General to conduct a special investigation into specific aspects of the financial affairs of a department or authority as a matter of priority where the minister considers such action to be warranted. The Auditor-General will be required then to report back to the minister within a specified time or within such time as is reasonably required to complete the investigation. After receipt of the Auditor-General's report, the minister will be required to table it in the Assembly within 6 sitting days. It should be noted that the powers of the Auditor-General will not be increased by the provisions of the amending bill. Mr Speaker, I commend the bill to honourable members.

Debate adjourned.

BAIL (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 334)
ELECTORAL (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 336)
EVIDENCE (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 337)
INTERPRETATION (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 338)
JURIES (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 339)
PRISONS (CORRECTIONAL SERVICES) (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 340)
SUMMARY OFFENCES (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 341)
SEXUAL OFFENCES (EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURE) BILL
(Serial 343)
JUSTICES (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 344)
POISONS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 346)

Continued from 25 August 1983.

Mr B. COLLINS (Opposition Leader): These bills, of course, are consequent on the passage of the Criminal Code. The first bill introduces amendments in respect of the Bail Act to cover reference to the Criminal Code Act. Basically, the bail provisions initially inserted in the draft code were left in the Bail Act. The opposition is in full agreement with this approach. The Bail Act was introduced to cover bail provisions and it is appropriate that all such provisions should remain in that act. As a matter of policy, we believe that, where a piece of legislation purports to cover a specified field, it should continue to do so wherever possible.

Mr Speaker, amendments have been made to the Electoral Act since provisions in the Criminal Code now deal with corrupt practices at elections and defamation of candidates. We believe that these provisions also would have been dealt with more appropriately in the relevant legislation - that is, the Electoral Act - and we said so at that time. Even though they involve offences of a more serious nature, there is no reason why they could not have been dealt with in the act which was introduced to deal specifically with electoral matters.

Mr Speaker, under the amendments in respect of the Evidence Act, married persons can now be required to give evidence in cases involving their spouses. This will remove the distinction between married and unmarried people, and the opposition supports this. In addition, provisions in the Evidence Act in