

**TUESDAY  
28TH FEBRUARY, 1989  
10:00 A. M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Prayers by the First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**PRAYERS**

**MR ROY BODDEN:**

Let us Pray.

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, Diana Princess of Wales and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Members of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake, Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace now and always. Amen.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The proceedings of the House are resumed.

The First Elected Member for West Bay.

Private Members' Motions. Private Member's Motion No. 2/89.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 2/89**

**VEHICLE INSPECTION, LICENSING AND COLLECTION OF FEES**

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Mr. President, I beg to move Private Member's Motion No. 2/89, standing in my name which has been circulated. It reads:

"WHEREAS there is overcrowding at the Central Police Station;

AND WHEREAS there is inconvenience and loss of time to the public when licensing vehicles and paying other licences and fees at the various offices around George Town;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Government consider instituting a system of licensing and inspecting vehicles in as many districts as possible;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT arrangements be considered for the collection of fees and licences in the various districts."

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:**

I beg to second the Motion.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

seconded. Would the Mover wish to speak to it?

Private Member's Motion No. 2/89 has been duly moved and

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Mr. President, no one can deny that the first section of the Motion is correct. At the Central Police Station a person could sometimes be held up for hours trying to get his vehicle inspected and licensed. There is overcrowding and there is not much that can be done about the physical capacity of the building for the convenience of the public. Some people have suggested that we find more parking if they upgrade the facilities. I believe that this is impossible and I trust that Government would rule out those suggestions.

The second section of the Motion says that there is inconvenience and loss of time to the public. There is no doubt that Government has to look at the present system of collecting fees and licensing and inspection of vehicles.

Right now the public is asked to go to the Tower Building to pay their garbage fee, to the Agriculture Department to license their dogs, go some where else to buy their bicycle licence. The sheer number of cars on our roads tells us that one licensing and inspection point being in the same place is not sufficient for this country. In our modern society we need to revamp this situation. I believe a move out to the districts is a sensible move. Some people have remarked on the possible increase in cost to Government. How much strain would it put on the West Bay Post Office to do licensing or the paying of fees there or any other Post Office for that matter? The critics, or doubters, of the Motion must realise that it deals with payment of fees other than vehicle licences.

Let us look at vehicle inspection. For instance, West Bay has enough room at the Police Station to do inspections. I believe Government has realised this. But even if we did not do inspections in the beginning, members of the public could purchase, or pay, for their licences in the district. I believe, however, that inspection is feasible in West Bay, and other districts, and it would certainly facilitate the public.

People have made mention of the people working in town. Well, we have people who do not working in George Town. Consideration must be given to their plight as well.

I believe that once a project is underway, it will be utilised to its maximum. I guess there are many aspects of the licensing procedure which we can look at. For instance, I find it irritating to have to complete a new form every time I license my vehicle. Why is it not possible that once you take your vehicle initially for licensing the department gets your information and the next time you go all you should have to do is give your name, rather than go through the whole rigmarole again?

On the aspect of licensing and inspection, I have made no hard and fast recommendations. I have not tried to tie down the Government. The Government will have to come up with the best way possible to satisfy the public and to stop the inconvenience and loss of time which the public is now experiencing. I believe that the proposal will not create any great amount of cost and, if it does, we would be spending on the public which we are responsible for. I believe that this Resolution is very important. Maybe, when looking at this problem, steps need to be taken to improve the relevant performance of some Government Departments. A restructuring or rationalising exercise, if you may, to ensure optimum efficiency in Government Departments thereby eliminating waste and also making the public sector more responsive to public needs in terms of delivery of services.

The Resolution is very plain. I do not think any Member doubts that it needs to be done. Therefore, I ask them to give it their support.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Elected Member for East End.

**MR. JOHN B. McLEAN:**

I have no problem supporting Private Member's Motion 2/89, Vehicle Inspection, Licensing and Collection of Fees. I would like to point out a few things on the Motion which, in my mind's view, seem to be a duplication, or, to go a little further, seem similar to what the Second Elected Member of Executive Council referred to a few days ago when he said that the Third Elected Member for George Town was trying to steal the thunder from the Motion that had been proposed by the First Elected Member from Bodden Town.

As I go into this, you will see the greater portion of this Motion not only seems to steal the thunder from the Public Accounts Committee, but also the thunder and lightening from the Public Accounts Committee. As I see this Motion, the only portion that needed to come before this Honourable House, at this time, is the final resolved section which reads: "And be it further resolved that arrangements be considered for the collection of fees and licences in the various districts."

The first portion, as far as I am concerned, and I am certain that other Members who were Members of the Public Accounts Committee will agree with me and in their deliberations will put forward similar points. I would like to read the suggestions on the Licensing Department that are in paragraph 37 of the Minutes of the Public Accounts Committee, dated the 31 December:

"Despite initial teething problems, the Committee understands that the new computerized accounting arrangements are starting to function smoothly. The Committee has considered ways in which serving the public can be improved. It has suggested that the Controlling Officer look into the possibility of establishing vehicle inspection points at Police Stations outside George Town and recommends that Government gives full consideration to any proposal put forward using the West Bay Station as a pilot project."

I would go on to read from the recommendations put forward by the Public Accounts Committee, again in paragraph 37:

"Police Department, Licensing Department." The first part of this, more or less, repeats what I have just said but the last portion says: "It has suggested," referring to the Public Accounts, "that the Controlling Officer look into the possibility of establishing vehicle inspection points at the Police Station outside of George Town and recommends that Government give full consideration to

any proposals put forward, using the West Bay Station as a pilot project."

Those were the recommendations coming down from the Minutes of the Public Accounts, to the Public Accounts Report which was laid on the Table. I would like to turn to the reply from the Government or, what I should consider, the acceptance by Government of that report and recommendations. Again, I am reading paragraph 37:

"Police Departments Licensing Department. The recommendation that the Government give full consideration to any proposal put forward, for using the West Bay Police Station as the pilot project for establishing a second vehicle inspection point. As a measure for improving service to the public, is accepted."

I think this bears out what I said when I started. The matter seems to have been in hand before this Motion came before the House. I agree with the last paragraph, and I agree totally, that we need to do something as far as the Police Station is concerned. It was for this reason that the Public Accounts Committee, under the able guidance of the Fourth Elected Member of Executive Council who, I am hoping, will speak to this Motion and will show that we, as a Public Accounts Committee, have already made such a recommendation and the Government has accepted.

I would further point out that I have been a Member of the Public Accounts Committee ever since I have been an Elected Member. I am not taking tales out of school, because the Fourth Member of Executive Council can bear me out on this. I stated my concerns as to his allowing into the Public Accounts Committee, any Member who was not there for information on a certain area in Government or who was not a Member of the Public Accounts Committee. Now this has been done. I disagreed with it then and I disagree with it now.

I am saddened to know that the proposer of this Motion, after sitting in the Public Accounts Committee and knowing more or less what was going on, knowing the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee to Government, and by now seeing Government's recommendation and acceptance of our report, that he went ahead and brought such a Motion before the House. We, on this side, have been accused of wasting Government's time, wasting the time of the House and it is my submission that a great portion of this Motion is a waste of Government's time and a duplication of matters which have been looked after by the Government, by the Public Accounts Committee and, no doubt, those concerned in the various Government Departments.

As I have said, I am not going to vote against the Motion because I have made my points on it and, at the same time, in the Public Accounts Committee, I was quite influential in suggesting that we look at alternate points.

I can recall, many years ago, when we were allowed in the various districts to pay various fees. I understood from a Member in the Public Accounts Committee who is responsible for collecting Governments revenue, that to institute the collection of certain fees in the various districts at this time would pose certain problems. I did not agree with that at that time and I certainly do not agree with it now. I honestly thought it was a retrograde step for us to discontinue the collection of certain fees within the district. If it could be done in those days, under the conditions with which certain individuals had to work, I no doubt feel that we could institute again, in the various districts, a system that could work.

We have out there the post offices and in each district we have a police station. So, therefore, even if the hours of the post office need to be extended and a more suitable salary be paid to the individual there, I feel that it could be implemented. No doubt it would create, for the people of these Islands, a service which is now very much lacking at the Central Police Station.

I thought that with the computers in place we were going to be able to offer to the general public a better service. However, from my experience, and the complaints that I have received by various persons from the public, the service is no better.

I feel that the recommendations made by our Public Accounts Committee are very good ones and if carried out, as suggested with a pilot project in West Bay, would prove that the added burden which is now placed on the Central Police Station would be relieved, at least, by that amount. If that was successful, and in my mind there is nothing to keep it from being successful, we could then turn to other districts and try to implement the same thing.

I hope and trust that other Members will see fit to go along with the resolved section of the Motion and I hope and trust that my presentation of the facts from the Public Accounts Committee, and my input, will be taken in the light I have offered it. Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The First Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**CAPT. MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL:**

I rise to support Private Member's Motion No. 2/89, Vehicle Inspection, Licensing and Collection of Fees. I too have the honour of being a member of the Public Accounts Committee for the last four years. I will not repeat what the Elected Member for East End has said, but I do concur that his thoughts are correct.

I would go further, in that living in Cayman Brac, where we have all the facilities within the District, I know the advantages of it. I think the records bear out that the percentage of garbage fees, and others, collected by District Administration is a higher percentage than is collected here on the Island of Grand Cayman. I think it is partly because you are dealing with a smaller group of individuals. I believe if licensing was collected in the districts, where it would be on a more personal basis, we would see that we are generating more revenue from these different fees such as garbage, dog licence, boat licence and what have you.

I know the police are very vigilant when it comes to motor vehicles. I do not think there could be any improvement on that. My observation of the Licensing Department in George Town is that a remedy, or a solution to some of our problems would be if the Drivers Licensing Division was removed from that little office and located somewhere else with additional computer terminals put in place; this would be far more efficient.

I notice that it is not necessarily the wait for inspection of vehicles, it is the wait to pay your fees after you have filled out the form, had the vehicle inspected you then return to the line and, sometimes, that is 45 minutes or an hour's wait. The building being so small, cannot accommodate the number of people that queue up inside.

If the Drivers Licensing Division was located somewhere else, we would have more space and it could be done faster. I do feel, with a district as large as West Bay, that is the proper place for us to start and I do not think it would be that much expense for Government to establish a pit and other things necessary for licensing and inspection of motor vehicles. I would certainly encourage that we do everything to make it more convenient to the people of the districts and also to increase the revenue collected by our Government. I am sure, we will need all the revenue that we possibly can to support the Budget this year. Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
Official Member of Executive Council.

Does any other Member wish to speak? The Honourable Third

**HON. J. LEMUEL HURLSTON:**  
Member's Motion No. 2/89.

I rise to express the Government's intended support for Private

In making my contribution to the debate, I would simply like to offer one or two comments which reflect the view of the Department currently responsible for vehicle licensing, as well as to express some views of my Portfolio. Before I do that, it is significant to note that the Motion is dealing with two separate and distinct subjects. One is vehicle inspections and licensing and fees related thereto, but other fees are being introduced into the debate that could also possibly be collected on a decentralised basis, for example, garbage fees, dog licences, bicycle licences, etcetera, and I think it is important for us to differentiate between convenience and inconvenience to the public, in relation to payment of fees generally, as opposed to the payment of fees related specifically to vehicle inspection and licensing.

Perhaps I should also add a little bit of historical perspective from my own recollection of the growth and development in this area over the last 25 years or so. Back in the early 1960's, we had a situation where, in addition to sub-post offices in each district, we also had a series of District Tax Collectors. These were usually prominent justices of the peace or senior citizens who were well respected in our communities, and who were engaged by the Government on a commission basis to collect and remit certain public fees. The commission, in those days, was 12.5 per cent of the gross receipts. The receipts, being very small and modest in those days, resulted in very small commissions. My recollections are that interest waned and revenue collections fell, resulting in the death of that system of revenue collection.

Whilst that was happening, communications were becoming more modern and efficient. Transportation from one district to another was more convenient and there was much more merit in centralising the collection of Government fees and revenue. We therefore moved to a situation where fees became payable at the offices of the Capital, both in Cayman Brac and as well as in Grand Cayman. These centralised collection improvements have worked and served the country well.

The current system of vehicle licensing and inspection has worked as well as one could expect it to work, given the resources that we have deployed in rendering the service. I would not like for anyone to take advantage of the fact that we have deployed limited resources in the area and we have, in fact, a number of dedicated officers that work in that section, who work exceedingly hard and long hours to serve the public.

We have recently introduced computerisation and, notwithstanding the views to the contrary, it is my opinion, that computerisation has enhanced our service considerably. Where we seem to be lacking in efficiency is our inability to communicate our enhancements effectively to the public and to invite public cooperation and understanding in some of the difficulties being encountered. For example, with the introduction of computerisation recently and, prior to that, a number of improvements were introduced which included a drop-off system, a system of granting a period of grace after the expiry of licences and a system of paying in advance before the due date of renewals. These enhancements were aimed at providing the public with alternatives as opposed to the old system where one had to go in the queue, in line, to wait one's turn for service. There are now alternatives to that. But, it is possible and conceivable that certain members of the public will not sympathise with that enhancement, will not understand it and will get frustrated by it.

I know, too well, the frustration of being called upon to fill out yet another form. I know, too, the frustration of having to stand in line in a bank or a supermarket or elsewhere for service. A government office, that deals with high volume in peak periods, has to encounter a similar frustration. If members of the public were therefore to sympathise with that and work in cooperation with that, one could minimise the frustration. Therefore, let me suggest that the resolution of this matter can be dealt with in four different steps: (1) There are certain steps that can be taken immediately; (2) there are certain steps that can be taken in the short term; (3) other steps in the medium term; and finally (4) some steps that can be taken in the longer term.

In the immediate category, a series of public relation efforts to educate the public on the proper use and utilisation of existing facilities could enhance current levels of service.

In the short term, other areas of expansion and improvement can be put in place, including the pilot project concept suggested in the Public Accounts Committee which was responded to in the Government Minute and which was referred to by the Elected Member for East End. That pilot project could also be considered in the short term. Let me suggest that the greatest energy and resource ought to be committed to the medium and longer term investment because this problem has to be addressed in the longer term. We know, for example, that we have the Master Ground Transportation Plan that is going to produce in the next five years a series of major road networks and as a logical evolution from that Study, has to come the question of who will become the Transportation Authority for the Management of ground transportation in these Islands. It is possible that if a transport authority emerges, vehicle licensing may be an issue that could be addressed in that context as well.

We now have a situation in which certain large heavy vehicles find it difficult to maneuver in through the commercial district, trying to find the licensing department for inspection. Just recently, discussions were taking place internally, with a view to determining whether or not another location could be used for inspecting those kinds of vehicles. I only draw attention to this to say that whatever is done by way of a pilot project and medium term plan, improvements have to dovetail ultimately into where we are going in the longer term. I would hate for us to go back to a decentralised method of revenue collection for the next five years only to find out at that time that we have to turn around and recentralise again.

It is possible however, that in the interim one of the medium term improvements might be the development of a pilot project commencing in West Bay which might include operating a service in that district that might not be 100 per cent compatible with the service in the Capital, but a service nevertheless. It might operate, for example, on a basis similar to how the Health Clinic operates in the district at the moment, where the necessary staff is dispatched and detailed from headquarters on a particular day of each week and sent to the district to deliver a service. It is possible that we could operate a vehicle licensing service on that basis as well. It is unlikely that there is going to be sufficient work on an ongoing full time basis to justify the setting up of a full staff to license what is presently estimated to be less than 4,000 vehicles. That is the estimated maximum number of persons resident in the West Bay area who are 17 years of age or more.

One has to look at the cost effectiveness of setting up a full time staff to provide that limited service and comparing that to the cost of providing a part-time service on a referral basis. The matter has been under review for some time and as the Elected Member for East End said, the Government has not sat on its laurels since taking note of the Public Accounts Committee's observations. Estimates and plans are already in hand. I caution to say that when the study is completed, one will have to look at the ultimate considerations; whether one wishes to make it a political decision or an economically justified decision, and whether either of those decisions mesh into the longer term planning for the development of the management of transportation matters in the Islands.

Speaking more personally, from the Portfolio's stand point. I am concerned at the thought of decentralising the collection of Government revenue, of opening up the prospects for more crime, more corruption, more robberies. Every time a sub-post office is known to contain large quantities of cash, the question of safe storage and safe transportation to remit it to the bank has to be taken into consideration. One has to therefore be careful about allowing these developments to take place without regard to the safe custody, storage, and accounting that must, of necessity, go with these functions. Having said that, it is possible that the system could be made to work quite well.

What is not going to happen is that you are not going to be able to eliminate waiting time completely. No matter where one goes today, one is likely to have to wait. If I could simply appeal to the public to take note of the current facilities that are available at the licensing department in George Town, bearing in mind that they do not have to wait until the last day of their licence to renew it or they do not have to wait for the last day of the grace period to renew it. They do not have to pay the fee for the inspection on the same day that the inspection is carried out. They can take advantage of the drop-off facilities that have been available for some time. Part of the problem now is that people get into habits and they do things on that basis. A large number of our people tend to wait until the last minute to do this kind of paying of taxes. If everybody waits until the last minute and appears at the department all at the same time, expecting to get the same level of service, then one is asking an impossibility. However, if one were to stagger the expectation and delivery of that service, this service could be delivered more efficiently.

Therefore I appeal to the users of the department, the users of the service, to try to spread the time over which they take their vehicles to the department, the time over which they go to the department for service and try to spread it out, so that they are not all trying to go on the same day of the same month every year. If that were to be done, much of the immediate frustration could be minimised. The Government however, is prepared to look at the alternatives and look at any concept including the pilot project in West Bay.

Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Honourable Member for Communications and Works.

**HON. LINFORD A. PIERSON:**

Mr. President, I rise in support of Private Member's Motion No. 2/89, captioned Vehicle Inspection, Licensing and Collection of Fees. The Motion reads:

"WHEREAS THERE IS overcrowding at the Central Police Station and;

WHEREAS THERE IS inconvenience and loss of time to the public when licensing vehicles and paying other licences and fees at the various offices

around George Town;

BE IT RESOLVED that Government consider instituting a system of licensing and inspecting vehicles in as many districts as possible;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that arrangements be considered for the collection of fees and licences in the various districts."

The point I want to make, initially, is that the resolution to this Motion is only asking that Government give some consideration to instituting a system for improving what we have now.

It further states that arrangements be considered for the collection of fees and licences. From the deliberations thus far on this Motion, it is quite clear that the system has a certain amount of inefficiency at the Inspection Department of the Police Station. There is no question about that. I was invited by the Member from East End to comment on this Motion, which I had intended to do in any case, but as the past Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee it is appropriate that I should comment on certain remarks made here.

The Public Accounts Committee is controlled by Standing Orders No.74, and 74(6) which states: "Subject to these Standing Orders, the practice and procedure of the Public Accounts Committee shall be determined by the Committee." I read that section of the Standing Orders to clarify any misconception about the mission of the First Elected Member from West Bay in that Committee. The decision was taken at Committee level that the First Elected Member would be invited to sit in on that Committee. This was a unanimous decision without any objection from either Member of that Committee. So there is no question at all that this might have been done outside the provision of the Standing Orders or the powers of the Committee.

I feel that it is grossly unfair of any Member of the Public Accounts Committee or other Members of this House to accuse the First Elected Member of West Bay of trying to steal the thunder or lightning, as it was phrased, from the Public Accounts Committee. Just to clarify the procedures on that particular day, the whole idea of decentralising vehicle inspection was brought up by the Member from West Bay. This was in view of the high amount of uncollected fees through the centralised system. I believe that other Members of the Public Accounts Committee, upon reflection, will remember that he was, in fact, the person who brought this up. I am not here to condone or suggest whether this should have come as a Motion or not, but I am stating quite clearly that he did not steal the ideas from any other Member of that Committee. The whole suggestion was his, initially.

There were certain questions raised regarding the feasibility and viability of this Motion. I believe that it is somewhat premature for us at this point in time to determine the outcome of a study that is still to be undertaken. Paragraph 37 of the Public Accounts Committee, which was replied to in the recent Government Minutes that was laid on the House, which dealt with the 1987 Account reads:

"The recommendation that the Government give full consideration to any proposal put forward for using the West Bay Police Station as a pilot project for establishing a second vehicle inspection point as a measure for improving service to the public is accepted."

This was accepted after due consideration and deliberation by the Public Accounts Committee upon the suggestion made by the First Elected Member from West Bay.

There are several suggestions that could be forth coming. They are suggesting that perhaps the Central Funding Scheme should be upgraded as the centralised point for inspection. That is one suggestion. It is a very good suggestion because I have always been of the opinion that the Police Department is not the proper section of Government to inspect cars. This should be done by qualified mechanics. This is one of the areas that I would want to consider very carefully if, in fact, we do decide to decentralise the inspection system.

Another suggestion, Mr. President, is that we should contact some of the bigger garages on the Islands and they could be asked or commissioned to carry out inspections on vehicles and the Central Funding Scheme should be left to do the inspection on the heavy vehicles, graders, heavy trucks, and so on. There are various avenues that we can examine. Regardless of what position we take on this Motion, whether it is agreed that the services will be decentralised or whether we try to upgrade the present centralised system, we will have to consider the cost implications.

We definitely need to improve the present system. The sentiments expressed by the Third Official Member, I agree with in part. It is not always the fault of the members of the community that there is the inefficiency that we find at this section of the Police Department. If it is known that there should be a better circulation or a better timing for people to do their inspections, then perhaps this should be made known to the general public. As I said, the study into this Motion will determine in detail what position to be best for this Government to take.

My main reason for getting up to speak on this Motion is to clarify any misunderstandings that might be given in this matter as to the good intentions of the Mover of this Motion. I know I sat here yesterday and I listened to a lot of personal attacks, who had better qualifications than whom, and I have listened to other attacks in this House. I believe that we would be better served if we concentrated our efforts on the best interests of this country.

Thank You.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON, JR:**

I rise to support Private Member's Motion No. 2/89, entitled Vehicle Inspection, Licensing and Collection of Fees. I support the decentralisation of Government services when it will result in an improvement of the services made available to the general public. In this case, I feel that decentralisation is not only desirable but justified.

I also feel that the present service could be further improved if the system in place is streamlined. For example, I, like many others, hate the idea of going to the Central Police Station to inspect and license my vehicle. The present system calls for an individual to first go through one line, pay \$10 inspection fee, get the receipt, take it around the back of the Police Station to the inspection pit, hand it to the officer in that area, jump in your vehicle, haul it over the inspection pit and the Police Officer actually inspects the vehicle. If it fails, you have to go back inside, pay another \$10 inspection fee and repeat the process. I think this is one of the reasons why it takes so long to accomplish this service at the Central Police Station.

I see no reason why an individual could not go through the line or pick-up an inspection application and take it around to the Police who is going to inspect the vehicle in the first place, get him to inspect the vehicle. If there are deficiencies at this stage they are pointed out, the individual has time to correct it and bring it back. It is then finally passed and you go in at that stage and pay your fees. I think the present service could also be improved if more emphasis is placed on training the officers who are responsible for providing a service to the public. I have seen instances of those officers dealing with Members of the general public and not only members of the general public but foreign visitors to this country, and their attitude and manners were totally unacceptable.

I agree with the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee that the Vehicle Inspection Programme should start in West Bay, as West Bay is the next largest district. Just this move, would greatly ease the burden at the Central Police Station.

I also agree with the Resolution of the Motion that the service should not only be restricted to the inspection and collection of licensing fees but to include the other services that we are obligated to pay for which are provided by Government, such as your driver's licences, garbage fees, pet licensing fees, bike fees and any other fees that we pay the Government. I think we, as legislators, have a responsibility to the general public of this country and we should support any measures that improve any services that are made available to them. I do not see any great difficulty with regard to implementing this programme. I cannot see where it is going to cost that much. I think the cost, in any case, would be justified by the improvement of the service. With those few words, I would like to register my support to Private Member's Motion No. 2/89, entitled Vehicle Inspection, Licensing and Collection of Fees.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:**

Mr. President, I rise to support Private Member's Motion No. 2/89. As the seconder of this motion, I must say that I find myself in a similar position as the Member for East End found himself a few mornings ago on the Cinematographic Motion in which he said that if he had known the Motion was going to cause so much debate that he would not have bothered with it. The Member from East End mentioned the Public Account Committee, and I would like to make it abundantly clear that I am a new Member in this House and I never saw a copy of the Public Accounts Committee until a few mornings ago and I had already seconded this Motion weeks in advance.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
is?

I think that there is a Point of Order being raised. Is that what it is?

#### POINT OF ORDER

**MR. JOHN B. McLEAN:**

On a Point of Order, I did not really refer to the Member. I think, what he is saying is misleading the House. If not, I apologise.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

I think the Member for East End is saying that if there is a misunderstanding, he did not intend...

**MR. FRANKLIN R. SMITH:**

I understand that, Sir, but I agree he did not refer to me but he inferred that the Member for West Bay was trying to steal the thunder and lightening from the Public Accounts Committee's Report.

As I said, as a new Member of this House, I believe that we have Post Offices that are staffed with trustworthy people who are honest and upright citizens, until we prove them otherwise. We also have Police sub-Stations in all the districts and if the Government cannot trust the Officers to collect the fees, then they should get someone they can trust. If it takes higher wages since the Post Mistress will place more work on them, then we should pay them.

The policy of the Government or the Licensing Department allows each and every owner of a vehicle to pay quarterly or yearly. I feel this is the right way to go. The people in a higher bracket can afford to pay perhaps for a full year's licence. There are some that can pay for a quarter at a time. I feel that even if there is not a new sub-station for inspection, a person who can only pay for a licence a quarter of a year at a time, since having to have it inspected at the George Town Central Police Department, he should be allowed to go to his district sub-station and pay his quarter or his half licence when he can do it. He

should not have to come into George Town to pay that quarter of a year licence.

There are also the fees for dogs that could be collected in the district's post office or police station. Receipts could be given. The Third Official Member has suggested that these fees can be paid in advance if we could go to the Police Station of the district and pay our fee for a gun licence and a receipt was given. You know we need to appeal that Gun Licensing Law. Even if your licence has not run out on your gun licence and you go to the Police Station and pay your fee, they take your licence from you. If you are caught after you have turned over that licence, which still has time on it, if you are on the road with your gun in your vehicle in a situation like mine, travelling to my farm and I cannot produce the licence under the present law I can be charged. So I believe we have to take steps to remedy that situation.

Also I would like to see garbage fees collected in the districts because we come into town, we go to the Tower Building and, this goes for those that have their own vehicles and are able to drive to the Tower Building, they cannot find a place to park. They have to go back out to find somewhere to park, they have to walk back to the Tower Building, then they go to the elevator which is not working and climb the stairs to go up and pay that fee. If they could go to the post office and pay their fee there, they could return home without having to come into town.

I believe also, there are a lot of parents who have to pay school book fees that could pay them at the district post offices, whatever day the Collecting Officer collects them. If he is going to collect them one day and bring them to the central station the next, that would be for the Government to decide when they would deliver it. I believe it could help the people of these districts. So with those few words, I support the Motion. Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings are suspended for fifteen minutes.

**AT 11:15 A.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED**

**HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:44 A.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings are resumed.

The Debate on Private Member's Motion No. 2/89. It appears that no other Member wishes to speak. Is that the case? The Second Elected Member for the Lesser Islands.

**MR. GILBERT A. McLEAN:**

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to speak on Private Member's Motion 2/89, entitled The Vehicle Inspection, Licensing and Collection of Fees. I note from what has been said prior to this that a part of this Motion has been dealt with by the Public Accounts Committee on recommendations obviously made to that Committee, and Government has undertaken some measures in examining a part of Inspection of Vehicles. However, the Motion goes beyond that and, I think, it covers a very important area of Government's revenue. Indeed, it offers an opportunity for Government to take some innovative steps in the matter of decentralisation of its revenue collection service.

It is a fact that there is extreme overcrowding at the Central Police Station where one has to go to license a vehicle. As strange as it might seem, everyone in the Cayman Islands except in Cayman Brac must go to one spot on this Island, the Central Police Station, to have their vehicles licensed. I have seen instances there where from 8:00 in the morning, I have seen people standing by that building, waiting for it to be opened.

The process, as was pointed out by the Third Elected Member from West Bay, is that a person must join a line to go in to pay an inspection fee of \$10. That process can be very drawn out and protracted, depending whether the computer is performing at its best and a lot of other factors. When that has been done, one goes outside of the building again to wait often in line for their car to be inspected. When the inspection is done and the inspecting officer says it is inspected, one has to go back inside to get into line to pay the licensing fee. I think few people would try to argue that there is not a problem with the licensing of vehicles in this country. I am not prepared to say why, but certainly everyone is aware that there is a problem.

It appears to me that there are two main features that are involved in this process. One is to pay a prescribed Government fee and the second is to get an authorised person to inspect the vehicle and say yes, it is road worthy and it meets all the various requirements. The process itself, while it should be speeded up by the use of computers, I can personally say I have seen it handled more swiftly when we had the opportunity of having the notation made in what used to be called the log book. Personally, I was very saddened the day I went to license my car the last time and the officer attending to me at the counter took my cherished little log book and threw it into the garbage. Somewhat concerned I said: "That is my log book. It is current. It has the last entry." I was told that is no longer used, not necessarily in the friendliest terms and that it is now on computer, which is a sheet of paper. The chances of losing that are much greater than losing the little log book, which was in brochure size. I do not know if anything can be done about that. I think that it was very handy. You could find folders to keep it in, to keep it safe.

While I am not against the compilation of information on vehicles, its licensing, the make, whether there have been transfers or accidents or whatever on computer, I am wondering if the process could not be assisted if the particular part of issuing a licence was made manual again. Just a thought, I am making no recommendation. This Motion that is before the House is one which is calling for a decentralisation of what has always been up until now, a centralised process. I totally agree with the idea of decentralising. I can see no logical reason why it should not be pursued.

I think it would be helpful to develop a semblance of

Government business within the districts, which would help the infrastructural development in Government services and would be available within the district. If the argument alone were about the yearly inspections of all the vehicles not being confined to the district of George Town, in fact most likely most of the vehicles come from the outer districts. I see nothing wrong with areas, or buildings, or places, being known in the districts that there are Government services offered there. Revenue collection, be it Postal, be it collection of various fees but I think it is right and proper and I believe that it adds something to the district and it brings the public into closer contact with Government as a service, quite likely with people whom they know much better than a strange face that they meet in George Town.

I see decentralisation as providing and opportunity for the development of personnel. While there may be someone presently in the Sub-Post Office that works for a few hours, it could provide a job opportunity for someone to work full-time in the day. Additional duties would be the learning of Government Revenue Collection under the various heads, sub-heads as would be required if fees were collected there. It would increase the demand on the person there, certainly an additional one, to improve their skills, educational ability, whatever. As the decentralisation developed, it could provide more Government jobs within a district. I believe that there are persons willing and able to assume the responsibilities which might be placed upon them and, overall, I feel that the Government process could be better served in this particular area if it was decentralised.

We are only talking about a Government receipt. The receipt books are all the same, to the best of my knowledge, unless they have changed. It is a matter of writing the head and sub-head a person is collecting that money for. If a fee was paid there, be it whatever fee, once a copy of those receipts were delivered to the Government Treasury, along with the monies collected, I can see nowhere that this would negatively affect the process of Government collections. Perhaps, there might be a marked change in the collection of Government Revenue because it would be made easier for a person to pay in their own district.

I can see where there would be a question of security. But, for that matter, the buildings, such as the Post Office and the Police Station are already secure. To what extent is a case that could be argued. A safe for putting monies into, if it means improvement in a building, then that could be done. My argument in this case is that it would help to develop a better, a more acceptable image of Government services within the communities of the various districts. There is no doubt in my mind about the honesty of the people who now collect Government fees, although it mostly amounts to the selling of stamps, which is five or 10 cents whatever the case may be. I have no doubts about the honesty or integrity of the people who do this work is there. There should not be a problem if they were asked to collect \$50 instead of five cents.

If the licensing of vehicles was to be done in the districts, I think that the police who are already there are capable of inspecting them. If they are not and they need training, they could be trained to do it. I believe in such a thing being undertaken within the station. The fee should be collected there, rather than a person having to go to the Sub-Post Office and pay and then go back to the Police Station with \$10 receipt and get your car inspected and then go back to the Post Office to pay for the licence. We are indeed in trouble if there is any doubt as to the safety and integrity of the keeping of such fees at the Police Stations.

There have been arguments that just about everybody comes into George Town to work and there would not be time for cars to be inspected in the outer districts. I do not believe this would be the case. People schedule time to have their cars inspected in George Town, to join the lines and everything else. They would find time to have their cars inspected within the districts. I believe that is something that could be worked out by Government and by the public at large - rescheduling of their time. If it is necessary to dig a pit by the Police Station for a car to be inspected underneath, while there would be an initial cost of having that done, once it has been built it is something that goes on and, in fact, it would last forever.

As far as the physical things which would need to be put into place, that does not seem impossible to me. As I have said, I would like to see collection of fees, generally, in the districts, be it garbage fees or gun licensing fees. A receipt written in the district and the receipt taken to issuing authority of the licence. I see nothing that would hinder it besides Government having to accept the position of decentralisation, and of doing it that way rather than how it is presently done. It offers an innovative opportunity to Government and, personally, I feel this Motion has brought this about by bringing it to the attention of all Legislators to look at this situation, and to request the Government of the day to go into it in detail, and eventually come back to this House and say here is how we propose this could be done, or we do not think it is feasible.

As it now happens in Grand Cayman, at least, there are Health Clinics that are in the outer districts and they offer services up to a level. The Post Offices, in my opinion, could be better utilised by way of getting into more revenue collections. I believe that there could be an office or a room where agricultural products such as herbicides, cattle feed and the like could be made available rather than making it absolutely necessary for people to drive to George Town to get a sack of cow feed.

I think the Government presence and the Government services can be enhanced overall to the better service and convenience of the public. The Third Official Member gave an explanation and indicated that Government was taking certain steps to examine the situation. He identified that it could be looked at in three phases, the immediate term, short term and long term. The time is now and we should look at doing something in the immediate term as the Motion would suggest. Take it into the short term with the view that the long term will be producing a better service to the public in areas such that have been suggested in this Motion, the collection of fees and thereby offering better services.

It is not absolutely necessary that all roads lead to George Town for all reasons. Maybe if Government takes an innovative stand there might even be a supermarket a little closer to the eastern districts. As it is, the eastern districts bring all of their business to George Town.

As noted by the Third Official Member, there is a question whether a policy is going to be political or economic. I believe it should be both. Certainly, the political arm must

decide if it is desirable and give its approval. The political arm must, of course, depend on the administrative arm to come up with the facts and figures.

I do not believe that by Government decentralising it will lead to, or cause any increase in crime. I do not believe that it would lead to any additional corruption. I believe that there is honesty in the people of this community, generally. Certainly within those persons who now have some dealings with Government revenue collections. So, I have faith in the integrity of the people and I believe from that point of view we need not be afraid.

Something has obviously been done about the paying of taxes, as has been pointed out by the Third Official Member, such as dropping off and picking up later. But, then again, that presumes that the person dropping off, will be using or owns a checking account. Dropping off cash like that, might not be the safest thing to do. A checking account might be a better approach in that particular case, although it goes to show that some thought has been given to this. This situation already exists in Cayman Brac, which is considered a political district and it works quite well within district administration. Should this come into being as a policy of Government, the only refinement that I would ask the Government to make in Cayman Brac is that there is the problem of going to Stake Bay to pay that same licensing inspection fee, then go back to the Creek Police Station to have the car inspected, then go back down to get a licence. So in refining it, that should be taken into account, should Government decide on this as a policy.

One other matter that I wish to raise here, and it is a political consideration, is that this particular Motion was aired on Radio Cayman on the program called Open Line, and the Mover had the opportunity of being there for an hour and a half or two hours, whatever the time was. Now I have no disagreement with the opportunity being afforded that Member, but I would want to know that the Radio extended to all persons the same opportunity who might wish to bring forward Motions or have matters discussed in the future. I raise this because for some reason, which seems illogical to me, one cannot go to Radio Cayman and pay to have their political notice put on which says 'Mr. So and So is going to hold a political meeting to discuss matters of national significance and the public is invited.' You cannot pay, unless it has changed, to do that. You are told that you can be put on the Bulletin Board as a community service. Now, if there is some kind of paranoia about political airing of views or notices or whatever, it should be consistent in what happens there. I do not have any problem whatever with the airing of political views. In fact I believe that the radio station should be used for it. My argument is that all persons or parties or groups should have equal time.

That was somewhat of an aside, but yet connected to the particular Motion and, having said that, overall this is a good Motion. It makes a lot of sense. It is something that is necessary for Government to look at, which will bring about some decentralisation, offer better services within the districts and I support this Motion.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Honourable Member for Education.

**HON BENSON O. EBANKS:**

I support Private Member's Motion No. 2/89 dealing with Motor Vehicle Inspection, Licensing and Collection of Fees in the Districts.

I am not reviving any debate, but at some point during this Sitting Members called attention to their Manifestos on which they ran in November. If the Mover of this Motion has already done so I will apologise, because Members will have noticed that I was otherwise occupied outside the Chamber during most of his contribution. Nevertheless, I would like to say that this Motion today is, in fact, an implementation of one of the planks in the Manifesto on which the First Elected Member for West Bay and I, and our other Colleague, ran on in November 1988. In fact, it is Item three on our agenda, specifically for the district of West Bay. It reads:

"Advancing a policy of delivering an expanded number of essential services within the district such as vehicle inspection and payment of most Government fees, whilst making optimum use of existing public facilities."

If Members would check our 1984 Manifesto, it would be seen that it is also there (in less bold-faced words but it is still alluded to). Maybe, that is why that particular item of our Manifesto was not cribbed by some other Member's who produced some other items on our Manifesto from our 1984 Manifesto. I am making the point that this Motion today is seeking in part to implement an undertaking which we had given in our Manifesto. I hope, having called attention to that, it is not going to detract or take away the support which this Motion seems to have enjoyed up to this point. The fact is that what this Motion seeks to do is to return to a system which existed many years ago, and at that time it worked well.

I recognise that during the rapid development of a few years ago, Government might have considered it necessary to gain a greater degree of control over the collection of revenue but it is my belief that in doing so they have inflicted on the general public much inconvenience and, in my opinion, deprived the Treasury of revenue it would otherwise collect. I will develop that argument by taking West Bay as an example. If I own a dog (and I happen to own two), I own a house, a bicycle and I own a motor vehicle, let us follow what is involved in my paying Government those necessary fees.

If I start out from West Bay I must first stop at the Agricultural Department down on North Church Street and pay for my dog's licence. It is not uncommon to go there and pay your \$2 but the Department does not have the necessary tag. So you do not complete that \$2 transaction in one mission. But let us assume that I could get the tag when I paid the \$2, that is one stop. Then I have to get off at the Tower Building, go up however many floors and pay my garbage fee. Nine times out of 10 there is no parking space there, so I would probably have to park in the Legislative Assembly parking lot - and that is a privilege I enjoy

as do other Members of the House, but the general public does not. They may have to park in the old Public Works Compound if that is not taken up by vehicles parked there by people who are working in the banks. So I get up to the third floor, or wherever it is in the Tower Building (I know it is not on the ground floor) and I pay my garbage fee. I have to come back down, maneuver my way out of the parking lot, go to the Police Station and license my bicycle. Then I get my vehicle inspected and pay for the licence at the Central Police Station. I am not going to go through all the rigmarole that is involved, but it is a considerable inconvenience, and it is often impossible to find a parking space there as well.

It takes a person with a lot of determination to ensure that he pays all of his Government dues and go through all that inconvenience to do so. We could add to this school fees, they could be collected in the districts too. Let us look at what the results might be. I am not suggesting that we have to go back to the days where a percentage of the fees collected would be paid to the person collecting them, but, let us even assume that the person collecting these fees was from the district. That person would know whether I have paid my garbage fee or not and that person would know whether Tom, Dick or Harry from that district had paid their garbage fees. They would see that they are collected. This is why I mention the incentive method because it might be something that we do not want to ignore in Government.

In this day of computers and computer terminals, it is possible to still have all motor vehicles records centrally stored, accessed to a computer terminal in West Bay or in the case of the eastern districts. I would suggest that if the West Bay experiment works, that one central inspection area or Tax Collection area could be put somewhere between Bodden Town and East End and North Side. I am saying this in deference to the expenditure of duplicating things like the inspection facility for motor vehicles. I am going to go out on a limb with this, I am not an expert in what is involved in inspecting a motor vehicle but I do not believe that we have to go to any great expenditure to put a pit in West Bay to attempt this experiment. I happen to know that a hydraulic lift, capable of lifting the heaviest motor car or van in this Island can be purchased for the maximum of US\$5,000. I believe that this is adequate for inspection purposes.

I mentioned that parking is a problem at the Central Police Station and all around George Town. The exercise that is being attempted by what this Motion is seeking to do is to get the excessive traffic and number of people out of central George Town. Now, we are embarking on a Master Ground Transportation Plan which involves millions of dollars to achieve this same objective. I do not want to be misunderstood. I support the Master Ground Transportation Plan, but I am making the point that the number of motor vehicles and the number of people in central George Town, milling around, could be further reduced if there was district collection of certain Government fees.

Further, some Members have mentioned that maybe we would get a supermarket nearer some of the districts. That is a fact of life. The West Bay district, which supplies most of the labour force that keeps this country going, has become basically a dormitory district, someplace where people sleep. If the workforce from West Bay was taken out of the banks, Government and the other industries in town, they would have to close down. Yet we are, up to this point, basically a dormitory town and it is basically because we cannot offer services to our own people and visitors within the district.

Very recently I was considering an investment in West Bay and I approached one winter resident, well known to myself, who lives along Seven Mile Beach. I must add that I know his background, so I was trying to get some free advice. I asked him why he did not patronise West Bay businesses a little more than he did and he said to me: "If you can get me a Post Office box in West Bay I would not look at George Town." That is why we are putting more post offices boxes in the West Bay Post Office during this year. We are going to revitalise that district within this 4 year term or die trying.

The matter of safety of cash was, or is, of paramount concern. I believe that the West Bay Police Station itself must be, fairly much, up to capacity and another multipurpose building near or on the same compound could serve our district well. As somebody pointed out, if your money is not safe in the police station, given a vault or two, I do not know where else it would be safe. Then it could be deposited in the Governments account in the Government Bank in town and the receipt made to the Treasury. The accounting between the districts collection agency and the Treasury can now be done by one little computer terminal.

We live in the age of computers. I am not anticipating the result of the study about to be conducted by my friend, the Member for Health, but I know that what I am saying is possible because it has been discussed in the medical field. It is possible, for example, that we could put a computer terminal in our clinics which, of course, are intended to be upgraded substantially. If the records of patients are computerised at the Hospital, or whatever will be the central clinic when we finish our reorganisation, then that can be accessed from West Bay, Bodden Town, East End, North Side or wherever. A full history of the patient can be found and the doctor can add whatever he needs to add to the person's file from the terminal in the district. All of this has now been made possible and easy by the advent of computers.

I think we are spending enough on computers so the people of the districts should get some benefit. We can, as a result, put some life back into the districts that are crowding George Town to almost unbearable proportions. We can then, each in our own districts, have viable shopping centers and other amenities for our people. This Motion is so important, it is so necessary that I think it has to be accepted unanimously.

I would suggest, in view of the comments made by the Third Official Member, and this is not being done selfishly, I would suggest that West Bay be made the guinea pig in this instance. I can see no reason why the payment of the other licences could not be implemented in Bodden Town, East End, North Side and wherever immediately. But for the more complex exercises of licensing and inspecting the motor vehicle and so on, let us use West Bay as a guinea pig.

I believe that is what the Government Minutes had to say on the

Public Accounts Committee recommendation. I am confident that within a year or two that it will become so obvious that this system is desirable that we can implement the whole system fully in the eastern districts as well.

I want to make one point clear before I sit down. I do not believe that in embarking on this venture, or this experiment, in West Bay will cost Government one extra dime. It is a fact that if the Central Police Station remains the only inspection and licensing place in the Islands, because of the increase in motor vehicles coming into the Islands, it is going to be physically impossible to do it on existing land. When you talk about buying land in that area, we are talking US\$40 to \$45 per square foot. West Bay's land has not yet reached that value. Although, one of the effects of putting this service into West Bay would be to increase land values. We can put this system in for a fraction of what it would cost to add four parking spaces onto the Central Police Station parking lot.

I do not believe that we are taking any chances with Government's funds to implement this system in West Bay. I am convinced also, that Government will find the residents of that district more cooperative in paying their garbage fees, dog licences and bicycle licences. We cannot get away with not paying our car licences, because that is one thing that the Police Force can do, is catch you for driving without a licence. They do not miss you for that. Putting jokes aside, the system would help Government's collection of revenue and we could still ensure safety and protection of the revenues collected.

When a bank in this town wants to return notes or get a substantial amount of money, the Police give them an escort. I can see nothing wrong with the Police or the Post Office or Tax Collection Agency, or whatever you have in West Bay, having their deposit made up, and when the Police have to come into town they either put a clerk in the Police vehicle, or make it known that the Police would be coming into town on a given hour and the person drives under Police guard. It is so easy, so convenient and so simple that really, I cannot understand why we have not done it before. I suppose the only reason is that none of us, up to this point, has really appreciated the value of that very expensive toy, the computer. I believe that now that it is on the scene, we have to make every use that can be made of it, and we must support this Motion because it is good and it is paving the way, although this one is not necessarily confined to West Bay.

I believe that Members will accept that the Motor Vehicle Licensing sections of what we are talking about could be tried in West Bay and if it is successful, as I am sure it will, be extended to the other districts. I see no reason why the other smaller collections could not be done almost immediately or simultaneously, even before we start in West Bay, if we are going to build a new building in West Bay.

Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Would the Mover now like to reply?

have to catch my eye more quickly than that. This debate is taking far too long in my opinion. The Third Elected Member for George Town.

**MR. TRUMAN M. BODDEN:**

I will attempt to deal with a lot of what I have to say, as best as possible in summary form, as I take your point on the time in the Legislature.

I support the Motion, however, I believe, as has been stated here, that one has to look at the cost and also how it will be carried out. As a Member of the Legislature I have to look at the position overall in the three Islands rather than just George Town, which it does not directly affect very much.

Several things were mentioned. The Member for Communications mentioned looking at a central funding scheme, checking on the vehicles and it is something that needs to be looked at, as well as private garages that could be listed by the Police. This is done in other countries in this hemisphere. The areas where improvement could be brought about which would assist districts such as this we should endeavor to do. As some Members have said, we should look at the cost for the long term rather than the short term.

The Postal Licensing as it was called (because I listened to a bit of the radio) provided the drop-off facilities, I think this could speed things up. What I would also ask is that there be a consideration to seeing that the George Town facility is also upgraded. Let us not forget about that facility now, and spend all of the money in the districts.

One thing that was mentioned which I also think is important (that I heard on the Open Line) was that when we are now dealing with the paying of certain fees, such as motor vehicles, garbage, dogs and guns, there should be an upgrading of the Postal facilities so that people could have the benefit of paying other bills (not just those relating to Government) such as Cable and Wireless, Caribbean Utilities and that sort of thing. In fact, I think it was Attorney Steve McField who called that in over the Open Line that night.

I agree that the \$10 inspection fee can be paid one time. It can save getting in line twice.

Another thing I would like to throw out to the Legislature is why cars that are five years or newer should have to be inspected every year. Perhaps a period of time (it may not be five years) could be looked at and the inspection could be carried out, say, every two years. In most countries motor vehicles are not inspected each year. The old cars would need to be. I remember someone on Open Line saying that the question of an accident would cause an inspection, but if that is the case and there was an accident within the longer period of time, then let us do an inspection after that.

I take the point that the Member for East End mentioned that the Motion was accepted by the Government and the Committee. I also take the point that the Second Member for

Bodden Town mentioned about gun licences and not having your licence on you during that period. I think he is technically right, even though I would hope that the Police or the Honourable Attorney General would not enforce that provision during that time.

I think also that a principle on this is that we have to limit the Civil Service increase to as slow a pace as possible because it does worry me the extent of money that we are paying on it. I think a slowing down on the increase of that has to be looked at as a broad principle.

I also would just like to very briefly mention the point the Second Member for the Lesser Islands mentioned. Radio Cayman should stick fairly closely to the Law which says they ensure programmes broadcast include no discussions or debates where persons taking part express opinions or put forth arguments of a political character which are not properly balanced by other opinions. It is a pity that it is not in relation to all powerful news media, even though I appreciate the radio is the most powerful, or more powerful, than the written media.

In George Town, specifically, I would like to see more cashiers, but if we move this into the districts it may ease the load in there.

In summary, I support the Motion. I would just say we have to weigh the cost against the convenience for there are times when we have to do things convenient to the people and pay the cost of it. If we could look at increasing the service where other bills, such as Cable and Wireless, Caribbean Utilities and bills generally could be paid by upgrading the Postal service itself. With that, I support the Motion and I am very happy to see how the House has settled in considerably in this morning's session.

Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
two.

Thank you. Proceedings are suspended until a quarter past two.

#### AT 12:47 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

#### HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:13 P.M.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Proceeding of the House are resumed. Private Member's Motion No. 2/89, since there are no Members sitting in the House who have not yet spoken on this Debate, I now call upon the Mover to reply.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:**

Thank you, Mr. President.

on this resolution.

I wish to record my thanks to the Government for their support

I have noted the concerns of the Member responsible. It is his Department. He knows best what is in that Department. So I will not attempt to hold any argument with him on his views. I have my view, and that is that it can be done in all the districts not just West Bay. As I said, I have not tied down Government to anything.

I believe that the proposition of setting an inspection point in West Bay is going to greatly enhance the efficiency of Licensing at the Central Police Station. Members here today, have all expounded on the woes of licensing at the Central Police Station. I have made my points on it, so there is really no need for me to carry on in that vein. I would, however, say that I was not taken aback by the submission as put forward by the Opposition, some of them, because I knew what they were going to do. In my time here I have found a bias against West Bay coming from various sections of Government. In my opinion that bias has caused certain projects to retard.

So that no one feels left out, we decided to put as many districts as possible into the Resolution. In the passing of this Resolution (if it is going to be passed) this is what Government is going to accept. They are going to accept that they consider implementation in all districts - not only West Bay. As I said, I was not taken aback, I was willing to see the strategy that the Opposition would take on this Resolution. I would venture to say that if you checked their notes, they each had a hard time to give me on this resolution.

On the question of licensing vehicles and payment of fees in the districts. I have made my position very clear over the past four years. As far back as 1986 I raised this issue and I was told then that it could not work. To set the matter very straight I wish to read what I said in the debate on the Speech from the Throne in February 1988. I quote:

"Another development I have been asking for is the establishment of some sort of machinery to be set up in the districts, where they can be better served, and where we can better serve our public. Maybe, as some Members have already said, this country is too small for any meaningful system of local Government. However, I believe that we could have some similar system. Maybe not as fully instituted as district administration, which is now in operation in the Lesser Islands, but there is no reason why there cannot be some arrangement in the Budget for an office for the representatives of the people in their constituencies. There is no reason why our people can not pay licence fees in the district. There is no reason why our people cannot pay garbage fees, bicycle fees, licences and all the other fees they are asked to pay in the district. This again, if it cannot be instituted this year, hopefully it will be a task for the new Government in the New Year, God

willing. But it needs to be done." [Hansard - 16 February, 1988]

This House will note that the Public Accounts Committee of this Country did not meet until some time in July, so I take great umbrage to what the Member from East End said. I have done my work honestly in this Parliament, I have made as many suggestions as some Members, and more than many; I have Moved more Motions than any other Member in this House to date, and I have Moved them for the betterment of the people of these Islands whom I represent. I do not need to wait until some Member has made a suggestion and then voice it. I take my work seriously, and as long as I am here I will continually be moving Motions and making suggestions for the betterment of the people of these Islands.

I realise that is the crux of the matter with the Opposition. They know that I am a worker. They know that I have always been a worker. The Member said that my Resolution was a waste of the Government's time. The only waste of Government's time was his obnoxious contribution, and let me hasten to say...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I think you should withdraw that word, 'obnoxious'.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I will, Sir, at your request, but I believe that if there was a wasting of Government's time, it was his contribution. I feel that he was bordering on accusing me of dishonesty in this House. That is my feeling.

This is all right. I will not give way. They had their chance when they stood up this morning and tried to make me look stupid, and tried to make me look bad; yet, they are the same Members who come into this House and claim to be lily white - talking about petty issues. I do not need to wait on the Public Accounts or that Member from the Public Accounts. He was a Member of the Public Accounts Committee, and maybe he was the Chairman from 1980 to 1984 and that Committee did not meet once. I do not see why he had to wait until we got into the Public Accounts Committee for me to listen to any suggestions from him or any one of them.

**MR. JOHN B. McLEAN:** Point of Order. I have never been the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. When I asked him to give way a while ago, I was only saying I was sorry he took it that way. I did not, in any way, try to impute that he was dishonest.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I am a big man. I can accept that apology - if I believe that he meant it from his heart - but I will not accept it...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** It is not Parliamentary to speak in that way about a Member offering an apology.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** Well, it might not be Parliamentary but I will not accept it.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Now, you are challenging the Chair,

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** No...

**MR. PRESIDENT:** You are indeed. I ruled that it is not Parliamentary. It is not proper for you to then go on and say that you will say it nevertheless. Please, let us get on.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I did not say that, Mr. President, and you will have to bear with me. I did not say that I was not accepting your ruling, I am saying that I am not accepting his apology.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** I had earlier said the apology is given. It is unparliamentary to refuse it in that way. You persist in refusing it. Now, I do not want to go on with this. Please go on with speaking on the Motion.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** I wish, Mr. President, that the Member had been stopped this morning, and other Members. Anyway, I will not carry on. I think the country knows that I do not need to wait on any Member of the Opposition to put forward an issue for me to bring a Resolution. I wish to thank the Honourable Member for Communications and Works for clearing up the accusation made by the Member. I really feel that he put the whole matter in the right light.

I wanted to put on the record the point that I made in February - a long time before either one of them sat on the Public Accounts Committee. They have all said the Resolution is a good one, and I am sorry that I had to speak the way that I did, but I speak the way that I feel. I know what this Opposition's aim is. I think that the matter has been cleared up. I leave the Resolution.

Just to reiterate the point that I made: The Resolution asks - and if Government accepts the Resolution, they will be accepting a Resolution to investigate putting licensing in as many districts as possible and not only West Bay.

Thank you.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Thank you. I now put the question on Private Member's Motion No. 2/89. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

**AYES & NOES**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The Ayes have it.

**AGREED: PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 2/89 PASSED.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** You were expecting a division, were you?

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

### **COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH AND SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:** We continue now with Government Business. Perhaps, I could just recall to Members' minds that on the 17th of February, the House deferred the Debate on the Throne Speech to be taken conjointly with the Debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Honourable Financial Secretary had moved the Second Reading and spoke to it on the 17th. So the question is, that a Bill entitled, The Appropriation Bill 1989, be given its Second Reading. The Motion is opened for Debate.

[pause]

Am I being invited to do a countdown? Does any Member wish to speak? [pause] It is traditional for Members on the other side, as it were, to speak first in a Debate such as this. By Members on the other side, I mean Backbenchers, I am not talking about Opposition. [pause] Surely, this is not lack of enthusiasm. Does any Member wish to speak?

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** What are we speaking on Mr. President? I am sorry, I was outside.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, and the deferred Motion on the Throne Speech.

**MR. W. McKEEVA BUSH:** No, Sir, I claim seniority. Let the new Member's go.

**MR. PRESIDENT:** The First Elected Member for Bodden Town. Thank you.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:** I believe that since everybody else is displaying cold feet, I can lead off - especially since I am not a Member that usually speaks from a prepared text. I must warn you, Sir, that I am going a little longer than my customary 15 minutes this time, so I crave your indulgence.

I would like to begin by saying that we, in these Islands, should feel some measure of satisfaction at the Budget and Throne Speech which was so ably moved. We can feel satisfied because we have just come out of an election which demonstrated political stability, which demonstrated that we are maturing politically and, I say that, we are maturing politically because I believe that we still have a great way to go in that respect. We can thank, God, that our political campaign was not conducted with any of the violence and virulence that such campaigns are customarily conducted with in other countries. I believe the Electorate made the wisest choices, given the material they had, and this Honourable House is a testament to their choices.

I am sometimes dismayed we cannot get along a little better than what we have been doing, but I consider this is a new year and a new House and there is hope. Then again, I have to remind myself of what I mentioned to one Member (I think it was last week) that maybe it comes with the territory.

I believe for many years to come we will be politically stable and will be able to present balanced budgets. There are some things that concern me. We are entering a stage now where we are talking about budgets in the hundreds of millions of dollars. I call that a quantum leap. When you are making quantum leaps, you have to be very careful and look around very carefully because I think we may need to remind ourselves that our economy is based on a very fragile infrastructure.

So, again, I go back to the point of political stability. This is one of the foundations that our economy is based. I would suggest to the Honourable Members of this House that this is something we need not only take cognisance of during an election campaign, but we need to take cognisance of that inside, at these very meetings that we are attending now. I believe that any breakdown might not necessarily come from attitudes of other people, but it might come from what other people misread in the attitudes of the politicians and legislators. I say that, because we should always be constructive and respectful with our address and feelings with one another.

Back to the quantum leap. I believe it was in the 1970s (1976 if my information serves me correctly) that we were talking about less than \$30,000,000 in a Budget. Here we are in 1988 talking about \$100,000,000 plus. This is no mean achievement. I am not scared, because I believe that we have the best manager that we could possibly have. But the Manager cannot do it alone, the Manager needs help - especially help from us as legislators and Government Members.

I would suggest that if we are going to continue to be successful, we have to take account of many different things, not the least of which is that we have to hope for a

buoyant United States economy. I read in some publication recently that if the United States sneezes we catch a cold in the Cayman Islands. While our political system is based on Westminster, our economic system I think has more in common with the economy of the United States than it does with our metropolitan country. So we have to keep our fingers crossed.

In his Address the Honourable Financial Secretary mentioned that he noticed a resurgence of inflation which presents some risks. I think that is a point we should pay some cognisance to, if only to say the United States has just gone through a change of Presidency. Even though this new President is of the same party as his predecessor it is safe to say that his priorities may be somewhat a little different. We must pay attention to what they are trying to do in the United States - they are trying to balance their Budget, they are trying to curtail military expenditure, they are trying to arrive at a more sensible Fiscal Policy. That is bound to have some repercussions on our economy down here. I noticed that interest rates in the United States are going up. I am not an economist or a financier, but my layman's interpretation of that may mean that people may keep more money in the bank or in stocks and, therefore, they will have less to spend. Therefore, by inference, we may have less tourists. These are the kinds of things that we have to pay attention to and be cognisant of.

My message is that the Government must be careful in its expenditure. We should seek to get the maximum value for the money which we spend. We should also seek to spend that money wisely and in the best interests of the country and constituency. I believe that we will do well to encourage an infrastructure in this country which ideally would be less dependent on outside sources. I realise that we can never be independent of outside sources since the very basis of our economy - Tourism and Banking - are what I would describe as being very much tied if not addicted, to what happens to the outside world. Certainly, we can take a closer look at some industries that we could develop and encourage in Cayman that will help us keep a larger portion of money that we now lose through foreign exchange.

Our growth rate: We have been averaging 10 per cent per annum since 1972. My studies of third world countries suggest to me that this is, indeed, phenomenal. What we have been achieving is the economic growth rate of the industrialised countries. Let me caution, for what it is worth, that we cannot maintain this 10 per cent per annum ad infinitum. It is realistic for us to realise that at some time we are going to experience a slow down, the law of averages states that. We have to prepare ourselves for that. We have to understand that this is an accepted part of life.

We are at the top now. The only way to go when you are at the top is down a little. We have to pray that we remain at the top for a long time. I say that because there is no need for anyone to get alarmed when the statistics are down a little, when the batting average is off. It is impossible, if I may use the analogy, for a hitter to continue to hit 800 or a 1000. Pitchers change, pitches change. We have to move with the times, roll with the flow, as they say. I do not think that when tourism is down for a month or two that we need to throw up our hands and say the economy is bottoming out, or this is the end of the boom. I think we need to realise that we are at the top, and when we are at the top the fluctuations we often experience are those that shake us up and get us alarmed.

By now, we have grown accustomed to the good life. We can be proud that since 1972 we have been experiencing this buoyant economy and these trends. When we experience a down turn, let us not panic, point fingers or curse each other; blame this Government or that political directorate, this individual or that individual. Rather, let us get together and see if we can ascertain the cause of the problem and treat the problem rather than the symptoms. Let us not get carried away by alarmist newspaper headlines; let us not worry about critical and penetrating articles; let us not get defensive. Rather, let us use that information to our advantage. Question and see if a more aggressive advertising policy or perhaps more streamlining of routes, or an infusion of incentives might not bring us back to the desired peak. The challenge is for us not to panic and tear our hair out or blame each other or point fingers when we get this kind of information, but rather for us to work together as a country - private sector and Government, Government and Backbenchers - and see if we can bring this ship back to the level that it was accustomed to riding at.

The banking community is steadily growing, and I believe that we are sorting some of our problems out as far as gaining respectability goes. We made some agreements with the United States and in the beginning some people thought that was to our detriment. I see nothing wrong with doing a little house cleaning, especially when that house cleaning is necessary. I believe that it is better to heed a warning when that warning is given early, than for one to have to succumb oneself to embarrassment. I believe that we did the right thing. The journals that I read lead me to believe that the Cayman Islands, if they had ever lost respectability in the banking world, are regaining that respectability and once again we are becoming the model that we should be - clean, clear cut and up front.

That can only be in our interest as far as attracting other Banks and International Finance goals. I would be happy to see that situation improve to the point where we have some banks from Asia, particularly the Japanese because it is a recognised fact they are the richest people in the world, they have the most money to spend and the most money invested. I hope that our Government can do something, or could be so impressed by these people they would take notice of our seriousness and respectability in the International Financial World, and would come and establish one of their banks here. From experience I know that when these people come and set up house, they are serious and they bring whatever is necessary to attract the business. That would only be of help to us.

In this regard let me mention the change in Europe that will take place in 1992. Let me suggest that financially we can gear ourselves to seek some attention from that direction. All these things can only help us in the long run. You see I believe the more roots the tree has, the stronger that tree will be. It is now time for us to look at all these different avenues and areas that we can exploit to strengthen and solidify ourselves.

Any country which can boast the record of growth that we have

is bound to be affected by immigration. We are no exception. That is an area where we as legislators have a formidable and serious challenge. What we have to do on the one hand is encourage and entertain all of these companies, banks, hotels and investors because we need them - they are an integral part of our structure, economy and our very existence. So we have to encourage them. We want to encourage them. The message from this Honourable House is that they are welcome, as long as they are clean, if they are prepared to abide by our Laws and Regulations and if they want to come and adapt and adjust themselves to the Caymanian way of life and to our mores. That has to be juxtaposed against the position and concern of our people who are screaming that they will soon be outnumbered. It is not an easy position for people to be in. There is no question that we will continue to be favourable to people who want to migrate here to work and/or eventually to settle. As long as we remain politically stable and economically viable we will be attractive. The difficulty comes when we have to draw lines.

Let me just say for the assurance of those affected, both the immigrants and the Caymanians, they can depend on this Honourable House when the time comes to arrive at policies which are as fair, practical and amicable as we can formulate. I would like to say that the view of the Government should be that migration and immigration are sensitive issues. We have to be balanced when we arrive at decisions. I appreciate that it is not easy, particularly when we read that established Caymanians would be outnumbered if trends continue. We have to realise it is a trade-off. People who come and bring business, bring money, and they help our economy. We can not easily close the doors; we need the populace at large to help us arrive at this. We need tolerance, we need understanding and we need an appreciation.

I have a lesson. It is the lesson that I sometimes have to repeat often. What it boils down to is: Who is a Caymanian? I believe that my research is accurate. If I am correct, there were no indigenous Amerindian settlers here. All of us, those like myself of African descent, came from someplace other than here. The Caucasians came from someplace other than here. The challenge for us is to find the right mix and to try to live together in some semblance of interdependence.

Caymanians should not forget that we were not always buoyant and economically viable like we are. We migrated to Cuba, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Honduras, Panama and the great United States. When we talk about immigration and population, we have to be sensible. The legislators have to set the tone. I was not elected to sell out our country and constituents. Any sensible Legislator will have to recognise that he has a responsibility to his people and to his constituents. I say that because while I am prepared to take the interest of my constituents and my country at heart, I will not let that interest blind me to the fact that we are dependent on outsiders for a buoyant economy and for a lot of services that Caymanians cannot provide. It is a matter and an issue which cannot be easily dealt with, so people should realise that it takes sense and balance. I believe that we might need some of the wisdom of Solomon.

Caymanians need not worry. We will take care of them; we will protect them so that they will not be outnumbered and, at the same time, the economy will remain buoyant and progressive, as it is. I suppose as a corollary to the immigration issue, we have to talk about the whole notion of Caymanian Protection and protecting Caymanians. For me this is a broad and comprehensive issue. It does not necessarily have its end at the Caymanian Protection Board. I see it as being broader and more important than that. We have to ensure that our citizens, the citizens of this country, are protected in every right and respect. Sometimes some of the people that are here are not necessarily here in the best interest of Caymanians and the Caymanian society. It grieves my heart to know that we have some people in important vocations and professions who... maybe their absence would be doing us a favour. I say that because, some people come here and they demonstrate no respect for us Caymanians.

A few weeks ago an incident happened on the road in my constituency in which there was an accident involving I believe, three vehicles. I do not know who caused the accident and I am not a judge. Neither am I a policeman. The important thing is that a guest here, someone who we allowed to come here and work and, beyond that, who is a teacher in our system, saw fit to be a vigilante...

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

I think, perhaps, that this is a case that is before, or will come before, the Court. Members, under Standing Orders are not to refer to those cases. I am not sure because you have not quite defined it yet, but you may be.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:**

I take your point with some cognisance, Sir.

Let me suggest that we are open, tolerant and respectful. We expect the same from the people to whom we give the privilege of moving here. It is sometimes difficult for me - and I know that some of my fellow Caymanians think I am strange, but I lived in another country. That is why I am open and tolerant toward outside people, because I know that during my years in Canada, if I was hassled or told repeatedly that I was not a Canadian or could never be a Canadian, I know how I would have felt. I do not encourage Caymanians to say those kinds of things to people. I think that we have to be tolerant and we have to be open and, as a legislator, as a leader of my constituents, that is the example that I would like to set. That is the example that I try to live by. That is the example I set for myself.

I notice that younger Caymanians feel more threatened than the older ones. They are the ones who seem to think that there will be no land for them when they are ready to build houses. There will be no jobs for them to take. I can appreciate their concerns. But I say to them the best tools that we can equip ourselves with are education, understanding and an open mind. If we are equipped with those three things we need not fear anyone. If we are equipped to compete, if we can match skills and match diplomas and certificates, no one but no one had dare tell us that we can get the job in Cayman because we are Caymanians. But we have to equip ourselves. It is not enough to say that I must be considered because I am a Caymanian and this is Cayman. That is not good enough. We have to be able to say: "I must be considered

because I am qualified, I have a good reputation, I have an honest character and I am a Caymanian." I would encourage the listeners, the young people, to protect themselves for the future that we are trying to lay down for them by doing this. To exercise caution, respect and tolerance toward outsiders because Cayman was not just Cayman springing out of history in 1989.

There are other areas and avenues that, as far as Caymanian Protection goes, we can improve. I would be happy to see some knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of citizens perpetrated in this country. I often remark that one of the reasons why I admire the United States is that they have a Bill of Rights in which every citizen knows his rights and responsibilities. Sometimes it does not seem that way, but in theory and in essence it is so. When they are apprehended they know their rights and responsibilities. When their properties have been trespassed they know their rights and responsibilities. I believe that such a tool, such a medium, helps build a more respectable society, although, again, in the case of the United States, sometimes I really wonder.

I say that, because in the Cayman Islands if we could find some method, some means of inculcating these things in our citizens, of letting them realise there are channels to go through, they would understand that that is why Government is structured the way it is and that is why we have a legal system and a judicial system. I notice that more and more people are complaining. They seem to think that nobody takes their position, that nobody listens to them. There is a general sort of dissatisfaction with the mechanisms and the organisations that they think should be protecting them.

It may be timely for us to consider the establishment of an office of an Ombudsman. I have set as my objective to move a motion to that effect in the next sitting of this Honourable House and for us, as a Government, to study that. We should seek the establishment of an impartial body. I know from my experience in Canada in the Province of Ontario where I lived, we had a very effective office of an Ombudsman - an Ombudsman who, when the time came, even took on the Government. That Ombudsman was so effective that the Government which established the office saw fit, because of the embarrassment they received, to terminate his services - he was making them look bad. This is one area where we should check out the feasibility and it might also serve to help us in other areas as well. It could be the stepping stone for us to keep having orderly and sensible elections. We will see when the time comes if there is a feasibility and if there is a need for us to delve into it any deeper.

We have a growing Civil Service. It is a Civil Service which many Caymanians think they are not doing as well as they should be doing. I am not here to be the judge or jury on that. I am only here to say that some of the opinions I hear expressed may be worth investigating. There may be some legitimacy too, because some people think that they do not receive promotions as fast as they should and that their efforts sometimes go unnoticed and unheralded. I would like to say (for what it is worth) that many times a pat on the back is better to some people than \$40 or \$50 in the pocket. It may well be that we should look to see if we cannot structure the organisation so we become a little more personable. When someone goes the extra mile, stays the extra half hour, someone says 'Thank you for that report, it was on time and it was concise. I think that you are doing a great job. Keep it up.' I believe this happens a lot in the private sector and it has been my experience that it would be good if we could implement that.

I appreciate the fact that the Government Service is the largest employer of people in Cayman. Perhaps the section heads, supervisors and managers should try to pay special cognisance of that because civil servants expect to be paid according to their efforts. They are also human beings and sometimes a word of encouragement, a little moral support would make them feel good. At least it will let them see that their efforts are not going unnoticed.

Then too, there is the concern about terms of employment for outside officers being easier than they are for Caymanians. We need to address this if it is the case. We need to let the Caymanians feel that the service is theirs once they are qualified, once they demonstrate an aptitude and once they are prepared for work and bear the responsibilities their department or sections call for. That is important because I believe if these people are demoralised then we are going to have problems. The least of which will be the exodus from the service.

I am always very concerned, particularly about areas such as Customs and Immigration, where a lot depends on honesty, attitude and a sense of responsibility. We have to be especially careful in these kinds of services because if the sense of responsibility or the morale, in these areas, is broken down, then we are open to corruption, subversion of the system and to a general lack in attitude and responsibilities. We should take cognisance of these things. I appreciate the difficulties.

A lot of the time people with grievances do not bring them to the attention of the persons they should bring them to, namely their Section Heads or Supervisors or their Managers, because they fear they might be subjecting themselves for punitive retaliation. Instead, they take them to other people, other avenues, to other areas which might not be in the best constructive interest of the country. I do not believe in encouraging this kind of thing; if these people consider that they have been slighted, then they should take it to the proper channels, even if that means eventually going to the Civil Service Association. I would not encourage them to go public with it as a legislator and a responsible citizen, but I will say that if a matter is brought to the attention of someone in the correct way, for example, with respect, seriousness and in a critically constructive fashion, then I think for all intents and purposes, it should be seriously looked after and addressed. In those cases where the Caymanians are suggesting they may be deprived of promotions or training because they consider themselves threatened by foreign nationals who are in the employ, then I think these cases should be born out and investigated. I do not know how practical it is because I last read the regulations when I was a teacher, many years ago.

In a free and democratic society, I see no harm in civil servants writing letters to the press, as long as they are respectful and as long as they refrain from name calling of the

people in their departments. In Canada, which again is a truly democratic country, being a civil servant does not stop one from writing letters, expressing one's opinion, as long as one is not libelous, slanderous or defamatory. Indeed, I have many letters that I have saved, in some files I have, of people writing letters against their departments and even against the Government, but they were respectful. They were within the means and bounds of the law. The comments were always taken in a constructive manner. The problems were addressed. That is one way of alleviating large scale discontent. In a country of this size it is difficult - everyone knows each other and some people take umbrage to the fact that they are singled out for criticism, irrespective of the fact that the criticism may have been meant in the best interest. I would like to suggest it might be one way of us maturing politically, socially and, in addition to that, it is an emotional outlet for people who might believe they have a grouse.

Our services, Customs and Immigration are sensitive. We should always seek to ensure that the officers who work in these departments, as well as the Police, are satisfied and work under the best conditions available. They should be appreciated and have community respect. The police work hard, Immigration works hard and, especially the Customs department (because the Budget bears me out) the Customs officers and the Customs Department, they have a tremendous responsibility and they have done an excellent job. I would like to publicly commend them. We are depending upon them and we know that we can depend upon them. I hope God gives them the grace and the inclination to continue to give us the excellent performance that they have been giving us. Likewise, the police and immigration.

The Police Department is an especially sensitive subject. Sometimes we forget that before anything else they are a protective agency, a protective department. They are not the enemies, and they only arrest us as a course of last resort. For the most part they are a preventative organisation and they do a good job.

I would be happy to see a greater number of Caymanians in the force but I think for that to come about, Caymanians have to change our attitude somewhat. Like some other professions and vocations, we look down on that. Being a policeman is an integral and necessary part of any community. We could not do without them. They perform some of the most essential tasks. So I would appeal to the youngsters, who have the qualifications, to seriously consider that as an avenue and an outlet where they can make a constructive contribution to the development of this country. It is safe to say that the attitudes, the aptitudes and the qualifications of these officers, when we have sufficient numbers, will lead us one day and hopefully sooner not later to have what every Caymanian expects and is inspiring to see, a Caymanian Commissioner of Police. Nothing happens before its time. But unlike Topsy, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, we did not just grow up; it took us a long time to reach this level. What is important and necessary is it has to be obvious in the infrastructure that the scope and the opening is there.

When the Caymanians demonstrate that they are willing to take on that responsibility, we need to be a little more encouraging of the Caymanians. We need to give them a little more moral support. We need to take a harder look at the number of foreign national officers in our police force, and we need to restrict this number while, at the same time, encouraging young Caymanians to move into the force and encourage those that are there to remain there. We can eventually experience, what I call, a Caymanianisation of the police force. It is not absolutely necessary for us to have a total Caymanian police force. I do not know if that is a practical goal to set and to realise. What is more important is that we develop a harmonious, effective and respected police force. It is safe to say that we are on the way to doing that. We had some pitfalls, but I think for the most part we have addressed them. Let us now be positive and look forward. Let us see how we can eliminate those kinds of things in the future. Let us encourage and provide incentives for the people who are there.

This is a small community, a community where rumour mongering is a form of entertainment. There is no one more conscience of that than me - not that I am a rumour mongerer, but I move around and I hear things. Just yesterday I had to dissuade someone. I said: "You know, I am of the opinion that some people spread these things when they get tired of watching the television." Sometimes we hear things... and the Police Force is one of those elements in our society in which it seems popular for people to spread rumours about the officers and elements in the organisation. I am no judge. I am only here to say that this is a small enough society that where there is smoke there should be fire. If any man thinks he has anything which is substantive, which can stand up to scrutiny and the Courts let him or her come forward. I, as a legislator and a responsible citizen, cannot encourage that because today the rumour may start on a policeman, tomorrow it may start on Roy Bodden. I do not encourage that sort of thing. If someone has a legitimate grouse and they come to me I will try to channel them in the right direction. I do not encourage, nor do I appreciate people coming with stories that start with; 'I do not want to reveal my source', or 'I do not want to name names.' If you are in that position, go to somebody else - do not come to Roy Bodden. It would do us well as legislators and citizens to take that position.

I do not want to see our social control forces undermined because someone may not like such and such an officer or someone may not like so and so. By the same token, I do not wish to see officers take advantage of their positions as the guardians of society, as the upkeepers of law and order, using their positions to take advantage of ordinary citizens, to brutalise, lay charges and use excessive force where a little diplomacy and a word of caution would have done. So it is a challenge for all of us to develop a mutual respect for each other so that together we can make the job of maintaining law and order easier. I am prepared to be a leader in that respect.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
15 minutes.

Would it be convenient to break here for you? Suspended for

**AT 3:19 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED**

**HOUSE RESUMED AT 3:44 P.M.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

Proceedings are resumed. Continuation of the debate on The Throne Speech and the Appropriation Bill. The First Elected Member for Bodden Town continues.

**MR. ROY BODDEN:**

A logical progression of my contribution would suggest that I deal now with the matter of crime in our society. I note with interest from the political campaign most of the candidates had some concerns to express on this issue. It is a concern of all the Members of this Honourable House. Let me just remark that from a purely sociological point of view I do not think that we are necessarily living in a crime-ridden society in the Cayman Islands. I am as concerned about incidences and increase in serious crime as anyone. I do not believe that those incidents are of a sufficient nature to warrant us to be alarmed or spread alarmist rumours or concerns, especially as the record of our police force in apprehending these speaks for itself. We can be assured of some confidence in the apprehension of these crimes.

I am wondering if the time has not come now for us to embark on some sort of national identification system, where we have identity cards for each citizen of this country. I notice in some countries these are contained in the drivers licence, where a persons photograph, full name, address and, very often, their occupation is contained on such a card. In cases where the Police, whether it is cursorily or otherwise, apprehend or stop someone that is an accurate form of identification. This can be demanded rather than what is now done, relying on someone to give a name, and that person may, as I sometimes read in the cases in the Court, give the Police a false name or where the Police would have to rely on his or her knowledge of the person or the area. In the event of total strangers, it could be dealt with too. The person may say; "I am sorry. I do not have any identification. I am not of this Country." Then the Police are in the position to take the next step. It is something this Honourable House and the Government could give some attention to, especially as it could be coupled with a drivers licence.

Any society - and I label Cayman a frontier society, by virtue of the fact that it is growing rapidly - is attractive to outside elements and some of the elements that come here, heaven forbid, their intentions, ambitions and dreams are not all honest and upfront. Years ago when we were less well known and much smaller, it was easier for our social control agencies. Now with communication the way it is, people can come here one day and are gone the next. That sort of thing leads and may breed the possibility of some people coming here, committing an unlawful act and then they are gone. This is another reason why I suggest our Immigration and Customs and Police Department must be as vigilant as they can be and must receive as much help as they can from us, the other members of the community.

It is safe to say that the majority of our problems now have to do with drugs and their availability in our society - the prime motivation. It is not my intention to point fingers and lay blame. I do not know where the drugs come from and I suppose if we knew it would be easy to clean up. I am not up here to sermonise about that. I would like to say that in order for us to combat this scourge, as it is popularly described, we need the concerted efforts of all elements in this society.

I note with interest that we now have a customs pursuit boat. The interdiction of drugs is a serious matter. One of my concerns is that I know that the boat came in good faith. I know it is an opportunity for us to improve our interdiction efforts and to improve our record. I would respectfully like to posit that the business of drug interdiction is of such a serious magnitude that, if we accost a shipment and they are better prepared than we are, we may be the casualties - we may be the victims rather than they. I believe that we should investigate - I do not know, I must confess ignorance - to what extent the people who man those boats are armed.

I frequently read about some of these drug hauls. They could have anything on those boats from bazookas to anti-tank missiles, to rockets. If we accost them in our boat, in which all we can have to our advantage is speed, would they not have the greater advantage upon us, especially seeing as we could not summon a helicopter with armour or a plane to the rescue. I say that because we have the first step. We should see about improving and increasing our advantage by going the next step. I read with some interest that there is some special training for these youngsters. A lot of these people have come to the last opportunity in life and they see a big drug haul as the last chance in the world to make a quick buck. Some of them are on the other side of the scale, where they have lived many years and have seen many things and they do not care. They are out to get through - if that means blowing someone away, they will take that risk. We should consider that because we have many valuable and worthy young people. When they embark on these ventures, it would make Roy Bodden feel good to know that they all have at least a fifty-fifty chance. If a man draws on them, they can draw in defense and in the protection of our rights and in the carrying out of our laws. This is a matter to which we should give some further thought.

I also note that the United States' Government has made an offer to establish radar stations. This is a wise and timely move. It can help us and the United States to improve our drug interdiction record.

Mr. President, I have one area of concern, and I believe that this area of concern is covered in an old, old case of international politics. It is chronicled by Thucydides, in *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, where he talked about the Mellicon Debate. When the Mellicons called in the Athenians to protect them and what happened was the Athenians wound up eliminating the Mellicons. They said: 'Listen, do not tell us about parity and respect when you have no force. We have the force, you have to do what we say. We say that you are no longer useful to us, so we are out to eliminate you.' I say that because it is not the duty or the responsibility of the Members of this House, but if those Radar Stations are used for the purposes they should be used for, we are all right. I would regret to know we are involved as the third party in some rivalry or hostility. Then we may be better off without the Radar and trying to combat the drugs with our little Police Force as we are doing now. I am sure that my fears will be unfounded and when the time comes, I will be keenly attentive to be persuaded that the matter goes no further than that.

Drugs in the Community: Regrettably, I have to remark, it is not easy. I do not know from which direction they came, all I know is that the evidence suggests that they are here. It seems as if we are running a losing battle. I am not one to give up, neither am I overly pessimistic - and forgive me if I sound that way. What I cannot understand is how Caymanians can destroy their own Caymanians by selling them dope, especially crack cocaine. It is heart rending. It is cannibalistic. It is inhumane and it must be one of the greatest sins that man can commit. I have evidenced the young people, even in Bodden Town, they lose their ambition, desire to live and even their most basic human urges. They are stripped of dignity. They are stripped of their sense of responsibility. Sometimes I become so frustrated that I wish I were Hercules. I have seen young people start out well - young people close to me, young people whom I would have sworn by - destroyed by crack cocaine. I have personally made appointments with the drug counselor, with psychologists, and the rate of recidivism is discouraging. It is discouraging!

I was moved to tears on one occasion by someone in my community whom I was close to. I tried and I tried, but believe you me, I am not one to give up easily. I had to tell myself that all my efforts were in vain. And what is sad is that the numbers are not in the singular, if they were I would have reason to be optimistic, but the numbers keep increasing, Sir. The numbers keep increasing and it is frustrating. These young people lose their ambition, their pride and respect, and they become slaves.

Mr. President, this requires the concerted effort of all of us, and in this regard I must tip my hat to the Service Clubs, to CASA, to the Police and to the Churches. I would like to appeal to my fellow Caymanians to join in the struggle because I see drugs and drug abuse as the one great social problem that can bring this country down - believe you me, down lower than any recession or hurricane Gilbert. We can build back the buildings, you know, the tourists will come again; but the minds, bodies and souls of the young Caymanians are difficult to redeem, difficult to retrieve. Believe you me, I do not know what price we would have to pay, and I do not know to what extent we would have to go. I only wish that the answers were easy. I appeal to the young people not to get carried away.

I was reading *The Jamaican Gleaner* some weeks ago and I was disheartened to learn that these pushers, you know what they do, Sir? It is most revolting and repulsive. They give the first couple of doses free, until they get the person addicted. I am talking about 13 and 14 year olds. How can we win when we have these kinds of beings, these kinds of devils? It is my suspicion that we have such unscrupulous characters in our very society; although I am not saying they pray upon our school children. I have reason to say these reputed people have more respect and are more admired than the honest, hard working Members of this Honourable House. Their attire, sir, the fiendish and ostentatious display of gold and jewelry; their wardrobe and the vehicles they drive, are bound to give them away. We know they do not have respectable, high-paying jobs. I have heard some of them boast: 'Everybody knows what I do, but nobody is bold enough to try to stop me.'

If I were otherwise occupied I myself would turn them in. I would even go to the extent of bringing the police to their doors. They are unscrupulous. I see them on the road at strange hours in the night, strange hours in the day. Sometimes I wonder if other people are not aware of the advantage they are taking. What disturbs me is if these people are the heroes of the young, where is the next generation going? Where are the future MLAs coming from? Are they going to be people with honest, upright and straight forward morals and values, like we are? Or are they going to be people who represent the Medellin cartel or who represent some other cartel for the pusher on the block, or the pusher downtown? I am concerned about that because as small a nation as we are, if we get these elements in large enough numbers, then we can be controlled by outside elements - it is not unheard of. I read where in Columbia anyone with their senses, when they are offered a price had better be bought because if they do not take the money they get a bullet. Lawyers will not take certain jobs, judges will not sit on certain cases, Policemen and soldiers will look the other way. Nobody challenges these people. I believe that the Caymanian society has to rally themselves to combat this.

I would like to suggest that we go with a system of Neighbourhood Watches. A radical solution. You know, when you see something out of place in your neighbourhood, you call a number. You tell them you see a movement that you do not like and you would like them to check it out. Or you want them to check out Roy Bodden or that house. I believe this is a serious matter. But if we have to resort to that, then, by all means, let us resort to that. When we have eliminated the problem, then we can go back on an even keel. That is the only way we are going to get things done. If we do that, if people know they are subject to surveillance by honest and upright citizens, then that will straighten them out a bit if they are doing anything illegal. That will straighten them out. That will be the load they will not be prepared to bear.

I believe that when we apprehend these people, we should give them due process of Law but it should not be glamourised. They should not be made to look and feel and be made to look like any heroes because they are not. They are the purveyors of destruction and death in our society. They should be taken as such. It is absolutely revolting. The battles and the struggles that we in this Honourable House are trying to win are being undermined and corrupted by unscrupulous, dishonest people who want to make money by illegitimate means. I say again, that it is the greatest threat to Caymanians' survival and well-being that there is.

I am alarmed at the number of young people in the prison system. I do not necessarily believe that prison is rehabilitative. I believe we have to get to them before they reach that stage, because very often people develop images of losers. They lose their self esteem, self confidence and they become what the sociologist call, sociopaths. I believe we have some of those. I speak with youngsters who tell me they feel uncomfortable and out of place outside of jail. They say they have their meals catered to, they know they have a bed. They are in the company of people they feel comfortable with. They know what is required of them. When it reaches that stage, I do not know if we can help them on this side of society. I believe we should try. I have seen too many repeat offenders, too great a percentage of recidivism. I believe that what we have to do

is highlight and focus on honest, respectable and upright citizens and use these as role models. Nothing that is good, ever comes easily.

I believe that too often our young people are subverted and encouraged to give up the honest way. To forgo the honest toil because it is often hard and unglamorous. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, wrong with being a hard worker. Whether you are working for the city collecting garbage, as an engineer or a mechanic. Whether you are a school teacher or a pilot there is dignity in labour. The good thing about working for an honest wage is that when you are home in the evening with the door closed and you hear a rap on the door, one need not be afraid or one need not be worried because even if a Policeman is coming, chances are it is not to arrest you.

Young people have to realise that any money received by selling drugs is not good money. They may think they are winning, in the short run. Even if they escape our attention they have to live with their conscience and I guarantee that there is no greater tormentor. So they may think they are doing well but they had better remember if they dance to the music, they should pay the piper.

I would like to say that although jails are built, they are not the place for anyone, least of all young people who should be striving to be the future of a country who has an inheritance such as the Cayman Islands; who have people looking out for them, such as the Honourable Members of this House; who have people looking out for them, such as their parents and their grandparents, and who had ancestors as proud and as dignified and as hardworking as our ancestors were. I say that if they are being corrupted by outside elements, then, by all means, let someone in authority know. Do not accept offers and do not make deals with people who tell you there are short cuts to easy money. No money is easy and any money that is earned other than by the honest sweat of one's brow, is not good money. Caymanians should realise we are a proud people. When we are asked about our relatives and our neighbours it does not give us any pleasure to say they are in jail.

That is why I do not like the reference to Her Majesty's Hotel. It is a prison and I think that is grossly disrespectful. No prison can be equated with any hotel and to insinuate and to suggest as I hear some people do, that it is Her Majesty's Hotel, is a great disrespect to our Sovereign Lady. It should be an offence and I should be the judge sitting on the case of the person brought before me by labelling a prison that. I say we cannot take these things too lightly.

Caymanians who are responsible, respectful and honest should not encourage anyone who goes to jail to look upon themselves as a hero or a heroine. You should not respect anyone who deals in drugs and illegal activities as a hero or a heroine. We have come from a tradition of honest hard working people. There are no shortcuts to getting rich. There are no shortcuts to being wealthy and the greatest thing one can have is a good name. A good name will often take you places that money will not take you. We should not sacrifice our dignity. We should not sacrifice ourselves to self-seeking people - even Caymanians who are cannibalising on other Caymanians by selling them drugs. We have to beware of those people and I would like to say that a day of reckoning is coming. We are getting fed up. We would like to see this scourge in our society dealt with in the proper way. I believe it is safe to say that the Members of this Honourable House will take a dim view, a serious view of drugs in our society and we will enact Legislation which is necessary to deal with the people who push and to deal with the people who use.

I believe our emphasis should be on the pushers because we get the users, and we keep seeing more and more users. Our jail is practically filled with young users. It is time now to try and nab some pushers, some dealers, some masterminds. These might not necessarily be people who hide in the shadows or under the eaves of buildings. They may be people who many people mistake for respectable citizens. They may be clean cut. They may even be the white shirt and necktie type. I think that if we bag a couple of these a lesson will be well taken.

If we are to continue to be successful we have to develop a system of education which is effective in inculcating our cultural values, of inculcating a sense of morals and of inculcating those skills and qualities which are necessary for young people to take a constructive place in our society. Our school system has to be developed in such a way that our people realise that when they are equipped, they have a part to play in this society.

Often, we take for granted the efforts of teachers, educators, administrators and politicians who make the policies. I say this because in a developing country it is easy for the attitude to be wide spread. They say: 'I do not have to worry. I am a Caymanian, so I must get the job.' I have seen that happen in the Bahamas, in Jamaica, and I am sure it happens in other countries. The end result of that is that the investors say: 'Oh Yeah? Is that really the way you think it goes? Well, you know what we are going to do? We are going to withdraw, we are going to remove some investments and we will see how you operate then.' It is easy for Caymanians to fall into that trap. It is easy, especially when they get encouragement from some politicians who may be nationalistic - and there is nothing wrong with being that. There is nothing wrong with saying Cayman for Caymanians. But it goes beyond that, Sir. You can not leave it hanging like that. You have to amplify and you have to explain that it is one thing to be a Caymanian, but it is an entirely different thing to be a qualified, educated and open minded Caymanian. Remember no man is an Island. No man stands alone. No nation is a world unto themselves. So while I say it is good that Cayman is for Caymanians, I am saying especially, that young Caymanians must avail themselves of the opportunity to become qualified, to become educated, to take advantage of opportunities that we are offering here in Cayman.

The scholarships that are offered to go abroad - it is a sacrifice. The students have to make that sacrifice. We are giving them the tools and making available the opportunities. They have to deprive themselves of certain things. They have to be able to draw away, even temporarily from the fancy clothes bought in the boutiques, the fast cars and the pockets full of money and subject themselves to the discipline and rigors of harsh winters, foreign cultures and the challenges of college and university life. It is not

easy, but many of us, including many of us in this Honourable House, went that route. I can safely say in this regard I speak for the majority, we were better off for that. We were better off. It was an investment in which the sacrifices that we gave up, in the short term yielded 10, 20 and 30 fold in the long term, because as my grandfather used to tell me: "Son, when you get that in your head, they can not take it away from you."

The Education system that has been developed; the education system that we are developing, including the modifications that were debated here so virulently and vociferously yesterday, in all good faith has been done in the hope and regard that advantage will be taken of it, that our young people will avail themselves of these opportunities. It will give us pleasure to know that the quota of scholarships was successfully taken. It would give us pleasure to note Caymanians are returning in larger numbers, qualified. That is one way we will guarantee the continuation of a socially and politically stable country and nation. Likewise, the challenge is for the Government to be sure that our infrastructure, our schools, are well staffed and that we have the physical capabilities, the necessary labs and libraries.

I welcome the inclusion in the Budget of the provision made for the Community College. I note with interest... and as someone who will always regard themselves as an educator, let me say that I wish that venture, from the bottom of my heart, the ultimate success. I believe that we should diversify, we should seriously consider technical and vocational education. The time has come for us to cease paying lip service to Technical and Vocational Education and we should really seek to establish a good trade school. A good Technical and Vocational section of the High School or section of the Community College.

I believe that because we have just embarked on a new examination, namely, the G.C.S.E. Examination (which is really an examination geared for a more mature, shall I say, level of children than the G.C.E. and also the C.S.E.) we should think now of complementing that by introducing some exams like the Certificate of Prevocational Education that I spoke about yesterday and the City and Guild London Institute. We have to realise that all of us, all of our products will not be lawyers, doctors and white collar workers. Some will be technicians, repairmen, carpenters and this avenue will be preparing them to fill those roles in our society. I hasten to add that those skills are as well paying as the jobs that you have to go to dressed in a suit and tie. Often those kinds of vocations allow an independence which is not necessarily found in an office job, where one is bound from 9 to 5 to sit by a desk, sometimes performing boring and demanding tasks. Young people need not attach stigma to the fact they are repairmen or technicians or auto mechanics. I know from experience that they are as financially well off as those people who work in banks, or in the legal profession because many of these people in the technical field had the opportunity to own their businesses. In that respect and regard I think they are very fortunate indeed.

So the Government, for its part, must ensure that these opportunities are available and that these programs are put in place. That teachers are recruited and students are interested. That they are made to realise that these avenues exist. These needs, in a growing and developing society, have to be fulfilled and these are avenues they should seek to prepare themselves. The lower level of the challenge is for the Government not to dismantle, not to break down but to see how it can integrate and how it can mold and amalgamate the various sections - primary, middle and high - to have an organisation that operates in tandem.

I would like to digress a little to pay tribute where I think tribute is due. The educational achievements we have witnessed and seen in this society is the result of various members of various political directorates. I believe that two of the Members of two prominent political directorates are with us in this House. They both thought what they undertook was necessary and important. I welcome that. They did that and their achievements have made a significant improvement in our educational system. I am talking about the introduction of the Comprehensive system as laid down and introduced by the now Honourable Member for Education and of the Middle School System which was laid down by the then Honourable Member for Education, and by the man that now fills the role of the Third Elected Member for George Town. I believe as an educator and also as a legislator that these developments in our system were timely and important. I would be hard put to say which was the more significant. Indeed, I would shy away from that question if I had to give an answer because I believe they both had their place and have their places in our society.

The challenge for us now is to find out how we can effectively integrate them so our educational system works like a machine in complete harmony, like clockwork. We are close to that. I would like to see the system with those various elements made to work as effectively as they could and indeed, I am prepared to help in any way that I can. I say that in all forthrightness, candor and well meaning for I believe that we, in the Cayman Islands, have the capacity to have an ideal educational system.

Our financial resources, our pupil-teacher ratio, the kind and the level of teachers that we recruit as well as our Caymanian teachers are the materials which, if used and mixed in the right combination, can give us an educational system which is second to none. The results we achieve can stand up to comparison even with those in the developing countries. It would make me feel proud indeed, irrespective of whether I am the author of any of these policies or programmes, to make it work that way. I will just feel good being a Caymanian, living and knowing that we in Cayman have such an educational system.

I think that is a challenge we must seek to live up to. All of the people that contributed from the various political directorates in the past, as well as current, have done so and are doing so with the interest and conviction that the moves they made and the input they had, was done in the best interest of Caymanian young people.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
gone 4:30, normal time?

Would it be convenient for you to adjourn there? We have just

**MR. ROY BODDEN:**

Yes, Sir.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**HON. THOMAS C. JEFFERSON:**  
House until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr. President, I move the adjournment of this Honourable

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
until 10.00 tomorrow morning. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

The question is that this Honourable House do now adjourn

**AYES.**

**MR. PRESIDENT:**  
Wednesday morning at 10.00.

The Ayes have it. The House is accordingly adjourned until

**AT 4:30 P.M. THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1989.**