

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th May, 1979.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; and Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc. (Econ.).

Prayers were read.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Hon. B. A. MILLER and Dr. R. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that the Minutes of the last meeting have been circulated but at short notice, consequently, members would not have had enough time to familiarise themselves with the contents therein and under the circumstances we will not be seeking confirmation today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the Other Place an amendment to the Bill to provide for the extension of the monetary limits of the Jurisdiction of Magistrates and related matters.

I have also received a Letter of Retirement from the hon. member for St. Philip North from the Committee of Public Accounts effective immediately.

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Employment Levy (Amendment) Regulations, 1979.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Guarantee of Repayment by the Barbados Development Bank of a Loan and interest thereon from the European Investment Bank.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is necessary for me to sign the Agreement with the European Investment Bank and to be present at the Ceremony on Saturday next. It will therefore be necessary for me to ask the House to give leave that this matter be dealt with in all its stages today so that it may go to the Other Place later in the week.
12.30 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the Government of Barbados notes with deep sorrow and regret the passing of the Hon. Paul Southwell, Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

His death marks the end of an important era in Caribbean history, for he was one of the few surviving leaders in the region whose roots go back to the 1930's when the whole Caribbean can be said to have risen up and begun the process of seeking self-rule through social democracy.

Born in Dominica in 1913, three years before the late Robert Bradshaw, the friend and leader whom he served with loyalty and dedication until only one year ago was born in St. Kitts. Paul Southwell

entered the fight for a better life for the people of his adopted island home, St. Kitts, while still in his early twenties when he became an organiser for the St. Kitts/Nevis Trades and Labour Union.

He never gave up that fight he undertook on behalf of the people of St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla.

He became a member of the Legislature of that Colony from 1952 and was Minister of Communications and Works from 1956 until 1960 and 1966, while his great mentor Robert Bradshaw served the cause of Caribbean integration in the larger general arena and subsequently for a period of four years served in the Cabinet under Mr. Southwell.

After Robert Bradshaw became Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Mr. Southwell was Minister of Finance, Trade, Development, Industry and Tourism until the death of Mr. Bradshaw a year ago, when he became Premier in turn.

Big in stature and in heart, he set an excellent example to the whole Caribbean of how life's inevitable disappointments should be borne with the same spirit of equanimity and good grace that we all display when we occasionally experience good fortune.

There can be no doubt that Paul Southwell made a significant contribution to the process of integration in this region, nor can it be disputed that his dedication and courageous leadership will be sadly missed.

Only two days before his death, he presided over a meeting of the West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers which witnessed yet another milestone in the integrative process: the agreement to establish the East Caribbean Organisation to replace the Council of Ministers which, when it starts functioning, will bring about a new era of cooperation among the Islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Paul Southwell's quiet but firm leadership, his wit and his understanding of men, played no insignificant role in the realization of that dream.

Everyone who came into contact with the gentle giant was impressed by the keen wit which flowed from a sharp and incisive mind, the capacity for detail, the mastery of the English Language, and the ultimate in kindness and generosity of spirit.

Now no longer is he "suffering from survival" as was his wont to say in recent times, but the Eastern Caribbean area and the wider Caribbean community has lost a worthy champion of its causes, and an implacable foe of injustice and the other ills which man inflicts upon man.

May he rest in Peace.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the television cameras will have to be moved to the other side of the Chamber, so I beg to move that the Sitting be suspended for five minutes.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

12.35 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. The hon. member for St. Philip South.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that as members of the Opposition we were not notified that the tribute to the late Paul Southwell would have been broadcast, but I deem it my duty as a senior member of this House to make a few remarks on this sad occasion when we seek to pay tribute to the late Paul Southwell who was the Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis, and I may say Anguilla.

In doing so, Mr. Speaker, I can only describe Mr. Southwell as a great statesman, a big man, and an eloquent speaker and one who displayed at all times during his life an honesty of purpose. The major contributions which the late Paul Southwell made not only to his country but to the Caribbean will go down in the history of the Caribbean. The contribution which he made to the ordinary man in the street will never be forgotten by the people of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. It is with a heart full of grief that I speak here today of one who I considered was in my age group and I want to let this hon. House know what a difficult task it will be to replace a man of the high calibre of the late Paul Southwell.

I remember meeting him here on one occasion and sitting at a dinner in this House of Assembly, and the speech which he made on that occasion will always remain in my memory. We in Barbados fully appreciate the inestimable service he rendered to the Caribbean and we feel that his passing is a loss not only to St. Kitts but to the Caribbean also. To his surviving relatives, especially his wife and children, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Opposition to extend our deepest sympathy. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. C. C. WARD, Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW and Mr. SANDIFORD entered the House and took their seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I beg to be associated with the remarks made this morning by hon.

members in respect of the passing of the hon. Paul Southwell, the late Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. I merely want to say that the Caribbean man lives on, but Paul Southwell, the man for the Caribbean, has passed away. Nevertheless, he lit a torch which leaves a challenge for us all.

12.50 p.m.

He was a man for Caribbean integration, and we are charged with the responsibility with not allowing to go out the flame which he lit for us all. I, on learning of the passing of Mr. Southwell, despatch a telegram to the Government of St. Kitts in these words: "Please accept deepest sympathy of our House on the passing of the Hon. Paul Southwell a distinguished Dominican born and West Indian. The region will be much poorer for his passing. Please convey the condolences also on his passing of the members of this Hon. House."

Hon members, I must now ask you to stand two minutes in silence in respect of the death of the Hon. Paul Southwell, former Premier of St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla.

Members stood in silence for two minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Philip North is seeking leave of this House to make a personal explanation.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is with some regret that I make this statement today. In October, 1976, hon. members appointed me to be a member of the Committee of Public Accounts. This Committee, Mr. Speaker, is a creature of the Constitution and its importance is crucial to the efficient administration of Government.

1. p.m.

Its Chairman must constitutionally be the Leader of the Opposition. Since the present Leader of the Opposition has assumed the role of the Committee's Chairman, some meetings have been held and a good atmosphere has pervaded our deliberations. I wish to be perfectly frank and straightforward. When the hon. member for St. John took over the Chairmanship of the Committee it was my understanding that as far as possible meetings would be held on the last Friday of each month, subject of course to permission by the exigencies of business, for example, a debate on the Estimates or meetings of Select Committees and so on.

Notices convening these meetings are sent, Mr. Speaker, in good time and I have no complaint on that

score; Mr. Speaker, a meeting was summoned for 23rd February, 1979. On the assumption that I would be absent from the Island on that date I wrote a letter for the Chairman's attention tendering an excuse for my intended absence. However, as it turned out, certain problems which I was having with my eyes and neck precluded my absence from the Island and necessitated a visit to a consultant. I therefore did not attend the meeting on the 23rd February this year. I am surprised that the fact of my not attending, the courtesy of a letter notwithstanding, was made the subject of an unfavourable comment at a public meeting held by the Democratic Labour Party in St. Joseph on the 26th February 1979. However that may be, Mr. Speaker, since that date there have been other meetings summoned with a clear request that all members make a special effort to attend. Meetings were therefore summoned for the following dates: March 1, March 30, May 25, 1979 at 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, on each of these dates I have attended at the House of Assembly in good time. A Clerk was always present. On one occasion the hon. member for St. Michael North Central was the other person present; the Personal Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Morrison, has always been present, but Mr. Speaker, on none of these dates has the Chairman himself in whose name summonses have been sent been present or at least visible. The upshot has been, Mr. Speaker, that no meeting has been held on any of those days, no excuses have ever been offered for the absence or the inability of the Chairman to attend, no prior warning of the cancellation of those meetings has ever been given to me. In the end I have had to sit around until well after 5 o'clock hoping that the Chairman would rise. I have seen public officers standing waiting for the commencement of meetings, but there has been no chairman, no meeting and we have all been left wasting valuable time.

Mr. Speaker, I try to take my public duties seriously. I fully realise that the attendance of Government appointees on the Committee is necessary to ensure a quorum. For that reason I have tried faithfully to answer the summonses. I am aware that as has happened in the past, non attendance by Government appointees may have led to the frustration of the work of the Committee.

There is currently before the Committee, Mr. Speaker, an important matter which had its origin in a parliamentary question asked by me and that is outstanding and not yet dealt with. Sir, having regard to the fact that the Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition has not seen it fit to attend the last three meetings summoned in his name and has not treated me and other members of the Committee to the courtesies which would normally be expected, I am now

thoroughly disgusted and frustrated. Our responsibilities, it seems to me, are being treated too casually. Most of all I feel that I have been disrespected and insulted in circumstances where the meeting has been called and the Chairman absents himself either without excuse or the courtesy of an explanation. In the circumstances, I have decided reluctantly that I can no longer continue my membership of this Committee and I am, effective, today, informing you and the hon. members of this House of Assembly of my resignation from the Committee on the Public Accounts.

I wish it to be clearly understood, Mr. Speaker, that the reason for my resignation is not a lack of meetings; it is the manner in which the Chairman has chosen to disrespect the membership of the Committee. In public life as well as in one's private affairs one has to maintain some self-respect, and I do not intend for anybody to make a pappy show of me. I have written a letter to you copied to the Chairman of the Committee informing both of my intention. In so far as I was appointed to that Committee in this House and by this House of Assembly, I deem it right and proper that I should make my statement and announce my resignation here to hon. members.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Rules which say no debate may ensue on a personal explanation, I will crave the indulgence of the House to give an explanation at the next sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the Eleventh Edition of Erskine May at page 343, in view of the fact that in the personal statement made mention has been made of the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition is now entitled despite our Standing Orders in my opinion to state his position in the matter, but within the strict confines of relevancy.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I only received a copy of the letter from the hon. member which was written to you after the hon. member got to his feet. There are certain statistics which I would have to have recourse to during the reply which I should like to give, but I would just like to say that I think without prejudice to my right at a later stage to crave the indulgence of the House, no discourtesy was intended to the hon. member on the occasions on which he alleged that he turned up and that I was not present, but having had the frustrating experience of many meetings without a quorum and a quorum is four and not two, I always left instructions with the Clerk of the Committee of my whereabouts except on the very last occasion on the 25th May, when I was in the same location of course, but inadvertently I did not notify the Clerk of the Committee that when there was a quorum I would be present in five minutes; but time after time I turned up to meetings of the Public

Accounts Committee and was unable to get a quorum. I will produce all the records, the statistics of the attendance of members with your indulgence on the next occasion. I would prefer not to say anything more at this juncture. Thank you.
1.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it it is now for the Honourable House to indicate its wish that the resignation of the hon. member for St. Philip North from the Committee of Public Accounts be accepted.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know whether it has to be unanimous but certainly I would be most reluctant with the hon. member to resign. If I were given an opportunity to discuss the matter with the hon. member before the next meeting of the House and he was still of the same frame of mind then I am sure that this House would consider the resignation. I think it is a personal misunderstanding, Sir, and probably the hon. member got the wrong report of what I was alleged to have said at a public meeting. I am prepared to let him hear the record of that public meeting. It is not an unfavourable comment. As a matter of fact it tended to be a favourable comment, if anything, and I will only ask the hon. member...

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not now the time to go into the details of a public meeting.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, Sir. I will ask the hon. member to give me an opportunity to discuss the issue with him because I did find him a useful member of the Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: As soon as I get the feeling of the Honourable House, the hon. member will know. Is it the feeling of this Honourable House that we accept the resignation of the hon. member for St. Philip North effective today?

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, am I permitted to speak at this time as a member of the Public Accounts Committee on the Motion? Mr. Speaker, the fact that the Public Accounts Meetings are held on Friday afternoons create a great difficulty for all the members of that body. I have been on a number of occasions and there has been no quorum. The hon. member for St. John, who is the Chairman, on two occasions was not satisfied with the Accounts given by the Agricultural Department in regard to purchasing cattle and they came on two occasions and could not hold any evidence. On the last occasion he said he will have to take the evidence although he did not have a quorum and therefore he, like the hon. member for St. Philip and I have all come down here...

Mr. SPEAKER: Which hon. member for St. Philip. There are two hon. members.

Mr. WARD: The hon. member for St. Philip North and I will appeal to the hon. member. I know his feelings have been hurt. I know we are all a bit touchy, Sir, but I would appeal to him to withdraw his resignation and let us try to make a greater effort, all the members of that Board, to get together instead of having a useful member like him who contributes very interesting points to resign, Sir. (*Asides*). That is not correct. The Chairman does turn up more often than any of the other members. (*Asides*). It is not that and we have to come to a straight line.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must address the Chair whenever he rises.

Mr. WARD: Correct, Sir, but I was saying that the hon. member for St. John...

Mr. SPEAKER: You have already spoken on this matter and you cannot be heard again.

Is it the feeling of this Honourable House that the retirement of the hon. member for St. Philip North from the Committee of Public Accounts be accepted as from today's date? What do I hear? I hear the "Noes".

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: May I make a suggestion, Sir, that it be placed on the Order Paper so that all the talk about a quorum about the Public Accounts Committee can be hashed out. Sir, the fault of all this goes back to when the previous Government insisted that they could not get a quorum without a Government member. If the quorum had been left at three and you have four Government members and three Opposition the Government members would have turned up because they would have been afraid to allow the Opposition to make a quorum by itself and Report what it liked.

I hear hon. members talking about one or two meetings. I had the experience of attending 16 meetings and everyone I attended I did not get a quorum on 13 occasions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Prime Minister will let the Chair get the feeling of the House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I believe the feeling of the House is that we will have the matter talked out on the Order Paper because I believe that the Letter of Resignation should constitute an Item on the Order Paper anyhow, Sir, to consider the Letter of Resignation from the Public Accounts Committee by the member for St. Philip North. Put it on the Order Paper and let us talk it out and if I have to make a Motion that it be placed on the Order Paper I will do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to move that further consideration on this matter be postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER: You should accept the Prime Minister's Motion.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The reason, Mr. Speaker, why I did not accept or second the Prime Minister's Motion is because I am not quite sure of the correct Constitutional position of a personal statement being put on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is the Letter of Retirement which should become an Item on the Order Paper, not the personal statement. In other words, the member might have retired without making a personal statement.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I accept that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: In such a case his Letter would have...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It is up to you, Sir. I have nothing to conceal. I would like a discussion on the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: To have a discussion on the matter, the proper thing would be for someone to second the Motion of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would propose that the Standing Orders Committee reduce the quorum or do not have any quorum...

Mr. SPEAKER: When we are debating the Letter of Retirement, that is the occasion on which we can decide what can be done.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It does not matter to me what machinery we use to draw it to the attention of the House. I will second the Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Letter of Retirement on the Motion of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and seconded by the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition will be placed on the Order Paper.

1.20 p.m.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to state that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 18 is ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18 and 20 be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be the first Order of the Day.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LOWER ESTATE PLANTATION, ST. GEORGE, FOR THE PROVISION OF A PLAYING FIELD

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to acquire a piece of land at Lower Estate in the parish of St. George. In introducing this Resolution there are a number of problems concerning this piece of land.

Some time in April 1976 a man by the name of Dr. Richie Haynes — I do not know if he is the person who is now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Fortunately for us, Barbados is a small place. The hon. member must know. I need to say no more.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: A man by the name of Dr. Haynes took it upon himself to approach a man named Mr. Power and gave Mr. Power instructions that the Government was buying two acres of land at Lower Estate for the purpose of a playing field. Mr. Power heard nothing about his land and wrote the Ministry on several occasions to find out what was going on. Mr. Power also indicated that a pavilion had been placed on his land without any agreement by him, and that the only thing he knew about the pavilion was that a Dr. Haynes told him in April 1976 that the then administration was buying the land for the purpose of a playing field.

We have had endless problems with this land. In the first place, Mr. Power was never paid. Apparently there were some problems with the Court — the land was in receivership — but Mr. Power found himself in the position where a pavilion was placed on his land at a cost of \$14,000. There was no directive; none can be found in the Ministry or at the National Housing Corporation, apart from a note which was given to a Clerk of Works by the then Manager that the Ministry had called to say to get two pavilions ready before June 1976, one at Eden Lodge at a cost of \$20,000 and one at Salters.

The policy of this Government is not to cater only to the needs of the male but also of the female. The land

at the time it was surveyed measured 2.8 acres and there was no provision made for the young ladies to have a netball field or for the young men to have a basketball court, and therefore the Government had to acquire additional land. What frightens me, Mr. Speaker, is how can Gear Box who is not a member of Parliament go to a Mr. Jones and tell Mr. Jones that the Government is buying his land, and then Mr. Jones finds himself a month later with a building on his premises. This shows quite clearly the way the former administration conducted its business. No one knew if the land was in Zone 1, Zone 2, or Zone 3; nothing at all but just that a Dr. Haynes in the month of April 1976 goes to Mr. Power's home and tells Mr. Power the Government is going to buy this land; and a couple of weeks after, a pavilion arrives.

Mr. Power has been calling on us for land rent, house rent, and even planned to demolish the pavilion. We have told him that we will do our best to get the matter regularised.

Sir, this Resolution for which I seek Parliament's approval is for the acquisition for 2.8 acres of land for the purpose of a playing field at Lower Estate in the parish of St. George. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, certain very serious and misleading allegations have been made about an hon. member of this House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I was the only speaker and I cannot recall any allegations made about any hon. member of this House. I would be happy if you in the Chair would allow me to make such allegations.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a matter of what the hon. member feels you have made; what is of importance is that he is alleging that they were misleading, and I want him to prove that they are misleading, else I would have to ask him to withdraw.

Dr. HAYNES: Well, Sir, in the first place I have never gone to Mr. Power's house, have never met him and have never negotiated with him in respect of anything whatsoever. I wish to make it quite clear that ever since somewhere about 1968 I was involved with a group of young men who had been playing cricket on that particular playing field. I think at one stage I was the honorary President in the late 1960's. And way back in the 1950's I was involved with that particular club in assisting them before I left Barbados to go abroad in the 1950's.

1.30 p.m.

So my relationship with that particular cricket club was back over 30 years perhaps. One of the major

problems in respect of that playing field over the years was in respect of the question of whether the club would be able to continue to develop the playing field because they did not have a title to the land. There was also the additional problem of the question of whether the persons who owned or who had rented small bits of land surrounding the playing field, whether they could in some way obtain ownership on that particular area of land. Those were the two particular problems presented to the people in the area.

I had approached Mr. Dowding, who owned Lower Estate Plantation. I approached him on several occasions during the years; and there were two requests that I made to him. (1) To allow the club to fill in and level off an area of the playing field that went down to a gully at one end. The second request was a small strip of land on the northern side towards the Gun Hill side of the playing field which I think was being farmed by somebody.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member referring to the land which he described in the Schedule?

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Sir. The precise piece of land; and the third request was to allow a pavilion to be placed on the particular land if the Government thought it fit to place a pavilion there. It was at that point and acting on behalf of, and in association with the people in the area that I approached the Government like any other citizen — I have a right to approach the Government, and the right to put to them any particular need in any particular area, whether a member of Parliament or not; and the permission that was given by Mr. Dowding that the playing field could be put there, but no permanent structure could be erected because he was in the process of arranging for the transfer of a title or something like that.

Now, whether this conversation took place in 1976, 1975 or 1974, I cannot recall. All I know is this, that I have never entered into any arrangement or approached Mr. Power about anything. The first time the name Power was ever mentioned to me is some time about two years ago, some time in 1977 when an Attorney-at-Law acting on behalf of Mr. Power in a conversation mentioned that there was some problem in getting, not so much the playing field, but getting the surrounding bits of land sold to the tenants or some arrangements made for the transfer of titles to those people on Lower Estate Tenantry. I want to make the record absolutely clear that I have never entered into any arrangements with Mr. Power; and I do not know Mr. Power. I have never gone to Mr. Power's home; and that the only thing that I have ever recommended to Government is that this was a suitable place for a playing field, that there was a major social need for a community centre in that area; and the only initiative item in respect of the owners was to find out whether they would give permission to put the

playing field there. They said yes, on the conditions that it was not a permanent structure. I want to make that absolutely clear, and I wish to get the record straight. I can see nothing in that, and no reason why, as a public citizen of Barbados, a public or private citizen, I cannot approach anybody in Barbados whether it be a private firm, a private individual, any Government past or present to point out to them the particular needs of a particular area. So I want to get the record perfectly straight in this House.

As far as the question of committing Government finances is concerned, this is absolutely and totally misleading. All I did was to point out the need; and that was a matter for the Government to determine how that need was fulfilled, or whether or not it was fulfilled. I hope that the record be set straight once and for all. The only additional step that I took was that the adjacent areas of Parish Land was one of those areas, I think, which like many other areas in Barbados, including Belairs further in St. George, where, as I understand it, it was the policy of the previous Government to make arrangements so that people could have titles to the land on which they have their houses and which they have wall structures built or partially built in those areas; and part of Lower Estate Tenantry will form a continuum for that kind of development.

I have no apologies to make to anyone for the contribution and the interest that I have shown to that club which is producing some of the finest cricketers in Barbados down the years; and I resent very bitterly and fundamentally anyone coming in here and suggesting any improper motives for an action that I took when I had no specific responsibility for the area, but because of a long drawn out relationship with that club and my interest in the people of the area.

I will go further and say that it is equally untrue to say that the females in the area did not participate in that social exercise there. I have passed there on hundreds of occasions; and the hon. member for St. George North should be able to confirm that subsequent to the placing of that pavilion on that spot that almost every evening we were able to see females playing Volley Ball and being involved in a whole range of other sports; and indeed at one stage a cultural group put on a play — the girls put on the play right here because of the position of the pavilion on that spot, right there in Charles Rowe Bridge.

However, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to get involved in that type of politics. I leave that type of politics to certain types of persons. It is not for me. The main contribution that I would wish to make to this debate is to say that I am very pleased, I am very happy to note that a matter which has been very dear to my heart for most of my adult life will now be coming to fruit, to full fruition. It was brought to partial fruition, and I hope

that we will see there in Charles Rowe Bridge and the Lower Estate are the full development of a community centre. I think that it is a justifiable expenditure by any administration, anyone in the past or any one in the future to put a proper social community centre in the Charles Rowe Bridge area; and I think that whatever little contribution that I have succeeded in making down the years to the people in that area and the youth in that area, that I can take some pride in any development that takes place in that area. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Housing and Lands for bringing this Resolution to the House. As I sat here and listened to the hon. member who has just taken his seat, he made mention, and, I quote, "improper motives"; and I would like to say here today that the motives of which he speaks, to my mind, would have to be for him very proper.

1.40 p.m.

It is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that information went out in St. George in 1976 that a certain gentleman who aspired to be a member of this Assembly was going to give the people of that area a medical college, a clinic, all these things. They were going to have a pavilion, and I was standing when I heard a former Minister of the Government, the then Mr. Philip Greaves, a friend of mine, tell the people of that area that they should be very thankful for the efforts of that gentleman in getting a pavilion for them. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, I at one time felt that that certain gentleman was going to through his own generosity, through the power of his own pocket give the people a pavilion and buy the land for them, and I was very happy for them. I was only sorry that I could not have done it myself. However, the hon. member who has just taken his seat has expressed his thanks, I imagine, and his pleasure at the Minister of this Government making it possible for that playing field to be bought. I am not going to go into any more of the ruckus about it; it is history.

All I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is that there are in that area certain individuals who must be very proud indeed, and I am referring now to the people who founded the Sheffield Cricket Club. Before it was called Sheffield it was Invincible. That is what they called themselves. Men like Mr. Boysie Brathwaite who is still alive, and Mr. Phillips from Salters Road, Eversley Cox. These men are still alive and I want it to be known how I personally appreciate the effort and the interest of these people who conceived the idea of the cricket club and of the playing field. It was Mr. Phillips who was the first person to go to Mr. Dowding, the owner of the land, and ask for permission to use the land for the purpose for which it was used. This was 30 years ago. They have made and continue to make a contribution to the life of the village and the district in which they live.

I am very glad too that the Minister saw the wisdom of taking in a wider area of land to make provision for the young ladies who will play volleyball and netball, and possibly I am not sure if it is large enough for a tennis field; but that was one of the areas which I visited with the Minister himself in 1976 soon after we gained power. He was not then Minister of Housing; he was the Minister responsible for sports and he had promised he would go into this matter as quickly as possible.

One thing however, Mr. Speaker, concerns me a little bit, and it is this: what happens after the land is bought and the facilities are put up? I believe the time has come, Mr. Speaker, when in all of our communities wherever these facilities exist, the people who live in the area who are responsible people who identify with a district, who have an interest in it should be called upon whether in the form of a Committee — I do not know how the Hon. Minister will do it — but among those people a group must be able to function who will take some large measure of responsibility for the upkeep, care and attention of the pavilion, grounds and whatever facilities may be there. I believe it would ease the burden on the respective departments, and it would also create that feeling of belonging among the people which they require and which they have exhibited. Let them do the job and that in my view would tend to reduce, indeed, Mr. Speaker, it should eradicate the incidence of vandalism which we have found in certain areas. I think, Sir, it is a tribute to the people of that area and the whole of St. George indeed, although I have seen a few broken windows here and there, that the incidence of vandalism is not as high as it is in other areas. I would draw from their resources. So that is my contribution Mr. Speaker, but before I sit I should like to draw the attention of the Minister to other areas like Market Hill where there is a playing field, there is a cricket field, it is not large enough, it is not level, and when the Government finally vests Belair in the Housing Authority, which I hope will soon be done, I should hope that some provision will be made in maybe acquiring further land to provide proper facilities for people playing cricket and games in that area. It is known that we cannot go into every village and buy land for cricket fields.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You must go to Boscobelle.

Mr. ODLE: That would be wonderful, Sir. I am sure you can use one in Boscobelle, but the point I wish to make is that land is scarce, so I am asking the Minister and the Government indeed to look into the question of club houses. In the Sweet Vale and in the Sweet Bottom areas the youngsters are very much in need of an area where they can get together, and I would certainly invite the Minister one day to go with me and see a spot where if Government should acquire

it we could have a club house where they can play games and the girls can have their fun with volley ball. It is no big area and we need a similar facility in Flat Rock; so while I thank the Minister for his efforts in this matter, I certainly would entreat him or ask him to look into these other matters.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and he prefaced his strange contribution by making certain allegations that the Hon. Minister of Housing and Lands was misleading. I had forgotten it was the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment.

Now, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central certainly must understand what is meant by misleading this Honourable House. I am not going to accuse him at all of misleading this House, but all I will say is that I cannot believe anything that he says in relation to this whole matter. In 1976 the same hon. member went to the same playing field dressed in all white with a man called Eric Sealy and he had a shovel in his hand turning the sod. When I mentioned this in this same Honourable Chamber he got up and denied it. I should like him once again to get up and deny it, but you see, Mr. Speaker, the Advocate-News is still there, and the records are still there to show the same hon. member in a photograph with the same man.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member has said that I contradicted the statement that he just made on a previous occasion in this Chamber. The implication is clear, Mr. Speaker, that I was lying to this Honourable House on the occasion when I corrected him, and I think that it is most important that this clarification should be made.
1.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just draw to my attention the Standing Order which the hon. member has offended against.

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member is attributing to me a behaviour pattern in making a statement to this House that is a false statement and therefore must be in breach of the Standing Orders of this House. Therefore, I wish to clarify the situation for the benefit of the Honourable House and the benefit of the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then you have not risen on a point of order. You want to elucidate the matter.

Dr. HAYNES: It is a twin factor involved. Okay, on a point of elucidation then if you will receive me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now you having risen on a point of order cannot now be heard on a point of elucidation.

Dr. HAYNES: May I read the appropriate Standing Order?

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. You have risen on a point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: It is two components, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well on the first component, please take your seat. The second then does not arise.

Dr. HAYNES: I have risen on a point of elucidation.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not giving way. I will continue.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation...

Mr. SPEAKER: If an hon. member rises to elucidate a point, the hon. member need not give way.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know if the hon. member wants to deny that he was in the company of Eric Sealy taking photographs and those photographs appeared in the *Advocate News*. I do not know if he wants to deny that. What I am saying is this. In 1976 when the pavilion was put on that particular piece of land in Lower Estate it was not in the hands of Mr. Dowding, it was then in the hands of Mr. Power and how can we believe that the hon. member who was a candidate for St. George North, Lower Estate and the people living on Lower Estate lands, renting from the same Mr. Power, and Mr. Power himself being a voter, that the hon. member would not know Mr. Power. How come that he is going to represent the people...

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know if the hon. member said he did not know him. He has said he has never been to his house.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member said he does not know Mr. Power. He said that he never met him, he never went to his house and he never negotiated with him. That is what he said but it is rather strange that Mr. Power lives at Lower Estate, he has a home in the same constituency that the hon. member was running for, and the people who lived on Lower Estate, was on land owned by Mr. Power, as well as the pavilion was in the constituency in which the hon. member was running, how come, Sir, if you are going to make representation on behalf of the people

would you not seek to find out who is the true landlord?

It is rather strange, but the hon. member must not forget what the people of St. George did. Remember that it was alleged that he promised them not only a Clinic at Newbury, St. George but also a Club House. What we must understand too is that the same hon. member has got something which he has got to live with for a very long time, the Valarie piece of land which the people of Brittons Hill were fooled and told that the hon. member would buy for them. The people in Brittons Hill will be watching to see when he will acquire the Valarie land for them because that was the impression that was conveyed to the people of Brittons Hill.

Now, Sir, what I have said before is...

Mr. SPEAKER: You are now swinging back to Lower Estate.

Mr. BRADSHAW: To Lower Estate, Sir. I am speaking about land, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Standing Order No. 28(7) states clearly that no member may impute improper motives to another member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not find that any improper motive has been imputed to you.

Dr. HAYNES: May I make my point of order, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have quoted the Standing Order and I have heard the hon. member on it. That is the end of it. Take your seat.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, cannot I...

Mr. SPEAKER: Just take your seat.

Dr. HAYNES: Cannot it be a improper motive...

Mr. SPEAKER *rose*.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have sat and I have listened to the hon. member. You have drawn my attention to the Standing Order. You read it to me. According to what you have read and from what I have heard the hon. member said, he has committed no offence.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the acquisition of this piece of land in order to provide a playing field and other recreational facilities is welcomed by me. I do

have an interest. Along that Main Road on the left side is a part of my constituency and on it is the United Club of which I am patron. I am patron of the Haggatt Hall United Club and they use the facility in St. George so I welcome this move by the Minister to acquire this piece of land but what I sought to clear up is that the hon. member must not forget that the people of St. George were told and they felt convinced that the hon. member, a representative of St. Michael South Central, was going to pull money out of his pocket to put a pavilion in St. George for them. This was said in 1976 and this is the way the people felt and this is the way they feel about Valarie now and he must be a worried man.

I am not going to say a number of things which would worry him because each time I get up he will be worried because I am going to be a sore in his eyes for a very long time. I will ride him. He must be haunted because he he has got to learn the game.

Mr. SPEAKER: Put him at Lower Estate.

Mr. BRADSHAW: The people at Lower Estate have approached the Ministry of Housing and Lands and Mr. Power's son, when I was Acting Minister of Housing and Lands came to me at Marine House and said how the hon. member had approached his father and told his father that he was going to put a pavilion there. That is what Mr. Power's son told me in the Office in front of other officers in the Ministry and if I had to choose between the two people of what they had to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit I would believe Mr. Power's son. That is the position.

Mr. SPEAKER: The only thing is that Mr. Power's son did not tell you in the presence of his father or the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. BRADSHAW: No, Sir, because he was representing his father's interest in the Ministry. I want to set the record straight because I do not want anybody to feel that the Hon. Minister has been misleading or making any allegations at all. He has said the truth and nothing else but the truth as far as his contribution is concerned today, Sir.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, I only want to make a brief contribution before we go to lunch. The Minister has been accused by the member for St. Michael South Central of misleading the House relative to the acquisition of this parcel of land in St. George which the Government is going to acquire to construct a playing field for the people in that area. The land happens to be that of Mr. Denzil Power who happens to be a very close friend of mine for years from the time he has been residing in Christ Church whereafter

he resided at Green Hill in St. Michael, whereafter he sold his property there and went to Epworth in St. Peter and subsequently he has come back to Lower Estate in St. George.
2.00 p.m.

The Powers over the years have been close friends of mine and I am aware of the precarious situation in which Mr. Power found himself through the decision of the last government to place a pavilion on his land without being duly recompensed for it. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central says that he does not know Mr. Power, that he has never spoken to Mr. Power, that he never met him and never made any arrangements with him to place a pavilion on a parcel of land belonging to Mr. Power. But I am saying that the hon. member is wilfully misleading this House because it was that hon. member who in 1974 spoke with Mr. Power and made all arrangements with Mr. Power to have the pavilion placed on Mr. Power's two acres of land. Negotiations were also made through the hon. member for St. Michael South Central which the Crown Solicitor of this country can verify.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member does not try to invoke the Crown Solicitor and bring him into something which he may find difficult to substantiate.

Mr. SISNETT: Certainly not, Mr. Speaker; all that I have said can be verified by the Crown Solicitor's office. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central negotiated with Mr. Power to pay \$8,000 per acre for two acres of land at Lower Estate and the hon. member was the person who made the negotiations through one of the assistant nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 1976.

I want to congratulate the Government and the Minister in particular because the Ministry was bombarded daily by Mr. Power to see what they could do so that he could receive payment for the land taken by the former administration in 1976. I believe Sir, that Mr. Power is a poor man who has had a trying time with people who moved in on his land and erected a building on it without giving him any recompense over the past two years. I want to congratulate the Minister for bringing this matter before the House today and I hope that very soon Mr. Power will receive the money of which he has been robbed over the past few years.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central in his effort to disown knowledge of any arrangements with Mr. Power in respect of this land probably forget that there are members now sitting in Parliament who were around during the period 1974-76. Now the most I can say is that during year 1976 the Democratic Labour Party decided to campaign on pavilion politics, because the

people of St. George were not the only people to suffer from politics of this nature. In the same March or April of 1976 Mr. Lloyd Smith, junior, who was then earmarked as a candidate of the Democratic Labour Party took it upon himself to go to the new Lammings School which is under the control of the Ministry of Education, and with the assistance of C.O. Williams Construction Company prepared a playing field and a cricket pitch; and during the process he told the people in Lammings that Dr. Haynes was also giving the people in St. George a pavilion and cricket pitch. Now both efforts failed because in 1977 I had to request the Minister to send a team from the Stadium Corporation to repair the cricket pitch at Lammings School. What I am trying to show is that the political trick of the Democratic Labour Party during 1976.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Not trick, strategy.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The strategy was to capture the young people of this country by telling them they were going to provide them with playing fields and pavilion, thinking that that would have roped them into the Democratic Labour Party. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has admitted in here that he has been dealing in property for a long time, and when he talks about the transfer of land from Dowding to Power, in my limited knowledge of the law if Dowding was about to transfer land to Power he would have been very foolish to tell him to put a pavilion on the land before the transfer was legally effected. But the pavilion on the land is no figment of the imagination. I spoke to Lloyd Smith during that time and I asked him to put up a social centre at Bathsheba as he said he had some temporary structures, but Lloyd Smith told the people before the election that they would not get one there unless they voted for him. So you had a two-pronged attack, the laying of cricket pitches and telling the people they could only get a social centre if they voted for him.

So Mr. Speaker, I support the Minister and I am sure the Government files will support me when he reaches the point of reply to the hon. member. I hope the gallery will notice and that they will...

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish the hon. member would desist from mentioning about any Gallery.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I hope the general public will try to understand that if people make statements at one time and then change them they should fully appreciate the sort of person you are dealing with in today's political life.
2.10 p.m.

I say that because if the hon. member is saying now that he did not know that, he never met, or never

negotiated with a particular person, but when he wants to claim the honours for having a pavilion put there, he opens up a situation where somebody would have to ask public service how then they put Government's property on somebody else's land without proper authorisation. Those are the questions which have been opened now, Mr. Speaker, so somebody obviously will have to bear the burden of telling this Hon. House and telling the public at large if somebody went about, if the past administration went about siting Government's property on people's land without their consent, full well knowing that it is constitutionally wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who wants to make a contribution to this debate?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for my 13 years when I was in Opposition and when I weathered the storm. I cannot honestly believe the hon. member for St. Michael South Central could stand up on the floor of the House and deny emphatically that he did not have any negotiations with Mr. Power in connection with the Land at Lower Estate. I heard and I can bring a tape to prove this, that even on a public platform at Charles Rowe Bridge, he said that he had negotiated — that the new hon. member for St. Michael South Central had negotiated with Mr. Power for the land that the other wicked people would not buy.

I am going to produce that tape in the House if you will allow me, Sir, and then he gets up and says that he has not met Mr. Power. I have a note from the officer attached to the Sports Department in connection with the letter from the owner of the land at Lower Estate stating that the pavilion has been erected on the site; but so far he has no indication other than a former statement by Dr. Harold Haynes that Government wishes to purchase the land. Mr. Power wishes to be assured of this very scheme. Surveyor plans and valuations are being submitted, and so on and so on. This is the note on this file. This is an officer making a note on the file when Mr. Power came to him. He said that the only indication that he had was an oral indication by a Dr. Harold Haynes, who I believe is the member for St. Michael South Central. He also called on them to purchase land at St. Judes. You know about that? You do not know about that one?

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that you are addressing the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir. The hon. member does not know about the land in St. Judes; and then there is a note from the then manager of the National Housing Corporation. This is the familiarity, Sir, "Miss B, the Minister of R & H has instructed me to have two pavilions erected." One at Eden Lodge was to be for himself and not for the people, and one at Salters, St.

George. This is a note on file and it says you will have to help Richie. (Laughter). That is not all, they set up a note about a special project for election purposes. It says "Please note that I believe that these accounts can be kept in our proposed project ledger for election purposes."

I wonder if I could hear the former Minister of Finance saying how they used to spend money. He did not know about that at all, poor fellow, because he did not read the newspapers; so he would not know. I do not know why the former Prime Minister has to have a Press Conference every evening. Every evening you look good. I am not fooling you. The very note came back saying to change from the proposed project ledger and use the regular "cost ledger". The usual financial controls came in, Sir. Do not call it so. Keep it straight.

One Dr. Haynes — that was in April, 1976, Sir — I fully recall that a person by the name of Eyre Hoppin who represented St. George North, stood up in chambers which you and I know about Sir, with tears in his eyes saying that he did not know how Errol could do that to him. He was crying saying that he could not understand how Errol could do this to him. We had to beg him not to cry because he was a big man. I saw a big man cut to size. He said that the only way he knew that Errol did not want him now was because Richie was giving the people a pavilion; and you will recall that very well, Sir, and now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is coming in here and saying that he has never spoken with Mr. Power. Sir, that is the whole story behind this. What we are concerned with is how they went about it. At St. Judes 2 acres of land were sold, I have the names here. Just give me a moment. There were 6,100 square feet which came from Fair View Limited. They owned land at St. Judes. You would have believed that the Government was going to buy.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. I rise again on Standing Order 28(7) which states that no member may impute improper motives to another member. The motive of impropriety is that as a private citizen I approached certain individuals or corporations and somehow gave them the impression, or made a statement to them that the Government would buy property from them, which indeed would be a fraudulent action on my part. I must ask the hon. member to withdraw that.

2.20 p.m.

I must ask the hon. member to withdraw that because, Mr. Speaker, as a candidate for that particular constituency I certainly identified several areas where there was a need for a playing field, and what was quite proper I brought these areas to the attention of the then Government, and it adds up to that and absolutely nothing more, and there is a very definite.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that a point of order?

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, certainly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I deem it no point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The hon. member said that he saw a number of sites. Do you know he never went to Boscobelle? You are in here asking about Boscobelle all the time and they never paid you any attention, but the only sites he visited were not in St. George North you know, but in St. George South. I visited St. George North, not South. All the sites that he visited and told the people that the Government was going to buy were all in St. George North: St. Judes; he went to Fairview Limited; Newbury, Lower Estate, all in St. George North; none in Bridgetown. You never heard about Murphy Pasture; you never heard about Valarie then, you are hearing about it now. He never went down in St. James; only in St. George North did he have an interest and the then Government and the Minister at that time gave a directive to N.H.C. to put two pavilions down, one at a cost of \$14,000 and one at a cost of \$20,000, and the note says "you have to help Richie." This is the type of scandalous behaviour.

Now, Sir, M.E.S. Hewitt and Company, Solicitors, wrote us on behalf of Mr. Denzil McAlpine Power of Lower Estate Plantation, St. George, complaining to the Government that a Dr. Haynes put a pavilion, not the Government now, it was understood that Dr. Haynes put a pavilion on the site and there is no rent or any indication as to what Government is going to do, and I regret to say that it is a reflection not on the hon. member for St. Michael South Central because you cannot reflect on him in any way, it is a reflection on the Ministry of Finance of which the hon. member for St. John was then Minister of Finance. This shows the scandalous way the taxpayers' money was paid to meet their own needs. This is the point I want to make. The Minister of Finance, whatever was going on around him, did not know. His physician and closest friend like Paul, like Luke he was to you, and you allowed that sort of behaviour to circle around you. I really do not believe that all roads led to Barrow.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member has now made a statement with a clear imputation of improper behaviour on my part as it related to my relationship with the hon. member for St. John, and I will draw to your attention again Standing Order No. 28(7).....

Mr. SPEAKER: What is this improper relationship?

Dr. HAYNES: He has spelt it out. He said that the behaviour that I conducted in respect of my particular relationship with the hon. member for St.

John was indeed of a scandalous nature. Now this thing is becoming a very serious matter because.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe if the hon. member is asked to authenticate it he would. That is what the Standing Orders say.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: What I did say is that it was scandalous behaviour within the Ministry of Finance that a private citizen could approach an individual and commit Government. That is what I am saying.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I must rise again. The hon. member has said here again and again.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central must take his seat, and let me warn the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that when you get in this kind of passion that is unbecoming the dignity of this Honourable House, the Chair will have to take note.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am not getting into any passion, but the hon. member in his reply has gone out of his way to say that it was scandalous behaviour on the part of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ministry of Finance.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He specifically referred to the Minister and his relationship like Paul to something else, personal physician and all that kind of thing. I do not know why you should have an emendation to what the hon. member said, but he said Minister of Finance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Please take your seat. The position is this; when the Hon. Minister is supposed to have offended against a Standing Order, it is the duty of the member if he feels that he has been offended by what is said to rise immediately and object. I cannot now hear an objection. Since the hon. member has gone on making statements, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has risen, I cannot now entertain any objection to what the Minister has said.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: May I just on a point of order point out that two hon. members cannot be on their feet at the same time, and if two hon. members were offended and one member gets up, I can only wait until that member sat down. I just want to point that out, and there was no further debate by the hon. member. Therefore I think I am right to make my objection. I could not rise at the same time as the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. SPEAKER: By not rising you have lost your opportunity to rise.

(Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW left the Chamber.)

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I will again draw to your attention that the statements by the hon. member for St. James that as a private citizen I made arrangements with people for Government to buy property is improper.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already heard the hon. member on that same point.

Dr. HAYNES: Not on this occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not on this occasion it is true.

Dr. HAYNES: It is criminal behaviour that the hon. member is accusing me of.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now withdraw it immediately.

Dr. HAYNES: I will withdraw the remark.

Mr. SPEAKER: And you will turn and apologise to the House for that misbehaviour. You will withdraw the remark and apologise to the House for that ill-behaviour.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, did you hear what the remark was?

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't question the Chair; just carry out the instructions or leave.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, if the remark which I made — I just want to make this clear...

Mr. SPEAKER: You withdraw the remark and apologise to the House for the last time.

(Dr. HAYNES took up his papers and started to leave the Chamber.)

You are offending against the dignity of this House and you will never return until you have apologised. You will never ever take your seat until you have apologised.

(Dr. HAYNES left the Chamber.)

He has to come in here and go down on his knees and apologise.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, it is at this point that I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. I must say that I envisaged that some sort of heat would have come out of this because the facts are quite clear. In the first instance that 1,880 acres of land were insufficient for a

playing field and to have a pavilion placed on it without the approval of the owner and without the land being acquired because we are now acquiring the land, Mr. Speaker, is something which I can only conclude was a very sad thing on behalf of Mr. Power. Mr. Power has suffered materially in this area and financially and we have got letters from the solicitors asking Government to pay and that is why I have worked on it as quickly as I could to bring it before Parliament. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: I just want to say that it is time that hon. members stop behaving like little children in this Honourable House.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 3.30 p.m.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
2.30 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance gave notice of a Resolution and therefore sought the House's approval for leave to deal with it in all its stages. As I understand it, Sir, it was agreed to by the House. I beg to move, Sir, that that Item....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister gave an intimation that he was seeking the leave of the House but I do suppose there will be no objection.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If there is no objection, Sir, I beg to move that the Resolution to approve the Guarantee of Repayment by the Barbados Development Bank of a Loan and interest thereon from the European Investment Bank be the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE OF REPAYMENT BY THE BARBADOS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF A LOAN AND INTEREST THEREON, FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

The Resolution was called to approve the guarantee of repayment by the Barbados Development

Bank of a loan, and interest thereon, from the European Investment Bank.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with much pleasure that I come to the House to seek the approval of the House of Assembly for the guaranteeing of the repayment of this loan which the European Investment Development Bank is making to the Barbados Development Bank.

This loan represents another first for the Barbados Development Bank which was the recipient of the first loan made by the Inter-American Development Bank to Barbados. It represents another triumph in the list of triumphs of the Barbados Development Bank which has come about since the new and enlightened direction that the Bank has been given since September 2, 1976. In these days, Sir, far from the sordid catalogue of mishaps outlined by the Duffus Commission, far from the situation when the Barbados Development Bank was not itself a credit-worthy Institution due to the load it was carrying on its books in respect of Bath Plantation, it has developed into so outstanding a Financial Institution in the region that it was able to send its General Manager and its Chairman to Luxembourg to negotiate this Loan without the need of an analysis mission, without the probing and the searching which sometimes attend the efforts of Development Banks from other countries, it was able to obtain this Loan in full recognition that it was a truly competent financial intermediary for the development of our small nation and I think, Sir, that there is nothing wrong in taking pride in reflection that the nation now has a sound reputation in the International Finance Community and can reach out not only to traditional sources in financing of the Banks in the region of which it is a member, but can also reach out to Europe and break new ground on both sides.

The Loan itself is for 2½ million unit of Accounts. The present unit of Exchange in the Unit of Accounts is approximately \$2.63 Bds. And this amounts to \$6.575 million Bds. We got a call from Luxembourg this morning indicating that the final rate of interest will be 10.4% less the 3% we paid from the European Development Fund for which we are qualified so that the actual rate of interest will be 7.4% substantially below the present market rates.

It is not an entirely soft Loan. I think we are too well off in Barbados to qualify for entirely soft Loans but it is a medium term Loan both in terms of the rate of interest and the repayment period which will be over 12 years with 4 years grace so that we will start to repay this Loan in 1983 and the final pay off in 1991.

On Saturday, Sir, the Chairman of the Development Bank will sign the Agreement here in

Barbados with the Representatives of the European Development Bank and I will sign the Guarantee on the behalf of the Government. The purpose of the loan is for the development of small and medium size enterprises in Tourism and Industry. As is known, Sir, the Government had been intensifying its efforts to get help for small Barbadian businessmen. Unlike some other persons who paid tribute to the small man and talked about the small man all the time, Sir, we have actually been doing something to help the small man. During the course of 1979 no less than 67 loans were approved for small businesses and small manufacturers compared to 28 in the year previous and of course this is very much larger than has ever been achieved in the past. General loans in all have been 196, Sir, compared to 65 in the previous year when we took out the Agricultural Loan.

The fact that the loans were a little bit smaller, Sir, perhaps reduces the number of jobs involved in the construction but even so the structure of the performance of the Barbados Development Bank during 1979, the loans it has disbursed and the enterprises it has encouraged has brought about over 1,000 indirect temporary jobs in servicing these loans by way of construction and have generated 406 new jobs on a permanent basis compared to 299 in the year before.

I am also pleased to report to the House that although the Audited Accounts for 1978/79 have not yet been published, Sir, it seems certain that the Bank will for the first time in three years make a profit of \$100,000 and if this level of profit or anywhere like it is realised, this will be a record profit for the Barbados Development Bank.

Hon. members will recall that we had several losses in the last two years principally because we had to write off a great number of bad debts which the Bank was carrying in its books for years when it was ostensibly making a profit but in fact, Sir, had no real hope of ever recovering monies in full from such debtors as Norwoods Holdings Limited. We have had to write off the bad debts and had to show a loss position for two years but with new direction and improved management there has been a turn around and the Bank is paving its way.

The Bank, Sir, although I do not wish to go into this in any large detail is also aiming during the forthcoming Financial Year, the year we are now in, to introduce one or two new developments particularly the view of helping again, Sir, the small businessman. The Bank is thinking of going into a particular area of property development which will enable it to assist small businessmen to acquire premises and properties in desirable areas in Bridgetown that have hitherto been

the prerogative of the very large businesses in this country.

During the past year, the Bank has looked at such areas of small businesses as assisting Hairdressers, assisting a number of small businessmen to buy Mini-buses for tourists. We are not assisting anybody to buy a Mini-bus to compete with the Transport Board. We have assisted two people to buy Mobile Canteens in order to get small entrepreneurs to enter the Catering Industry at a relatively low cost because, Sir, although there may be some criticism that there is a Mobile Canteen in the Park on Government premises I hope the Minister of Communications and Works will have a delicate eye on this bearing in mind the services rendered by these Mobile Canteens in the Bus Stand. We are trying to help the small man.

We have helped one man establish his hamburger business. We have helped the small men in their businesses. We have helped the small man acquire well-digging equipment and we are seeing the effects of it as you pass and see the excavation of land in various areas.

We are extremely proud of the record of the Barbados Development Bank in these three years and I think it has generated a new hope with its new management.

There is one final collateral point which I would like to make. The Bank has tried to help one or two Furniture Manufacturers during the past 12 months. 3.40 p.m.

In the last couple of weeks we have had some increases in the Retail Price Index and the cost of living due to increased prices of furniture and furnishings. There may be a number of reasons for this. Contrary to what even such sensible journalists as the economic correspondent of the Nation Newspaper and those who deal with Central Bank statistics have said, the rate of inflation in Barbados in the months of January to April of this year has been very moderate. I have seen some incorrect figures published in the Nation saying that there was 3% inflation in the first three months. In the months of January to April of this year the inflation rate in Barbados was 2.5%. There is not a country in the world whose annual rate of inflation is as low as 1.2% as has been stated. But this just goes to show that we seem to be in the grip of this inflationary psychology that makes everybody believe that just saying that prices are rising means that they are rising. One sure index of price increase is the rise in the price of food and food went up in Barbados by 1.8%. But in the area of furniture there has been an increase in price already this year of 10% and this is something you can't blame outside suppliers for. This seems to be a genuine domestically

generated piece of inflation, and this brings me to the question of the banks. It seems there is a great demand for the work of Barbadian furniture makers, including those who have been helped by the Barbados Development Bank, and it seems that the demand from outside is pushing up the price for local people. People are also getting furniture at very low down payment and with a long time to pay, and this has also contributed to the situation. However Government is looking at furniture prices in the Island and will not tolerate the rate of present increases. We are trying through the agency of the Barbados Development Bank to increase the number of furniture manufacturers and the output of furniture in the Island so that supply can rise to meet increase demand both local and overseas. I have departed a bit from the precise tenor of the Resolution but it was a point I felt was very important to be made. I am sure the House will approve this Resolution of guarantee and then we will be looking forward to the Barbados Development Bank going from strength to strength in assisting the small businessmen of Barbados to get help where it really matters — in their pockets — rather than a lot of talk that gets them nowhere. We are helping small business, not just talking.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

BILL TO AMEND NURSES AND MIDWIVES (REGISTRATION) ACT

The Third Order was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Midwives and Nurses (Registration) Act, Cap. 372.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, this amendment is one that I am very happy to move in this Honourable House this afternoon. It provides for the removal of the Chief Medical Officer of Health from the Nursing Council and substitutes the Chief Nursing Officer. The Ministry of Health is particularly happy that at long last the Nursing profession which is largely employed by the Government of Barbados is having its interests looked after in the Ministry itself by a person who is a nurse rather than a doctor. For years the Chief Medical Officer of Health represented almost all of the Medical and allied professions in their various councils, not only nurses and doctors and para-medics, and I am of the opinion that the nurses themselves, despite the initial publicity, are now of the opinion that a Chief Nursing Officer is better able to represent and advise on their interests from a professional point of view than a Chief Medical Officer of Health. The Chief Nursing Officer is a Barbadian and has settled into her post. I am of the opinion the time has come when she should be representing the nurses on this Council rather than the Chief Medical Officer. I do not think

there is room for any argument here. It is a very straightforward matter and I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

3.50 p.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive were called and agreed to.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER seconded in each case by Mr. BRADSHAW, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Question No. 18 was called.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael North Central is not in his place. Let the answer be laid. This brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Order standing in the name of the Hon. member for St. Philip North. On the last occasion when the time for Private Members' Business had expired the hon. member for St. Michael South East had risen to address the Chair.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with this Resolution which was introduced by the hon. member for St. Philip North. Some time ago I was

approached by the young man claiming to be a representative of the performers in Barbados. He did in a conversation disclose how he was representing performers and entertainers in particular, and how he was soliciting money which was payable as a result of the Copyright Act and the Performing Rights Act. It was then that I became very interested in the sort of protection which performers in Barbados had; and I realised after careful study and analysis of the performers' rights and the conditions under which they work and operate in Barbados that there was a very loose instrument, and that there was a great deal left to be done on behalf of the actors and the performers in this country.

There are innumerable problems, and it seems to me that these problems will only be solved when the performers and actors in Barbados realise how serious it is not to operate with a proper organisation, an organisation that will look after the interest on each and everyone of its members.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that you have just made reference to the performing artistes.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, performing artistes.
4.00 p.m.

Now the Resolution as it stands tends to embrace all aspects of artistes, playwrights as well as band leaders and members of certain bands, actors included, but I am sure that when we look closely at what can be done for the performers in Barbados, we must be able or should be able to distinguish between those who play music, those who write music and those who act and perform plays. Surely this Resolution is intended to focus attention on these people who perform, for instance, in bands, those who have to play music for the enjoyment of tourists and even Barbadians in certain clubs and certain public places, and if we are to look at this particular aspect of protection for these performers, we will find that the organisation is rather loose and they have no protection. They have failed over the years to come up with something tangible, an organisation which would in fact protect them even when they have put down their instruments, and this worries me, Mr. Speaker because the artistes are those who play in bands, those who make a living and not only make a living but make a tangible contribution to Barbados' economy by way of playing at the various night spots to the amusement and for the enjoyment of the tourists. Their music is well appreciated and although they receive monetary rewards we should not be satisfied with that, because it is not an organisation which looks after the interests of those performers after they have laid down their instruments, and that is what concerns me, Sir, because I feel that since we accept in this country that performers have made an invaluable contribution as far as the economy is

concerned, especially in the tourist industry, we should also be concerned that these people derive benefits after they are no longer able to perform in their respective bands. But what do we see? Several attempts have been made in this country to organise these various bands and none has become a reality. When I say that none has become a reality I am not saying that there has not been an organisation which pretends to be our states that it is looking after the interests of the artistes of Barbados. What in fact I am trying to point out is that the organisation or organisations which exist do not go that far to look after the interests of the members or those who perform in certain groups.

Now, Sir, we have got a situation with the late Jackie Opel where after his death there have been several attempts around the place to have an organisation of musicians or performing artistes in this country and up to this day we have not seen this sort of organisation that would look after what the organisation which was supposed to be set up would look after immediately after the death of the late Jackie Opel. We find a situation that despite the fact that Jackie Opel had done extremely well in Barbados as well as in the Caribbean as a whole, when he died tragically there was no such organisation that his relatives could turn to and request assistance, and that is the seriousness about the performers in this country. As I said before, they have been doing a fine job and we must recognise this, but when they are unable to perform, what do they get in their retirement? As I stated, Sir, very little. We have a recent case with Vern Best, El Verno del Congo. We know that he is one of Barbados' most outstanding performers. No one can deny that, but what have we seen? As fate would have it, El Verno was hospitalised and we have had in an *ad hoc* manner organisations and groups, musicians and artistes trying to scramble together funds in order to assist him in his time of need. Now this means, Sir, that there is still a lot to be achieved in this direction, because I would have thought that over the years an organisation would have been so well established that when people like El Verno Del Congo or the guy who was a member of the Joseph Niles and the Consolers group were either sick or died, their families would have been able to draw from some fund which was created by that organisation or the organisation to which they belonged.

Sir, we can see now why this Resolution is timely. It is timely in this respect that we have got now to look at the performers and protect them. We cannot go on and on feeling and thinking that the performers are in themselves capable or have the necessary know how to set up a proper organisation. We have seen it over the years. They are very good performers but the organisational ability to organise and band themselves together is not there and we as a concerned party must do everything in our power to ensure that such an organisation is

established. To this end I must support the Resolution because we cannot go on and on with a situation where people have spent their youth performing for the benefit of and bringing lots of friends to this country, and in this area bringing money to the country by luring tourists to assist in the economy, and then when they are no longer able to perform such duties and functions they are left by the wayside scrambling for a bread. Their families are deprived of bread, and I would not like to see this sort of situation continue. Surely, Sir, we must look at this, and if it is the Government's view to set up an organisation which would protect them, it must not be merely passing an Act. Passing an Act is one thing, but I am thinking in terms of establishing an organisation which, would go a little further that organising the musicians or performing artistes alone, and that would be to ensure that some consolidated fund is established whereby after the artistes have passed for some reason or other their families would be able to draw from the fund. That is what would be necessary if we are to be really serious about the interest of the artistes and accepting and recognising the contribution which these artistes have been making to this country. There is in Britain a Copyright Act.
4.10 p.m.

Barbados does not have a Copyright Act. What happened, Sir, is that this part of the Act which was passed in England operates in Barbados and we do not have one on our Statute Books and I feel that since England has recognised that it was necessary to have a Copyright Act on its Books in order to protect its Artists, that we should, at this time, try to have something on our Statute Books which is relevant to the Barbadian local situation so that the performing artists should have some sort of protection.

We have the performing Rights Society that was formed in the early nineteenth century, and this society to which some of our outstanding artists belong is not well known. Its aims and functions are not well known to most Barbadian performers and I think this point that the Performing Artists Society was established with specific reasons so that the performers especially in the musical field, those who write, those who sing, and those who record would have some sort of protection and one of the aims of the Performing Rights Society is to see to it that the families of those members who belong to the Society receive some sort of compensation after they have retired. This is exactly what we need in Barbados, a sort of Society which should be affiliated to the Performing Rights Society as in Canada and in other countries.

It may surprise you, Sir, that there is an office connected with the Performing Rights Society right here in Barbados. I think it is situated in the Belleville area but how many artists and how many musicians in Barbados know that for a small fee, and some do not have to pay a

fee, can become members of the Performing Rights Society. I think this is a problem, Sir, because the Performing Rights Society sets out to protect the work and the Copyright protection of some of the artists who belong to the Performing Rights Society so that it would not be possible for people to steal the Copyright protection or the rights which the artists have. As long as he belongs to the Performing Rights Society it becomes illegal for anyone without permission to have their work reprinted or even played in public.

How many of us in Barbados understand that according to the Copyright Society which applies to Barbados that if you play a Copyright record in public, in a Hotel or public places without the permission of the Performing Rights Society or its Agency that that constitutes a violation of the Society's Rules. How many of us know that prosecution can be pursued against people who perform Copyright material. We do not know this. There are specific leaflets and booklets which are published and most of the artists in Barbados do not know this. Sir, I am saying that most of the artists do not know this. I am saying that there are some artists, people like Emile Straker, and I see that he is a member of the Performing Rights Society, Pat Castagne and the Mighty Sparrow and these are all West Indian artists who belong to the Performing Rights Society but there are a number of other artists who belong to Bands in Barbados who do not know of the rights of the Performing Rights Society and I think that what we should try and do is to make people who are involved in the performing trade, as you would call it, understand and realise that they should try and organise themselves and approach Government with a view to assisting them in setting up an Organisation which will assist them and their relatives when they are in need.

Now, Sir, as I said I am giving this Resolution my wholehearted support and I do hope that the artists, those who belong to Bands, some of those who are not Registered as a Limited Liability Company or else and they are operating on a day-on and day-off basis, on an ad hoc basis and that is exactly where they are getting their trouble and I hope that they will understand how this Government feels about them. We care about them. We are concerned about those loose arrangements and we do hope that when we decide to establish something that will be done for their benefit, that they will participate fully because as it stands, we have got classic examples which stare us in our eyes and we must not ignore them.

We have got to protect people who cannot protect themselves because not all of us are in a position to devise ways and means of protecting ourselves and that is why the hon. member for St. Philip North must be congratulated for bringing such a Resolution because the artists, lots of people use them, have won their services in this country but very few people in the upper class of this society are prepared to give them the sort of support

which the hon. member for St. Philip North has actually done on this occasion. All hon. members who make a contribution in associating themselves with this particular Resolution should all find comfort because not only are they seconding the Resolution brought by a colleague who is interested in the artists in this country but they will be associating themselves with reality, something which all of us in this country need to be brought face to face with.

Sir, I must say that this is a very good Resolution, well timed because we know that the artists have been experiencing lots of problems. They have been making several appeals without people really coming and making a tangible contribution to their need and we must welcome this Resolution. Not only must we welcome this Resolution, but we must impress upon the Government and the Minister responsible for the Entertainers that the time has come when he must speed up the area of looking after the performers in this country. We recognise their contribution to the economy. We recognise their contribution to themselves and to the country, and we must set about our tasks seriously in attempting to help them because they need the protection which they themselves are unable to give themselves at this moment.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to speak at any length on this Resolution. I just have a few brief comments to make. The Resolution itself is a rather worthwhile Resolution. I think the salient part of this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, is the last aspect of this Resolution that we in this House should take steps necessary not excluding an investigation into the Recording Industry or the passage of Legislation to ensure that the interests of local entertainers and recording artists are properly protected.

4.20 p.m.

I do not know about copy rights and so on but I believe people must help themselves if they expect to be helped. I have a great admiration for the local entertainers and I pay quite a bit of attention to their music; but it is regrettable that we have not been able as Barbadians to keep up with the spouge, for instance, which was the wish of the late Jackie Opel. — but we will go for rock and roll and other American aspects of musical entertainment. It is a classic example of how we tend to overlook ourselves and try to be copycats of other countries.

I believe that the entertainers are a difficult group of people to get organized, and I believe what is primarily responsible for this is that a number of nightclubs and hotels exploit these people. You will find, for example, that a top band in Barbados would hardly get in at the Pepper Pot apart from the Merrymen or Ivory; but you will find at the Pepper Pot when Ivory or the Merrymen are not around some third rate or fourth rate group that the

owners of the club would pay less money to than they would to people at the top. The problem then is that you may have a good guitarist or drummer in that band, but because he can earn more money may be with the Troubadors he gets carried away and that other band is left without a drummer; so because they find one area that is more lucrative than another, they drift around. If you read Mackie Holder or Al Gilkes in the newspapers you will see nearly every week they are saying farewell to some band. They come and they go, and I think the reason behind this is that the entertainers have a tug-of-war between themselves. I think my colleague, the Minister of Communications and Works did make reference how some years ago he tried to organize them but they were not interested in paying their dues. It is only when disaster strikes that these things come to light.

Although I am going to support my colleague, the hon. member for St. Philip North, for his judgement in bringing this Resolution, I must impress on the entertainers in Barbados that they must help themselves first and conduct themselves in a manner that the hotels and night clubs must respect them. Some people say the show must go on; but it will only go on when they get a cheap band, for if a band said that they would not play for less than \$200 and the money was not paid then the show would not go on. But in such cases you will find some tuck band ready to take over. This is something the bands must take into consideration.

I want to say something about El Verno del Congo, or Vern Best as he was known. We can all sometimes find ourself in ill health and I have been asked what contribution the Government has made in his case. It seems that people think that the Government must be in everything. But I am going to say what contribution we made. A group of young men formed a Committee and wrote the Ministry of Housing asking for the Marine Hotel to keep a fete in aid of El Verno. The fee for the Marine ball room is \$950 and the contribution the Government made was by way of waiving the fee and, speaking subject to correction I think we charged only \$150 for the ball room and that was primarily for cleaning up the place after the fete. So that was our contribution at Government level. So when you hear outside that Government is not interested in this or that it may be that our public relations are not up-to-date. I want people to know that the Government is interested in the entertainers but the entertainers must not think that Government must set up everything for them and they not seek to help themselves. I wonder how many of them have a national insurance card, because I do not think they look at their business as carefully as they should; they are inconsistent in their methods. However, I hope now that the hon. member for St. Philip North has brought this Resolution in here to protect their own interests, they will do something to help themselves.

I wish to applaud my colleague for his foresight in bringing this Resolution.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, in support of this Resolution calling on Government to ensure that the interests of local entertainers and recording artists are legally protected, I rise to give support to the hon. member for St. Philip North who has brought the Resolution to this Chamber. I think that I am intimately connected with most of the musicians of Barbados who eke out a living by putting their talent before the country, either on wax or by performing for the visitors to our shores.

The music industry is a very complex industry. It is a multi-million dollar concern with multi-national corporations intimately wrapped up in the production of records and in spending millions of dollars on various artists so as to make sizeable profits for their companies. You will find there are multi-national concerns like CBS and Warner Brothers. And of course we have smaller concerns like our own West Indies records involved in the recording industry.
4.30 p.m.

Here in Barbados our musicians are at a great disadvantage because of a number of reasons. These disadvantages, Mr. Speaker, are mainly a lack of shortage of capital injection for the making of records for distribution on the world market. Hence, we find most of our local entertainers believing that they have the ability to produce records on an international level as is the case in the USA with most of those recording artistes; but it is not so easy as that. Our musicians have to understand that the music industry is very much like any other business. It is not just the joy of putting a nice sounding record on wax which you hope will ultimately reach the Top 15 on the local radio stations or make a few sales in the region.

What is needed is much more than that. Our musicians and entertainers must first understand that this is a business; and hence they will need all sorts of advice. They need legal advice. They need promoters. They need publishers. They need qualified writers. They need arrangers in order to attain to perfection which is accepted as an international standard; and until our musicians come to realise that it is a question of perfectionism, that it is a question of having a market, that it is a question of putting together their lyrics in harmony and their music in balance, they will never reach the standard of groups such as the Bee Gees and perhaps the Mannhattans who will be coming here shortly, or any of those international groups who understand and realise what is needed to be put into records.

The question of piracy is one that is on the minds of musicians and artistes everywhere the world over.

Piracy is the unauthorised duplicating of an artiste's work under cover which is then resold on the market at a substantially low price; and the United States Government, as well as the British Government and as well as most other European Governments are concerned about illegal duplicating by these people who bootleg the material and make substantial profits.

Reference was made in this debate particularly to the Draytons of Barbados where one of their most popular records was duplicated in the USA without the consent of West Indies Records Limited who are responsible for promoting the Draytons since they are under contract to the Draytons. It is not unusual, Mr. Speaker. Piracy has taken over in many capitals of the world. I myself was very surprised when I heard that record by the Draytons reproduced and used on a disco, and the promoters of the Draytons, West Indies Records were totally unaware that this had taken place; but I am amazed that they are utterly innocent in this respect; because they are the ones and the only ones responsible for reduplicating and carrying out the total promotion of the Draytons since they are contracted to them. West Indies Records have got a right to protect the interest of the Draytons. It is their bounden duty to protect the interest of all the artistes who are contracted to them.

Another thing which is of great concern is the facility with which the local recording company is seeming to take on the responsibility of representing international acts on the West Indies label, and it is so difficult for them to have our local artistes represented on the international label. By this I mean that you find West Indian Records wanting to make reprints of say Humperdink right here in Barbados. I find the company also making reprints of Tom Jones' records right here in Barbados; and you find them making reprints of people as far back as the late Nat King Cole; and I am yet to hear that WIRL who are contracted to the Draytons promoting our local artistes by negotiating with foreign firms to permit any of the stuff which our local entertainers produce right here in Barbados. It would seem that they are only interested in generating a few sales; but in the total promotion and exposure of Barbadians, whether it is Wendy Alleyne or the Draytons, they are not interested in getting Barbadians known abroad.

What I think is necessary is for the Government to have another look at its Copyright Act with a view to protecting our rights abroad. When the Copyright Act was written in 1959 no one in Barbados could get into the copyright business then; and I do not think that the works of our artistes are protected within the confines of the law. I would say that the very first thing at least the

Government could do is to have the Act rewritten to protect those musicians and entertainers who record their artistic works on wax.

The question of Piracy is not an easy one to combat. As long as one makes a recording and that recording can be slipped away into the hands of people who are adept in making records it is quite easy for the work to be reprinted and sold at a substantially lower price than would be accepted as the normal price on the market.

4.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, in supporting this Resolution, I should also want to touch on the decision of Government to establish a National Auditorium to accommodate 1,000 people. I believe, Sir, that we should reconsider that decision instantly before plans go too far ahead, because in a day like this when the nation is growing, when our children are becoming more artistic and when there is a need for creative expression, I think we ought to cater to the masses of Barbadians and also to the tastes of visitors who would want to see the cultural and artistic abilities of the people, and we would have to reject our ideas on a much larger scale by thinking in terms of an auditorium to seat no fewer than 5,000 people. I think to spend money to construct an auditorium with a maximum capacity of 1,000 people is shortsighted indeed and a decision which we should seriously reconsider.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to touch on what is accepted in this Resolution as the National music of Barbados. I believe that Barbadians always like to find a bandwagon on which they can jump, and looking at what we call "spouge" as the national music of Barbados I am not in agreement with the musicians who try to develop this as the indigenous music of our people. The originator, the founder of spouge happened to be a Barbadian, the late Jackie Opel, but in my mind Jackie Opel was one of those Barbadians who spent a great part of his life in Jamaica, hence Jackie Opel would have developed most of the life style of the Jamaican people. If one can remember the first recordings of Jackie Opel, one could distinctly feel and sense what was in his music, the Sca Beat. What I am saying is that Jackie Opel was thinking in terms of the culture in which he was living. He was not in Barbados in St. Joseph or in the heart of St. Thomas or St. George, but he was in the heart of Kingston, Jamaica, hence what was going through his mind was the life style of the Jamaican people. Much of his music today has been retained not in the Sca but rather in the Reggae beat. The musicians who play reggae represent what Jackie Opel was trying to put across, but it would seem as though Barbadians thought that Jackie Opel, being a Barbadian had developed this thing which we call spouge and we should automatically label this the national beat of Barbados. Spouge does not captivate the entire Barbadian community. It is one of the beats that easily distracts one's attention to musical forms. Spouge can be digested and absorbed for half an hour at the most, but anything beyond half an hour tends to bore the mind and gets one a little frustrated. Conversely

Barbadians in all walks of life can enjoy more so the rhythms of the Jamaican beat.

Mr. Speaker, Barbadians can enjoy continuous reggae music; they get involved in some form or fashion as soon as they hear the beat regardless of whether they are white or black. I cannot honestly say that it is the same with spouge. What I am saying is that Jackie Opel developed this beat and therefore my call is for the musicians to further develop and go into the intricacies of spouge, add some upliftment to it to make it more meaningful music that people in Barbados at all levels of society can enjoy. White people in Barbados listen to it for a short while, black people can listen to it for a short while, but to my mind I was involved intimately in my last job with the playing of music and I know what turns on people and what turns them off, and what the musicians of this country have developed as the national beat is yet to be perfected whereas we can all enjoy rock and reggae music, and to the same extent I do not believe we all enjoy spouge. My recommendation then is for Government to assist the musicians who need some kind of guidance, because music is as much a business as running the B.M.C. or any one of the Government corporations. It must be looked upon as an industry, as a business that needs advisers.

I do not know all the musicians today in Barbados. If I wanted to contact the Draytons I know I can do that because they are my friends, but to get in touch with the others I would be at a loss to know with whom I should get in touch. They need to see themselves as musicians first just as in a business before they can try to put anything on wax to hold an audience and captivate the music scene in the Caribbean.

Finally, Sir, if you would allow me, I do not know whether I would be treading on dangerous ground, but I should like to make a document of the House Billboard Magazine for February, 24, 1979, and an article which I took from it to drive home to Government and to musicians the seriousness of this business called piracy that our Governments can liaise with other Governments to get appropriate legislation on the Statute Books to represent the cultural and artistic demands of our musicians. It is a Resolution which was given to a delegates' conference in Kuala Lumpur dated February, 24. It says:—

The first Asia/Pacific Music Industry Conference, meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 10, 11, 1979, attended by leaders of the industry from Asia, Australasia, the U.S. and Europe: noting the music industry's contribution to the promotion of the talents of local composers, authors and performers in their own countries and all over the world, its encouragement of the growth of local industry and its promotion of local prosperity and local employment: noting the unique contribution which the music industry makes to cultural life in all parts of the world noting that piracy of sound recordings is at present widespread throughout the

region; noting that in most of the countries of the region the law is inadequate to enable piracy to be controlled and punished, and the law enforcement agencies are unable or unwilling to take effective action against pirates: noting with regret that piracy deprives composers, authors and performers of the just rewards of their creative talents, and deprives the industry of the funds needed to develop future composers, authors and performers; emphasizing that if piracy in the region is not defeated, the music industry in the region will be rendered uneconomic and thereby destroyed; emphasizing that if, on the other hand piracy in the region is defeated, the benefits which the music industry is uniquely able to confer will be greatly enhanced and increased; noting that piracy cannot be defeated without the wholehearted support of all the governments of the region; respectfully and urgently requests the governments of the countries of the region to take all the measures which are necessary to stamp out the production and sale on pirate records and tapes in their territories and the export of such records and tapes therefrom.

4.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Draytons of Barbados, Wendy Alleyne and the Dynamics, the Brothers and the BRC of Barbados are just a small part of this global problem of piracy. I believe that our Government should be aware of the fact that it is a global situation and that we need to give some kind of protection to our musicians and entertainers and the requirement is that Government should look at the Copyright's Act and have it written to protect our entertainers.

Furthermore, Government should liaise with other International Governments that are plagued with the problem of piracy so as to have a uniform platform from which they can assist our Government with getting those people who are making millions of dollars out of the efforts of our entertainers and musicians to assist them in some way of making a sound dollar.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I have to say would probably take longer than the time limited on this and I only have how many minutes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have six minutes left.

Mr. SIMMONS: I regret that the Hon. Attorney General is not here as I know he would wish to make some useful contribution about the Government's position.

(Noise in the Public Gallery).

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order, please. The hon. member for St. Philip North.

Mr. SIMMONS: I was saying, Sir, that I regret the absence of the Hon. Attorney General who I know would wish to make certain comments about Government's intentions with respect to the Copyrights Legislation and securing the services of Mr. Dennis

DeFreitas who has already assisted the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica in the preparation of their own respective Legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that this matter has had an ear and I wish to thank those hon. members who have supported the Resolution. I am indeed grateful for some of the points that were raised today and in winding up this debate what I wish to do is just to enumerate three or four matters in which I believe Government can be of direct assistance to the entertainment workers in this country.

In the first place, Mr. Speaker, the cost of musical instruments to Barbadians is very high indeed having regard to the duties that are imposed on those instruments. When we think that a Band, and it does not have to be the Merry-men or anything like that, but a reasonable group can incur an expense of between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in the purchase of equipment and then perhaps they only work for \$200.00 one night a week, there is a great battle that the entertainment workers have to fight in trying to balance the ability to live on the earnings from the industry and at the same time having, as of necessity, to have the quality equipment to ensure reasonable reproduction of what they are doing and I feel that Government could look at, perhaps with a Committee from the Musician and Entertainers Guild in Barbados, to look at how the duties on musical equipment can be relaxed.

I think this would be a positive decision by Government and it would be a positive input to the entertainment workers and I think it would be very meaningful to them indeed because they need entertainers ever so often and the 300 or 400 musicians and entertainment workers that we have, I believe, would be very grateful if something like this could be done.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I think that Government could play a positive role in assisting in the actual Recording Industry. Now the quality of records produced in Barbados is not, in my opinion, and I believe this opinion is shared by a number of musicians themselves, competitive with the quality of records, and I do not want to think of England or America, but even records produced in Trinidad and Jamaica. In Trinidad they have improved studio facilities, new improved and increased studio facilities and better equipment because the Government of Trinidad.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time will expire in another minute.

Mr. SIMMONS: What I would like to see the Government do is to assist the musicians in obtaining the services of a Recording Industry from one of the big Companies in America, for example, who would come to Barbados on assignment as a Technical Assistant through the Ministry of Culture, if it were so arranged, who would work in Barbados and train for a specified time two or three Barbadians as Recording

Entertainers. That would improve the quality of records produced in Barbados and that would be a simple, positive and largely inexpensive way in which the Government could influence the cost of the Recording Industry in Barbados.

5.00 p.m.

It would seem that the Tourist Board have their own views about local entertainers and that the Board is not there to help local entertainers. I think this is totally wrong; the Board of Tourism and the entertainers should work in cooperation. For example, in taking entertainers overseas on promotional tours, I am not sure that the selection is as equitable as it could be. This is one area in which assistance can be given by the Tourist Board, giving exposure overseas to local groups and allowing the local groups an opportunity to express themselves. In this connection there is a feeling that you cannot wear certain clothes. Now nobody wants them to look shabby, but if the group performs in a certain way in Barbados, that may be part of the musical culture of Barbados and if so they should be allowed to express themselves abroad in that way. I am not saying they should carry anybody dressed anyhow but it is things like this that only unnecessarily inflame the relationship between the Board of Tourism and the entertainment world.

Finally, I would like to see some relaxation in the work permit regulations for foreign artists. When foreign artists come here one of the bugbears for the local promoter is the cost of work permits. I have already mentioned this to the Immigration authorities in Barbados to see if they could have a tier structure where perhaps for a group up to five or six persons you pay a flat fee — say \$200 — and above that number another fee and so on. The fact is that the high cost of work permits is perhaps the main reason why we in Barbados do not see more cultural and musical performances from outside. The promoters in Barbados cannot afford it, and if we are to be exposed to other groups from outside some relaxation must be made in this area.

I think I have overshot my time, Mr. Speaker, and I am grateful to the House for its indulgence.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business and the end of business for today and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday 12th June, 1979 at 12 Noon.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th June, 1979 at 12 Noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
5.10 p.m.