoria Ave, Port of Spain	Tender for the Provision of Maintenance Services for the Otis and Kone Elevators for a two (2) year period - St Joseph	25-Feb-02	\$20,400.00	2 YEARS
	RBP Lifts Limited	36 Murray Street, Port of Spain		25-Feb-02	\$89,040.00	1 YEAR
12	Carib Asphalt Pavers Ltd.	Shop 2 Build. 2 Cross Crossing Center	Reform to Garth Road - Road Restoration	14-Mar-02	\$399,350.00	1 YEAR
13	Carib Asphalt Pavers Ltd.	Shop 2 Build. 2 Cross Crossing Center	Moruga Rd. to La Lune Rd., Gran Chemin Road Restoration	19-Mar-02	\$230,094.00	1 YEAR
14	Carib Asphalt Pavers Ltd.	Shop 2 Build. 2 Cross Crossing Center	Southern Road Development - Road Restoration	19-Mar-02	\$52,480.00	1 YEAR
15	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Drive Point Lisas	Acono Road, Maracas, St. Joseph - Road Restoration	22-Mar-02	\$233,871.80	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
16	Eagle Shirt Factory	5 Coffee Street, San Fernando	Tender for the Procurement of Uniforms Jerseys, Uniforms, Protective Clothing and Uniform Shoes for 2002 - St Joseph	28-Mar-02	\$65,209.00	1 YEAR
	Pampellone Garment Industries Ltd.	Cantaro Ext. Road, Upper Santa Cruz		28-Mar-02	\$218,527.00	1 YEAR
	East Caribbean Industries Limited	47 Tissue Drive, Trincity Industrial Estate, Trincity		28-Mar-02	\$121,360.00	1 YEAR
	National Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	500 Eastern Main Road, Arouca		28-Mar-02	\$103,440.20	1 YEAR
	Regency Manufacturers Limited	62 Queen Street, Port of Spain		28-Mar-02	\$5,500.00	1 YEAR
17	L & W Engineering Equipment Ltd	111 Eastern Main Road, Laventille	Tender for the Procurement of Meters and Spares for the Water and Sewerage Authority - St Joseph	11-Apr-02	\$199,332.00	One-off delivery
	Water and Oilwell Services Co. Ltd	39-41 Marryat Street, San Fernando		18-Feb-02	\$405,232.20	
18	Oilfield and Marine Sales & Service	69 South Trunk Road, La Romain	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Non-Stock Hardware Items to WASA for a twelve (12) month period - St Joseph	16-Apr-02	Rates	1 YEAR
	Diptee's Hardware	High Street, Siparia		16-Apr-02	Rates	

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
	William H. Scott	23-29 Independence Square, Port of Spain		16-Apr-02	Rates	
	H.J.R. Limited	1256 West Bank Road, Palmiste, San Fernando		16-Apr-02	Rates	
	S N S Hardware Limited	39 Gooding Village, San Fernando		16-Apr-02	Rates	
	B.K. Hardware	3 Robinson Circular, Arima		16-Apr-02	Rates	
19	Sherry Ann Peters Louison	1312 Mannequinn Lane, Maloney	Tender for the Provision of Ground Maintenance Services at Water Treatment Plants & Water Wells for a twelve (12) month period - St Joseph	30-Apr-02	\$34,800.00	1 YEAR
	Chelnique Services	Ackbarali Street, Malabar, Arima		30-Apr-02	\$18,000.00	
	A & V Drilling and Workover Limited	Nazim Avenue, San Francique Road, Penal		30-Apr-02	\$115,032.00	
	Caribbean Facilities Corporation Limited	Lp # 22 Xavier Street Extension, Chaguanas		30-Apr-02	\$84,000.00	
	Tramway Marketing Limited	Point D'or Road, La Brea		30-Apr-02	\$41,580.00	

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
	Accent Landscaping	131 Lenny Saith Drive, Real Spring, Valsayn		30-Apr-02	\$20,430.00	
20	D.E.S. Limited	39 Cocoyea Village, San Fernando	Tender for Rehabilitation Works to Filter Nos 1, 2 & 3 at the Las Lomas Water Treatment Plant	01-May-02	\$458,242.98	6 MONTHS
21	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Mango Alley, Morvant - Road Restoration	10-May-02	\$43,835.00	1 YEAR
22	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Upper Wharton Street, Laventille - Road Restoration	10-May-02	\$128,593.00	1 YEAR
23	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Scorpion Road, Carenage - Road Restoration	10-May-02	\$103,725.00	1 YEAR
24	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	St. John Road, St. Augustine - Road Restoration	10-May-02	\$262,798.00	1 YEAR
25	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Pipiol Road, Santa Cruz - Road Restoration	10-May-02	\$87,354.00	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
26	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Upper Sixth Avenue, Malick – Road Restoration	10-May-02	\$128,593.00	1 YEAR
27	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Quarry Road Ext. Champ Fleur – Road Restoration	10-May-02	\$54,027.70	1 YEAR
28	Construction & Maintenance Plumbing	31-33 Abercromby Street, Port of Spain	1500M of 150mm pipe Santa Cruz	14-Jun-02	\$771,800.00	3 MONTHS
29	Capital Plumbing & Sanitation Works Ltd.	21 San Diego Park Diego Martin	948 m of 100mm pipe, San Juan & Santa Cruz	14-Jun-02	\$579,860.00	3 MONTHS
30	Industrial Systems Control Ltd.	Isaac Street Couva.	712M 100mm pipe, P/Fortin; Siparia & Palo Seco	14-Jun-02	\$542,240.00	3 MONTHS
31	C.M.E Services	213 Belmont Circular Rd. P.O.S.	1000M of 100mm Pipe Mahogany Dr, N/E Settlement.	14-Jun-02	\$668,800.00	3 MONTHS
32	TRINRON	40 Cedar Hill Rd Claxton Bay	800M of 100mm pipe Fyzabad	14-Jun-02	\$470,100.00	3 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
33	SAISCON	49 High St. Rio Claro	750M of 100mm pipe, Ortoire & Guayaguayare	14-Jun-02	\$434,800.00	3 MONTHS
34	Sanitank Ltd.	10 Sorzano St. Arima	1440M of 100mm pipe Pinto, Arima.	14-Jun-02	\$857,050.00	3 MONTHS
35	Southern Exploration & Production Co.	168 London St. San F'do	703M of 100mm pipe, Quinam; S/Flora	14-Jun-02	\$431,385.00	3 MONTHS
36	Uniform Building Contractors Ltd.	28 Third Avenue, Barataria	1400M of 100mm pipe, Arima & Five Rivers	14-Jun-02	\$875,200.00	3 MONTHS
37	OLAB Construction Services Ltd	44 San F'do St., San F'do.	800M of 100mm pipe Cocoyea & St. Magarets	14-Jun-02	\$461,750.00	3 MONTHS
38	Alves Easteel Industries Ltd	Rust Road, Guayaguayare	1200M of 100mm pipe, Manzanella Rd.	14-Jun-02	\$675,800.00	3 MONTHS
39	P. R. Transport Enterprises	15 Bhagwansingh Tr. Gasparillo	700M of 100mm pipes, Point Fortin & Rio Claro	14-Jun-02	\$447,050.00	3 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
40	Dwarika General Contractors	1/4 Mile Mark Debe Trace, DEBE	900M of 100mm pipe, Point Fortin	14-Jun-02	\$519,100.00	3 MONTHS
41	Fortune's Construction Ind.	114 Lambie St. Vistabella, San F'do	200M of 100mm & 600M of 150mm pipe Bennet Village	14-Jun-02	\$484,100.00	3 MONTHS
42	Corneal Engineering & Surveys Services Ltd	24 Merle Street Morvant	850M of 100mm pipe Point Fortin & Cap De Ville	14-Jun-02	\$595,300.00	3 MONTHS
43	Sherman Plumbing	37 Eight Street, Barataria	1039M of 100mm pipe St. Joseph & Arima	14-Jun-02	\$589,305.00	3 MONTHS
44	P. Edmund & Sons Ltd	LP# 5 Depot Rd., Longdenville	600M of 100mm & 400M of 150mm pipes Fyzabad	14-Jun-02	\$625,250.00	3 MONTHS
45	Asson & Sons Wastewater & General Contractors	Seebharat Street, Mc Bean, Couva	600M of 100mm pipes Cap de Ville	14-Jun-02	\$345,550.00	3 MONTHS
46	Pace Construction services Ltd.	LP 117 Cochrane Village, Guapo	750M of 100mm pipe Siparia	14-Jun-02	\$381,575.00	3 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
47	Mack Construction Services Ltd.	67 Prince Street, Port of Spain	1300M of 100mm pipes, Cedarwood Drive	14-Jun-02	\$728,900.00	3 MONTHS
48	F. M. Enterprises Co. Ltd	LP 267 Southern Main Rd., Cunupia	1400M of 150mm pipes, Ojoe Road, Sangre Grande	14-Jun-02	\$739,600.00	3 MONTHS
49	Phoenix Construction & Supplies	37 Patna Street St. James	1300 of 100mm pipes, Paramin	14-Jun-02	\$709,800.00	3 MONTHS
50	Crown J's	37 Patna Street St. James	1100M of 150 & 100mm pipes Diego Martin & Tunapuna	14-Jun-02	\$704,800.00	3 MONTHS
51	Rincon	Naparima Mayaro Road, Rio Claro	900M of 100mm pipe, Guayaguayare	14-Jun-02	\$456,850.00	3 MONTHS
52	Bjoy Plumbing & Construction Co.	4 Phillipine Road, San Fernando	800M of 150mm pipe, Warren Road, Point Fortin	14-Jun-02	\$446,400.00	3 MONTHS
53	Ronald's Maintenance Services Ltd.	1 Ecclesville Road, Rio Claro	783M of 100mm pipe, Palo Seco & Mayaro Rd.	14-Jun-02	\$469,535.00	3 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
54	Digi- Data Systems Limited	#96 Wrightson Road, POS	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of One Hundred (100) Personal Computers to WASA – St Joseph	24-Jun-02	\$614,464.00	One-off delivery
55	Pannel Kerr Forster	245 Belmont Circular Road, Belmont	Tender for the Conduct of a System Audit into selected areas of WASA under the Supervision of the Auditor General - St Joseph	24-Jun-02	\$235,750.00	3 MONTHS
56	Bjoy Plumbing & Construction Co.	4 Phillipine Road, San Fernando	600M of 100mm pipe Vessigny	25-Jun-02	\$337,350.00	3 MONTHS
57	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Rincon Village - Road Restoration	01-Jul-02	\$106,110.00	1 YEAR
58	S.O.S. West Indies Limited	# 27 De Verteuil Street, Chaguanas	Tender for the Supply and installation of Energy Conservation Systems at Tacarigua, Valsayn and Guanapo Water Works	08-Jul-02	\$750,000.00	6 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
59	Lee Young and Partners	14-16 Dere Street, Port of Spain	Tender for the Provision of Consultancy Services for the Supervision of Works for the Design, Construction of Transmission and Distribution Pipelines - throughout T & T	09-Jul-02	\$240,000.00	6 MONTHS
60	Trintoplan Consultants Limited	Orange Grove Road, Tacarigua		09-Jul-02	\$298,800.00	6 MONTHS
61	Rooks Oilfield & Engineering Supplies Limited	P.O. Box 74, San Fernando	Tender for the Construction of Booster Pumping Stations throughout Trinidad and Tobago	09-Jul-02	\$1,301,606.49	6 MONTHS
	Engineering Agencies Limited	# 11 Borde Street, Port of Spain		09-Jul-02	\$2,610,947.00	6 MONTHS
62	Century Eslon Limited	# 1 Century Drive, Trincity	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Pipes and Fittings for the S.T.I.P. Program - Tranches 1 & 2 - St Joseph	10-Jul-02	\$2,206,884.06	6 MONTHS
	Hardware & Oilfield Equipment Co. Ltd.	# 40 Ciperio Road, San Fernando		10-Jul-02	\$167,865.95	
	Abjan Piping Company	16 Victoria Avenue, Bretton Hall, Port of Spain		10-Jul-02	\$1,127,202.63	

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
	TRICON	Churchill Roosevelt Highway, Tunapuna		10-Jul-02	\$748,102.52	
63	Walkerwell Limited	111 Eastern Main Road, Laventille	Tender for the Rehabilitation of Existing Wells and the Drilling, Equipping of new Wells at Matura and Rincon for S.T.I.P.	10-Jul-02	\$706,455.00	6 MONTHS
	Water and Oilwell Services Co. Ltd	39-41 Marryat Street, San Fernando		10-Jul-02	\$1,061,314.00	
64	The Interplan Group	133 Sixth Street, Barataria	Tender for the Provision of Consultancy Services for the Supervision of Works at Booster pumping Stations and Tanks throughout Trinidad & Tobago	12-Jul-02	\$149,988.00	6 MONTHS
	Lee Young and Partners	14-16 Dere Street, Port of Spain		13-Jul-02	\$170,000.00	
65	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	First Street, Tunapuna – Road Restoration	24-Jul-02	\$63,820.00	1 YEAR
66	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Pasea Trace, Tunapuna – Road Restoration	24-Jul-02	\$45,432.00	1 YEAR
67	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Paramin Well #7 – Road Restoration	24-Jul-02	\$152,560.00	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
68	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Basanta Trace, Tunapuna – Road Restoration	24-Jul-02	\$60,600.00	1 YEAR
69	Tramway Marketing Limited	Point D'or Road, La Brea	Tender for the Provision of Ground Maintenance Services at Wastewater Treatment Facilities in the South and Central Regions for a ten (10) month period	06-Aug-02	\$77,100.00	1 YEAR
70	Century 21 Janitorial Services	Nahous Complex, Boundary Road, San Juan	Tender for the Provision of Janitorial Services at WASA's Facilities in Tobago for a two (2) year period	09-Aug-02	\$160,200.00	2 YEARS
71	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Moka Wells Project 11 – Road Restoration	15-Aug-02	\$258,885.00	1 YEAR
72	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Khandahar, Arouca – Road Restoration	15-Aug-02	\$135,372.00	1 YEAR
73	Carib Asphalt Pavers Ltd.	Shop 2 Build. 2 Cross Crossing Center	La Lune Road to Marac, Moruga – Road Restoration	16-Aug-02	\$289,040.00	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
74	Industrial Chemical Company (JA) Ltd.	259 Spanish Town, Kingston, Jamaica	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of 8200 Metric tones of Granular Aluminium Sulphate to WASA for a one (1) year period – St Joseph	16-Aug-02	\$6,152,706.00	1 YEAR
75	Walkerwell Co. Ltd.	111 Eastern Main Road, Laventille	Tender for the Procurement of Submersible Pumpssets & Variable Frequency Controllers – St Joseph	21-Aug-02	\$244,635.00	One-off delivery
	General Earth Movers- UEM Inc Ltd	16 c Percell Street. San Fernando		23-Aug-02	\$190,000.00	
76	P. Edmund & Sons Ltd	LP 5 Depot Road, Longdenville	600M of 100mm pipes Salibia, Toco.	02-Sep-02	\$348,850.00	3 MONTHS
77	Fortune's Construction Ind.	114 Lambie St. Vistabella, San F'do	350M of 100mm pipes, La Brea	02-Sep-02	Rates	3 MONTHS
78	P.R. Transport Enterprises	15 Bhagwansingh Tr. Gasparillo	150M of 100mm pipes, Osbourne Street, Pt. Fortin	02-Sep-02	\$80,750.00	3 MONTHS
79	SAISCON	48 High Street Rio Claro	60M of 100mm pipes, La Savannah Rd. Guayaguayare	02-Sep-02	\$45,900.00	3 MONTHS
80	Rincon	Naparima Mayaro Road, Rio Claro	110M of 100mm pipes, Ferreira Circ., Guayaguayare	02-Sep-02	\$68,150.00	3 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
81	Crown J's	37 Patna Street St. James	300M of 100mm pipes, Bamboo Settlement	02-Sep-02	\$158,900.00	3 MONTHS
82	E.H. Waldropt & Sons	LP 2 Hasarat Rd., Cunupia	200M of 100mm pipe Hercules Dr, Point Fortin	02-Sep-02	\$110,200.00	3 MONTHS
83	TRINRON	40 Cedar Hill Rd Claxton Bay	530M of 100mm pipes, Robert Lane & London St.	02-Sep-02	\$279,500.00	3 MONTHS
84	P. Edmund & Sons Ltd	LP 5 Depot Road, Longdenville	600M of 100mm pipes, Gr., Inn., Alb., Pier., Del., & Spen. Sts.	02-Sep-02	\$348,850.00	3 MONTHS
85	Phoenix Construction & Supplies	37 Patna Street St. James	400M of 100mm pipes, Sahadoo Rd. Manzanilla	02-Sep-02	\$219,600.00	3 MONTHS
86	Pace Construction Services Ltd.	LP 117 Cochrane Village, Guapo	750M of 100mm pipes, Silver Stream, Fyzabad	02-Sep-02	\$383,450.00	3 MONTHS
87	Uniform Building Contractors Ltd.	28 Third Avenue, Barataria	450M of 100mm pipes, Phillip Tr., Tunapuna	02-Sep-02	\$245,700.00	3 MONTHS
88	Ronald's Maintenance Services Ltd.	1 Ecclesville Rd. Rio Claro	200M of 100mm pipe Hercules Dr, Point Fortin	02-Sep-02	\$110,200.00	3 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
89	Bjoy Plumbing & Construction Co.	4 Phillipine Road, San Fernando	750M of 100mm pipes, Spring Tr. La Brea	02-Sep-02	\$413,700.00	3 MONTHS
90	Corneal Engineering & Surveys Services Ltd	29 Merle St. Morvant	350M of 100mm pipes, Sobo Circular, La Brea	02-Sep-02	\$192,250.00	3 MONTHS
91	Mack Construction Services Ltd.	67 Prince Street, Port of Spain	600M of 100mm pipes, Primus St., Salabia, Toco	02-Sep-02	\$347,950.00	3 MONTHS
92	Alves Easteel Industries Ltd	Rust Road, Guayaguayare	350M of 100mm pipes, South Main Rd. Manzanilla	02-Sep-02	\$197,350.00	3 MONTHS
93	OLAB Construction Services Ltd	44 San F'do St., San F'do.	700M of 100mm pipes, Lance Miten Rd., Moruga	02-Sep-02	\$258,700.00	3 MONTHS
94	E.H. Waldropt & Sons	LP 2 Hasarat Rd. Cunupia	200M of 100mm pipes, Hercules Dr., Pt. Fortin	02-Sep-02	\$110,200.00	3 MONTHS
95	TRICON	Churchill Roosevelt Highway Trincity	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Pipes and Fittings for the S.T.I.P. Program Tranches 1 & 2 throughout Trinidad & Tobago Additional Award	05-Sep-02	\$169,728.00	delivery over six month period
	Century Eslon	1 Century Drive, Trincity		05-Sep-02	\$409,154.12	

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
96	E. Construction & Survey Consultants Co Ltd.	71 Cedar Hill Village Princes Town	Tender for the Construction of Electrical Kiosks under the Trinidad Groundwater Project	05-Sep-02	\$122,073.60	6 MONTHS
97	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Acono Wells #2 – Road Restoration	09-Sep-02	\$221,254.50	1 YEAR
98	Process Components	17-19 Maraj Avenue, Marabella	Tender for the Construction of Chlorination Facilities under the Trinidad Groundwater Project	10-Sep-02	\$139,656.00	6 MONTHS
99	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Second Street Tunapuna – Road Restoration	11-Sep-02	\$47,040.00	1 YEAR
100	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	First Street, Tunapuna – Road Restoration	11-Sep-02	\$47,040.00	1 YEAR
101	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Salibia Mathura – Road Restoration	11-Sep-02	\$104,000.00	1 YEAR
102	Midtown Pharmacy	Eastern Main Road, Tunapuna	Supply and Delivery of Non-Stock Pharmaceutical Items for one (1) year – St Joseph	12-Sep-02	Rates	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
103	P.R. Transport Enterprises	15 Bhagwansingh Tr. Gasparillo	400M of 100mm pipes, Kandahar	16-Sep-02	\$222,700.00	3 MONTHS
104	Crown J's	37 Patna Street St. James	500M of 100mm pipes, Lance Mitan, Carenage	16-Sep-02	\$287,200.00	3 MONTHS
105	Sanitank Ltd.	10 Sorzano St. Arima	500M of 100mm pipes, Lula Trace	16-Sep-02	\$256,200.00	3 MONTHS
106	TRINRON	40 Cedar Hill Rd Claxton Bay	600M of 100mm pipes, Saunders Tr., Moruga.	16-Sep-02	\$295,950.00	3 MONTHS
107	Sherman Plumbing	37 Eight Street, Barataria	500M of 100mm pipes, Bunion Tr., Moruga	16-Sep-02	\$257,000.00	3 MONTHS
108	Marketing and Distribution	Cor. Macoya Road and Churchill Roosevelt Highway, Tunapuna	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of 3010 Metric Tonnes of Hydrated Lime to WASA St Joseph	17-Sep-02	\$5,211,813.60	1 YEAR
109	Republic Bank Credit Card Centre	72 Independence Square, POS	Tender for the Procurement of a Credit Card Facility at the WASA – St Joseph	20-Sep-02	Credit Card Service (Monthly) \$1,278.25	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
					Debit Card Service (Monthly) \$100.45	
110	Sherry-Ann Peters Louison	1312 Mannequin Lane Maloney	Tender for the Provision of Ground Maintenance Services at Water Treatment Plants and Water Wells of the WASA for a twelve month period – Additional Award	23-Sep-02	\$13,800.00	1 YEAR
111	Fortune's Construction Ind.	114 Lambie St. Vistabella, San F'do	500M of 100mm pipes, Sobo Ext. La Brea	01-Oct-02	\$260,150.00	3 MONTHS
112	Carib Asphalt Pavers Ltd.	Shop 2 Build. 2 Cross Crossing Center	Solomon Trace, Mayaro - Road Restoration	01-Oct-02	\$62,770.00	1 YEAR
113	Moonan Engineering & Construction (T & T) Ltd.	#17 Streatham Lodge Road, Tunapuna	Davis Street, Range Road, Five Rivers, Arouca Road Restoration	02-Oct-02	\$80,386.25	1 YEAR
114	Moonan Engineering & Construction (T & T) Ltd.	#17 Streatham Lodge Road, Tunapuna	Mendez Drive, Champ Fleur – Road Restoration	09-Oct-02	\$50,980.25	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
115	Waterworks Ltd	#28 Third Ave, Barataria	Provision of Contract Services to Operate and Maintain the Trinity Waterworks	14-Oct-02	\$713,160.00	18 MONTHS
116	Carib Asphalt Pavers Ltd.	Shop 2 Build. 2 Cross Crossing Center	Phillip Lane, Hermitage- Road Restoration	05-Nov-02	\$31,284.00	1 YEAR
117	F.M. Enterprises Co. Ltd	LP 267 Southern Main Road, Cunupia	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Aggregates to WASA on an as and when required basis for an 18 month period – St Joseph	07-Nov-02	Rates	18 MONTHS
118	PR Transport Co. Ltd	15 Bhagwansingh Trace Gasparillo		07-Nov-02	Rates	
119	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Upper Sixth Avenue, Malick - Road Restoration	12-Nov-02	\$358,326.80	1 YEAR
120	Pan Associates Ltd		Consultancy Services for the construction of Office Facilities at Dab/Tac Area Office	18-Nov-02	\$80,000.00	3 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
121	Pan Associates Ltd		Consultancy Services for the construction of General Staff Accommodation and Workshop Facilities at North Range Valley, Calvary Hill Arima.	18-Nov-02	\$101,000.00	3 MONTHS
122	1. A. Moses and Sons Ltd	181 Tragarete Road, POS	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Toiletries to WASA for a twelve (12) month period – St Joseph	20-Nov-02	\$153,660.00	12 MONTHS
	2. Heller Chemicals	9 O'Meara Industrial Est. Arima		20-Nov-02	\$233,948.00	
123	Allied Security Services Ltd.	Maraj Street , Chaguanas	Tender for the provision of Security Services to WASA for a nineteen (19) month period from Dec. 2001 to June 2003 – St Joseph	26-Nov-02	\$775,248.00	19 MONTHS
124	Moonan Engineering & Construction (T &T) Ltd.	#17 Streatham Lodge Road, Tunapuna	Upper Thomasine Street, Laventille- Road Restoration	10-Dec-02	\$66,736.60	1 YEAR
125	Moonan Engineering & Construction (T &T) Ltd.	#17 Streatham Lodge Road, Tunapuna	Thomasine Street Extension - Road Restoration	10-Dec-02	\$112,293.80	1 YEAR

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCALITY	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
126	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Churchill Roosevelt Highway - Road Restoration	10-Dec-02	\$49,308.00	1 YEAR
127	John Williams Construction Co. Ltd.	Cor. Greenland & Caribbean Dr. Point Lisas	Moka Well Phase 111- Road Restoration	10-Dec-02	\$156,665.00	1 YEAR
128	1. Samaroo's Limited	#11 Abercromby Street, POS	Supply and Delivery of 350 Drums HTH Powder and One Hundred Drums HTH Tablets - St Joseph	10-Dec-02	\$227,412.50	1 YEAR
	2. Castalloy Co. Limited	17 Alta Gracia Dev. Maracas, St. Joseph		10-Dec-02	\$89,838.00	
129	Trans Caribbean Agencies Ltd.	#143 Southern Main Road, Marabella	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Safety Footwear to WASA for a twelve (12) Month Period - St Joseph	12-Dec-02	\$281,475.00	12 MONTHS
	IAL Engineering Services Limited	18 Lady Hailes Avenue, San Fernando		12-Dec-02	\$31,140.00	
	A. Moses and Sons Limited	#181 Tragarete Road, POS		12-Dec-02	\$72,800.00	
	National Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	500 Eastern Main Road, Arouca		12-Dec-02	\$21,290.00	

**WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 01, 2003 TO JULY 03, 2003**

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
1	Media Sales Ltd	1 Anderson Terrace, Maraval	Tender for the Procurement of Stationery Items to the Water and Sewerage Authority for a twelve (12) month period	13.01.03	\$80,769.40	1 YEAR
	Office Centre Limited	35 New Street, Port of Spain			\$4,825.00	
	Tops Office Supplies	Cor Oxford & Dundonald Streets, Port of Spain			\$1,809.00	
	Print Rite Ltd	56 Aranguez Main Road, San Juan			\$27,887.50	
	Combined Marketing & Distribution	40-41 Tissue Drive, Trincity			\$64,890.10	
	John Dickinson & Co. Ltd	Diamond Vale Estate, Diego Martin			\$179,957.00	
	Ansteph's Enterprises Ltd	Colsort Mall, Frederick Street, Port of Spain			\$2,560.00	
	Galt & Littlepage Ltd	31 Long Circular Road, St James			\$8,890.00	
	V & R Trading Inc	Miami, Florida			\$18,709.07	
	Trinpad Direct Ltd.	225 Southern Main Road, Marabella			\$21,350.00	
	Prudential Printers	Swami Avenue, San Juan			\$3,965.50	
Pereira & Company Ltd	88 Queen Street, Port of Spain	\$18,020.00				
2	Fortune Construction	137A Lambie St, Vistabella	Tender for the Renovation of Construction Department South	16.01.03	\$660,326.70	6 MONTHS

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
3	Edsher Construction Ltd	Apt 2 East River View, Santa Cruz	Renovation of the Business Services Department, Block 'C' Second Floor, Head Office	20.01.03	\$525,574.75	3 MONTHS
4	TOSL Engineering Ltd.	8-10 Maharaj Ave, Marabella	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Safety Supplies	28.01.03	\$109,275.00	1 YEAR
	Industrial Rubber Products Ltd.	Boundary Road, San Juan			\$13,750.00	
	Frank Mouttet Ltd	17 Borde Stret, Port of Spain			\$6,405.00	
	Products & Supplies Services Ltd.	# 2 Poolside Maracas, St Joseph			\$44,000.00	
	A. Moses & Sons Ltd.	181 Tragarete Road, Port of Spain			\$269,070.00	
5	Safety, Health & Environment Services	17 Canon Drive, Westmoorings	Tender for the Provision of Consultancy services for a Health & Safety Needs Assessment of the W.A.S.A.	30.01.03	\$60,000.00	6 MONTHS
6	Busy Business Systems Ltd	105 Frederick Street, Port of Spain	Tender for the Supply & Installation of Furniture	28.02.03	\$345,149.50	One-off Delivery
7	Business Forms & MICR Ltd.	Adesh Drive, Cross Crossing, San Fernando	Supply & Delivery of Bills to the W.A.S.A.	21.03.03	\$100,800.00	1 YEAR
8	Ansa Mc Al	North Sea Drive, Pt Lisas Ind Estate, Savonetta	Tender for the Supply & Delivery of Liquid Chlorine for an 18 month period	07.04.03	\$13,338,517.09	18 MONTHS
	KJS Enterprises	1 - 3 Small Street, Siparia			\$350,225.00	

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
9	SAR Construction Services	98 Cap-deVille Main Rd, Pt Fortin	Tender for the Installation of Transmission & Distribution Mains - PSIP Program	05.05.03	\$158,900.00	3 MONTHS
	Asson & Sons Ltd	Seebharat Trace, Mc Bean, Couva			\$174,900.00	
	Phoenix Construction	37 Patna Street, St James			\$631,500.00	
	P. Edmund & Sons Ltd	Pole # 5 Depot Road, Longdenville			\$631,350.00	
	Saiscon Ltd	49 High Street, Rio Claro			\$616,100.00	
	Pace Construction Services Ltd.	LP # 117 Cochrane Village, Guapo			\$631,700.00	
	Caves Contractors	Poin Fortin			\$482,200.00	
	Mack Construction Serv. Ltd.	Prince Street, Port of Spain			\$692,100.00	
	Land & Marine Contracting Services	86-89 A&B Nanjack Street, Vistabella			\$490,000.00	
	Rotiv Enterprises	Point Lisas			\$486,100.00	
	Road Transport Engineering Ltd.	Pt Fortin Main Road, Pt Fortin			\$478,300.00	

NO	CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION	DATE OF AWARD	VALUE	DURATION OF CONTRACT
	Spring Tech Industries Ltd	#96 Montique Str, Marabella			\$631,700.00	
	Dues Construction.	#3 Kaloo Road, Pt Fortin			\$534,900.00	
	Construction Maintenance Plumbing Co.	31 – 33 Temple Court, Abercromby Street, Port of Spain			\$666,000.00	
	Crown J's Ltd	37 Patna Street, St James			\$632,850.00	
10	Digi-Data Systems Ltd	96 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain	Tender for the Provision of a Firewall Solution	07.05.03	\$96,312.15	3 MONTHS
11	Process Components	17 -19 Maraj Ave, Marabella	Tender for the Construction of Chlorination Facilities under the Trinidad Groundwater Project	07.05.03	\$505,936.20	6 MONTHS
12	SOS Furniture & Communications	57 Hasmatali Lands, P-A-P	Tender for the Supply & Furniture at Installation at Customer Centre, Chaguanas	21.05.03	\$33,325.00	One-off Delivery
13	Automatic Doors Co. Ltd	Transportation Building Piarco Int'l Airport, Piarco	Tender for the supply & Installation of Automatic Slide Door Customer Centre, Chaguanas	21.03.03	\$31, 187.00	1 MONTH
	Magic Mist Services Ltd	Cor.Stone and Duke Streets Port of Spain	Tender for the Provision of Sanitary Bin Services	26.06.03	\$62, 480.00	2 YEARS
	Peak Technologies Ltd.	177 Western Main Road, Cocorite	Tender for the Supply & Installation of an Air Conditioning System at Customer Service Centre, Chaguanas	30.06.03	\$57, 751.00	2-3 WEEKS

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION
Accelerated Land Distribution Programme
(Status of)

15. *The following question was asked by Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan earlier in the proceedings:*

Could the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources inform the Senate of:

- (i) The status of the Accelerated Land Distribution Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources;
- (ii) The number of leases delivered to recipients from December, 2001 to May, 2003;
- (iii) The names and addresses of recipients, and;
- (iv) The location and size of plots of each recipient under this programme?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. John Rahael): With respect to part (i) of the question; the Accelerated Land Distribution Programme (ALDP) commenced in 1999 and formally ended on June 11, 2003.

With respect to part (ii) of the question, no leases were processed during the years 2001 and 2002 because of amendments being made to the State Land Act during this period. However, a total of twenty-nine (29) leases were delivered to recipients during the period January to May, 2003.

With respect to part (iii) of the question the names and addresses of the recipients who have been granted leases under the ALDP for the said period are outlined in the Appendix attached to this Note.

With respect to part (iv) of the question the location and size of plots of each recipient under this programme is also outlined in the attached Appendix to this Note.

Appendix II

Names and Addresses of Lease Recipients under the Accelerated Land Distribution Project for the period December 2001 - May 2003

	NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF RECIPIENTS		LAND BLOCK	PARCEL SIZE (HA.)
1.	Alroy Paul	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	1.40
2.	Bryan Caezar & Ivan Victor	12 Chaconia Circle, Macoya Gardens, Macova	Balata East Block	0.91
3.	Carlton Wilson	1½ Mile Mark St. Margaret's Village, Mayaro	Balata East Block	2.33
4.	Cathline Williams	33½ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	1.44
5.	Balchand Dukeram & Javitrie Dukeram	32½ Mile Mark Naparima Road, Union Village, Mavaro	Balata East Block	1.16
6.	Vinton Stephen	LP No.3 Circular Street, Rio Claro	Balata East Block	2.00
7.	Paul De Freitas	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	3.07
8.	Ashok Mansook	37¼ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	3.33
9.	Angela Seepersad & Avillon Baptiste	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	3.09

	NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF RECIPIENTS		LAND BLOCK	PARCEL SIZE (HA.)
10.	Harry Gangadeen & Chanardia Gangadeen	LP No. 1198 Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East' Block	0.43
11.	Bryan Mykoo	LP No. 186 Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	1.28
12.	Shane Mahabir	LP No. 1183 Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	2.89
13.	Ashraph Yatali	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	2.87
14.	Sooklal Singh	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	3.26
15.	Sooklal Singh	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	0.47
16.	Mariam Mansook	LP No. 1199 Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	0.0549
17.	Deomatie Budram	37¼ Mile Mark Naparima Mavaro Road, Bristol Village	Balata East Block	0.18
18.	Narish Ramkissoon & Althea Ramkissoon	36¼ Mile Mark Naprima Mayaro Road, Bristol	Bristol Food Gardens	2.2383
19.	Chandrika Maharaj	57 Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol	Bristol Food Gardens	1,7971
20.	Mangarrie Laloo & R. Roopnarine	Plot No.10, Bristol Food Gardens	Bristol Food Gardens	1.4013
21.	Cyril Ramcharan, Daniel Sookoo & Deonath & Deonath Sookoo	37¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro	Bristol Food Gardens	1.5558
22.	Soomaria De Freitas & Anthony De Freitas	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro Road, Mayaro	Bristol Food Gardens	1.2452
23.	Benedict B. Baptiste & Virginia Baptiste	36¾ Mile Mark Bristol Village, Mayaro	Bristol Food Gardens	1.2739

	NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF RECEIPENTS		LAND BLOCK	PARCEL SIZE (HA)
24.	Lionel Baptiste	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro, Road, Bristol	Bristol Food Gardens	0.4193
25.	Balkaran Chotai & Karren Chotai	36¾ Mile Mark Naparima Mayaro, Bristol	Bristol Food Gardens	0.4494
26.	Chandardaye Seukeran & Harripersad Seukaran	LP No. 1184 Bristol Village, Mayaro	Bristol Food Gardens	0.532
27.	Patrick Phillip	Bristol Village, Mayaro	Bristol Food Gardens	0.3122
28.	Sylva Garcia	LP No. 1187 Bristol Village, Naparima Mayaro Road	Bristol Food Gardens	
29.	Leslie Benjamin	LP No. 1188 Bristol Village, Mayaro	Bristol Food Gardens	02.408