THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th November, 1979.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A. (Econ.); 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. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); 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.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, I beg to lay the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados National Standards Institution for the year 1976–77.

On behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister I beg to lay the Defence (Rate of Pay) Regulations, 1979.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to give a notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $6,570 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1979–80, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1979–80, No. 13, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 6, Purchase of Vehicles, under Head 116 – Ministry of External Affairs.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Oistins, Christ Church, for the purpose of the re-development of Oistins.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill respecting treason.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister I beg to give notice of a Bill respecting the armed forces of countries visiting Barbados.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill with respect to treason be read a first time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

The question that the Bill be read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill respecting the armed forces of countries visiting Barbados be read a first time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

The question that the Bill be read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. member for St. Philip South I am seeking leave for him to be away from the duties of this House for a period of four weeks.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. member for St. Michael West, I am asking leave of the House for him to be away for approximately four weeks. I understand that like the hon. member for St. Philip South he has gone to the Antipodes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think there can be no objection; leave is accordingly granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) ORDER, 1979

The first Order was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1979.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave of the House to withdraw this Resolution. It is not being proceeded with as a different structure is being adopted.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Prime Minister is seeking leave of the House to withdraw a Resolution that is before the House respecting the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1979. If there is no objection leave to withdraw the Resolution is granted. 12.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 3 is the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING OF LAND AT THE BRIDGETOWN HARBOUR IN LAND RECLAIMERS LTD.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this matter relates to the reclaimed land at the Port of Bridgetown. This is the newly reclaimed land to the North of the old Deep Water Harbour upon which stands the Flour Mill.

The Government has formed a Company called Land Reclaimers Ltd., which it is intended will administer this land for the purpose of renting it out and allotting it to useful enterprises and other related activities. The land at present is vested in the Crown. It was reclaimed out of monies expended by the Government, but Land Reclaimers Ltd., will be doing the actual administration of the work and it is necessary formerly to apply to Parliament for the transfer of title of the Company.

As regards the Company itself, its Directors are exclusively civil servants. At present, the Director of Finance is Chairman of the Company; the Permanent Secretary of Planning; he was the Permanent Secretary of the Port Management Division and I take it that he is still a member even though his post has been abolished and he is now Project Manager of the Spring Garden Road Project. The Chief Management Accountant at the Ministry of Finance and we have been asking for a representative from the IDC also to sit on the Board. Whether this has come about as yet, Sir, I cannot say with any certainty but that is the general shape of the Board.

The General Manager of the IDC and the President of the Barbados National Bank have now been appointed to the Board. We have now got replies from them.

The house has heard a great deal from time to time as to what development is planned and projected for the area and I therefore do not propose to repeat it at any great length. Broadly speaking, we are aiming at industries that are related to warehousing facilities and any other port related business that can be accommodated there.

There is a proposal being analysed for a Chemical Plant to be placed in the area. There is also a proposal for the Barbados National Bank to examine the possibility of a warehouse for itself. In other words, a Company can set up a warehouse which would be generally available for warehousing purposes. I do not think there is any adequate general warehousing in Barbados at the present time.

Various other projects have been put forward but the hon. member for St. Michael South Central would perhaps from his experience in these matters be only too aware of how you get proposals which seem serious. People come into your office and they sit down and you are quite sure that the new factory or project would be opened the following week and then you realise that it would be years, if ever.

We have had for example applications for the milling of rice at the Harbour and the bulk loading of various commodities. I do not think the rice project appears as likely now as it once seemed but there are possibilities that there will also be bulk handling projects either on this land in question or nearby. I imagine, Sir, that the House will have little difficulty in supporting this Resolution.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Prime Minister has said, I am very certain that all of the hon. members will wish to support this Resolution which seeks to rationalise the use of the reclaimed land at the Port.

There are just a couple of questions I would wish the Prime Minister to allude to. For example, I think we ought to know what is the final size of the land reclaimed or rather the number of acres or hectares available for rent and the method that would be used for dividing up the warehousing from the Industrial Park. I am sure that is information which he would give.

I rise merely to draw to the attention of the Prime Minister because it appears to me that he might not be aware of it, a problem which has occurred, or is occurring as result of the improvements made to the Harbour and the surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for about 60 years a number of persons who lived in the Lands End/Bridgetown area have earned their living as fishermen and I might add fisherwomen. It is a community that is well-known and the persons who have emanated from that community have made in various ways a substantial contribution to the development of Barbados.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising out of the arrangements which the Government is making or proposes to make was the security of the area. There are certain steps which have been taken which, if they continue along the lines outlined, will deprive a number of persons who lived in that area of a facility which they have been used to more or less for the last 60 years.

I speak, Sir, of the capacity of fishermen to moor their vessels in the general area where they now work. As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, many of these fishermen used to moor their small craft just aback of the property where the former member for St. Michael South West used to live, that is just at the end of the Lands End Road as it turns off from the Harbour Road, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Boulevard.

For the reasons which I believe are not outside of what is fair, the Port people have claimed that they now wish to enclose that entire area and make that entire area part of what would become the inner basin. 12.35 p.m.

Now, Sir, no one can quarrel with that *per se*. Arising out of that decision however, all those persons who used to moor – and if you pass that area now you will still see a few small boats still resting either on the shore or along the water's edge – all those persons have been required by notice to vacate the particular spots which they occupied. Now, Sir, those persons are in the context of Barbados lowly people. They have sought to get some assistance in continuing their occupation as fishermen; they went to see the people in the Port Department and the Port Department told them that they do not have jurisdiction over that total area. They merely have to move, but they do not know what would happen to them or where they should go; but they have to move from where they are. No problem. But, Sir, when they have attempted to find alternate places, there is not an alternate space between that edge and what is now the inner basin stretching all the waydown beyond Brandons; and you are aware, Sir, that the new road is being constructed and when that road is completed, as I understand it, it will be providing a highway that will go along the Harbour into the Brandons area.

Now, Sir, they have been told that they can moor at Browns Beach. To a person sitting in an office, that is a simple solution. You plot the distance from Lands End to Browns Beach and you see it is a short distance and you say you see no reason why they cannot go there, but to those persons who go out to fish at 4 o'clock in the morning and they live in Lands End and surrounding areas, Browns Beach is as far to them as the distance from Brooklyn to the Bronx. Mentally as anyone who knows, for a person who has been fishing and mooring in a particular area, they are afraid and they have told me they are afraid of walking at that hour from where they live going in the vicinity of Browns Beach. They have said otherwise that where they have been asked to go down to Brandons that they run the risk of dogs and persons in that area who have traditionally been, shall we say, hostile to certain kinds of people walking in that area around 4 o'clock in the morning.

Now I am not saying this to provide any amusement for hon. members. I am saying this because a delegation of these persons with these serious complaints however frivolous some persons may think they are, have come to see me time and time again trying to find a solution to the problem. I raise it now because we are discussing the disposition of the land that has been reclaimed in the area. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that a useful and beneficial arrangement can be made for the mooring of a small number of small craft somewhere along this land, and I am told that there is a channel that can be cut or that is already cut that can be, I guess you will have to say, channelled or burrowed by a piece of equipment that is still in Barbados that would allow these fisher people to bring their boats right in on the northern side of the flour mill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the management of the flour mill have unofficially indicated that they are prepared to allow the fishermen to moor their boats at the pier that

is set up for the great vessels that will come in bringing in raw materials, but they have been told this unofficially. I have been told by one of the people there, by a senior person, that they would have no objection to the fishermen mooring there, but the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that it is not within the flour mill's power to give that permission, and what I am asking the Prime Minister or the Government, because it is a little difficult, the Minister, as I understand it, responsible for the Port said once you go outside a certain distance that does not concern him. It now appears that the land next to the Port will be controlled by a company. I am asking the Prime Minister to draw to the attention of the company and especially since it is going to be composed of civil servants and ask them in the disposition of that land to seek to make provision for these small fishermen to be able to moor their boats, and at the risk of giving Government advice, I would recommend that the Government seeks to have some kind of depot for the fishermen in that and surrounding areas to be able to dispose of their catches with a certain amount of ease, because, Sir, a large number of persons who live in what can be called an alluvial plain, Lands End, Belgrave Land, Lower Westbury Road and Goodland get a large percentage of their protein from these fishermen, and I think it would be unreasonable that the Government unfeeling – and I am saying any Government – and unthinking in what is described as progress would move aside these small fishermen and the resultant other small people who depend on these fishermen for their livelihood.

While I am on this, Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister should be aware and the appropriate Minister over there should be aware that where the shallow draft has been scooped out, already it has started to fill up, and I am told by a number of experienced fishermen who have been using these channels for a fairly long time that vessels of a certain draft will not be able to turn in that shallow area where they are supposed to be turning around. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is a matter entirely for the Government, but the equipment which is required to channel that area is still in Barbados, and if they do not do it now, it is going to cost the country an additional sum of money at some time in the future. I should like the Minister, especially the hon. member for Christ Church South Central to examine the possibility of channelling. There is a channel just beyond the area of the flour mill which I am told has a channel that is acceptable to the fishermen, and I am told it could be done at very little cost. I am calling on the Government to take whatever steps they can to facilitate these small people, many of whom have been functioning in the area, as I said, for over 60 years. Mr. Speaker, it may very well be that some people may think that they are not important and it is not necessary to go to any trouble on their behalf, but I feel it is my duty as a representative in that area, and I think I may say that there are some of these fishermen who hail from the City area.....(Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I don't want to hear about that; your Government did not make any accommodation for the people from Emmerton.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. TAITT: You had better talk to the fishermen. There are some of them who live in the City, but they do not see their representative too often from what they tell me. That is her business. I am going to deal with the ones in St. Michael South West, and I am going to ask that the ones from St. Michael South West be not given the type of treatment which would lead them to believe that the Government does not care for them or that because they are small people they can be pushed around. I think I have made the point.

12.45 p.m

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I heard the hon. member in a long speech talking about a number of fishermen who have been chased out of the Land's End area, but I believe the hon. member lived in the United States for a number of years and he has only recently returned to Barbados, but I was brought up in Land's End and I know all the fishermen involved and they have spoken to me, but when we hear statements like these, those put over by the hon. member, one would believe that this Government is the worst Government to have ever graced the face of this country, it is callous about the welfare of the people, it has put a number of people out of work and does not care about them.

The hon. member should have told this Assembly that he is discussing a problem facing five people, five, no more than five, and only one today is a genuine fisherman, and they are sitting down on my mother's doorstep every day. Go down there now and you will find three of them down there. Only one of them, called "Bull", is a genuine fisherman. There are five.

When the Government took the decision to occupy the harbour, it was decided to look at the area. I believe Customs have said quite clearly that the Government cannot use the shallow draught facilities unless it is properly secured. In order to do the security of the harbour you have to put a fence to fence in the whole area to satisfy the Customs Department. The Manager of the Port Authority held discussions with the five fishermen and offered them to repair their boats, to give them anchor chains and to put them in an area that would be safe to them. They came up with several propositions; one, they said they did not want to move, they wanted an entrance through the fencing when it was put up. Customs refused. They then said they wanted to be berthed in the Flour Mill area and go through the Flour Mill gate; Customs refused. They then said they wanted to go on the northern side of the Flour Mill,

we held discussions with the consultants, Hardkey and Sons, and we discussed the area and how we could assist the fishermen.

The long term project – and if the hon. member was correct, if he wanted to be honest, he would have told you this.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member is imputing improper motives to me. He said if I wanted to be honest I would have said something, and therefore I am asking that he withdraw that.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I withdraw the words, because he obviously was not involved in his Government's manipulation at the time. If you go down Land's End, Mr. Speaker, when the tide is out you will see what looks like a reef on the inner side of the shallow draught facility between the Flour Mill and the facility to your left. I understand, and according to the plans that I have found in Government, that there is to be another breakwater which must be constructed at a future date north of the Flour Mill. Last September/October part of the Flour Mill land was carried away by high seas which one experiences once a year for about two days, and it was explained to the fishermen that while Government would have no objection to putting them north of the Flour Mill, it would be in their own interest to be there. We suggested to them that they move a bit down to Brandon and they said it was too far, they did not want to go that far. I suggested to them to use the Careenage, despite the fact that that administration used to prosecute the fishermen and they used to be fined $300 every Monday morning in the courts for using the Careenage.

I said, until you can put yourself in a proper position, until you can decide what you want, use the Careenage, because if you want to use the shallow draught facilities you must comply with the rules and regulations of the country. One fisherman said to me, 'I am old enough to retire, I am only too glad, find me another job.' I offered him a watchman's job on the same road that is being constructed and he said thank you very much indeed. Another chap said that he runs a boat for a woman and he was not particularly interested in moving any place at all, it is time for him to retire. So you were left, Mr. Speaker, with three men and the one man who is a full time fisherman, that is the one called "Bull", and he told me -- I have had discussions with him at Port Authority, they have come up to MCW, we have discussed everything that they wanted to discuss – but as I said, we offered to repair the boats free of cost, we offered to give them anchor chains free of cost, we offered to give them a small Moses to go out to their boats. Everything was done for the fishermen; what more can you do?

The last Government chased them out of the Careenage, and where did they go? They were prosecuted in the courts and we have not prosecuted anybody as yet, so I do not understand what the hon. member is talking about. The hon. member said that Port Authority told them they had no authority outside a given area. That is not true. What we have said, we are looking at the general development of the Port and at what can be done and to see how activities can be fitted into it, and as I said before, we have not abandoned not even up to this day. Mr. Parker has said, anything you want, and where you want to go that is in your own safety and satisfies the Customs, the Port Authority is willing to do it for you free, absolutely free, and the offer still stands today, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, I propose to make two points, and I want to use as my base of departure a comment made by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to the effect that his Ministry is currently considering – or Land Reclaimers Ltd., the company which will be responsible for the management of the land we are discussing – they are currently considering the establishment of warehousing facilities.

This land under discussion, as I understand it, is very expensive land reclaimed at very great cost. We may in a word describe it as high premium land as far as industrial activity is concerned, and though I am as anxious as all hon. members are, and the Prime Minister himself is, to see that this land is populated at a soon date with manufacturing activity, I think we have got to ensure that we do not make the mistake which was made with the industrial development of the waterfront in the post 1961 period. What I mean is this, Sir, the land that was reclaimed when the deep water harbour was built in 1961, a few years prior to that, that land looking back now we can comfortably say that land was misutilised. The land that constitutes the Harbour Industrial Park which was reclaimed land has on it light manufacturing activity. I speak of garment manufacturing, of electronics manufacturing, of the manufacturing of pots and pans, and these activities could easily have been located elsewhere well outside of Bridgetown, but everything must be taken in the context of the period, and it is pardonable, what went on, because we were anxious to get a start. Prospective manufacturers were attracted to the Port, it was the bargaining point, a point of added attraction and appeal, and we could well understand the sort of reasons that led to the establishment of light manufacturing activity there.
12.55 p.m.

But we cannot afford to make that mistake again. The land we are talking about is very expensive land, and even though a case can be made for the establishment of a chemical plant there, the same argument cannot be made for warehousing facilities because warehousing is the

sort of activity that can be located elsewhere. So while I share the Prime Minister's enthusiasm to see that some thing is done quickly, I do hope that Land Reclaimers Limited will give further consideration to the best use of the land and that we do not find ourselves locating manufacturing plants there that could easily be located elsewhere.

The second point I wish to make relates to what I recall a marketing strategy for the selling of Barbados as an off-shore manufacturing location. Those who have studied the attractions offered by the country and the incentive legislation offered have concluded that we are 90% an export processing zone. An export processing zone immediately attracts considerable attention from intending manufacturers, and it makes no sense having a product and not marketing it by the market name which has a significant appeal to several people in the field. Specifically, Mr. Speaker, if you have a special product, it makes no sense not labelling it as such because market shoppers when looking for a product will not recognize your product to be such if you do not label it. We have reached the stage where we have a product that can be labelled as an export processing zone, namely Barbados, and I think we are not adding to our competitive edge or enhancing our appeal as an off-shore manufacturing area by not getting around to label some part of our sea port or airport as an export processing zone. I very much hope the Hon. Minister of Trade will get around to effecting the instruments to ensure that either at the airport or seaport we have an export processing zone.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, there are one or two things I want to mention in relation to points raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South West. I appreciate the difficulties the hon. member labours under, for like him I have a large number of people in my constituency who carry on the same occupation. I believe it is true to say that if one is looking for an original conservative to any community you only have to look for people who carry on that occupation; they are very set in their ways and difficult to change. At Fontabelle for years the doyen of fishermen of Barbados lived. I believe he occupied a place in this Chamber for a long period of time, and there is no more hardened man in his views on fishing than that former hon. member, and his views still pervade in that area. I remember when the first fishing boats were brought to Barbados the hon. member had his own style and design. He went to Norway and he had a double-ender; he said the other boats would sink so he built a double-ender. Now it is fairly significant that of the 450 boats or so built in Barbados there are probably only five double-enders and they are all in the same area of Fontabelle, and I believe that if you go to Fontabelle now the four boats left down there would be double-enders. But the significant thing is that the hon. member being a person who had been exposed to some more opportunities has moved from the area because the hon. member recognizes that in a community of 250,000 people it is impossible for the narrow personal interest of four or five people to hold up the interest of the rest of the community. At the Harbour a decision was taken to build a shallow berth to accommodate the traffic which hitherto used the careenage. Everybody knows that there has been report after report about the bad ecological conditions in the careenage and it was recommended that an alternative site be found for the activities now carried on in the careenage. When the last Government was in power they were faced with the problem of a sage mooring for fishing, and despite their efforts at preventing fishermen from using the careenage as a berth the necessity and the need for proper berthing for boats in the Bridgetown area prevented them from carrying out their plans to prohibit the use of the careenage for that purpose.

The basic position is that the new road system that is being put in there which is necessary to prevent the bottleneck of traffic, that road had to be widened and the beach area had to be taken in and when the beach area is taken in it has been demonstrated very clearly that if you want to have a security area at the Port you must have a fenced-in area. So the days for that area as a mooring for boats are over. That decision was not taken by us; the decision to build a shallow draft area was made by the other side, not by us. And the other side would have faced the same problem that we are faced with.

Now there are four boats left, as the hon. Minister has said, and I know that every effort has been made to find as near an alternative as possible for those four boats. The Minister of Communications and Works has said what has taken place in respect of that. The Prime Minister will tell the House of the plans to the whole careenage in relation to fishing boats, so I hope that the hon. member does not think that the Government is not doing anything about this; when he hears the Prime Minister speak he will know.

The only concern to us is this: This Government when in Opposition as long ago as 1966 in our Manifesto for the 1966 election said that the time had come for the general upgrading of all Port facilities in Barbados in relation to fishing and we pointed out at that time that our limited resources and the need to provide modern facilities at these Ports and the number of fishing harbours would have to be reduced to manageable size.
1.05 p.m.

Like any other countries of the World that are progressive countries you have a number of small harbours which provide icing, mooring facilities, fuel and everything but you will not expect that we will have in Barbados 18 or 20 of those. I know the hon. member on the other side who loves to talk all the time about the need to reduce taxation will agree that it is totally impossible in Barbados for us to have a Fishing Harbour at every place where boats are moored up. That is economic nonsense. It does not make sense.

I have lived to see in the course of the last 13 years, 1966 to now that because of marketing conditions a number of fishermen have taken a decision voluntarily by taking the initiative of consolidating the position where they moor their boats. I remember when the fishermen in Christ Church used to moor in Maxwell, they used to moor in St. Lawrence, and they used to moor all around. Right now in truth and in fact on the whole of the Christ Church Coast you only have two really good fishing areas with a high concentration of boats, about 120 in Oistins and 40 to 50 in Silver Sands. Even within that short space you will find that people from Silver Sands are migrating down to Oistins.

Now good fortune has placed us in the position that when we are finished we will at least have built three of these Harbours. At Oistins, the money for the steel-works have been approved on October, 23rd by the EDF. The final submission to go ahead was on October, 23rd, just last month. Cabinet has authorised the Consulting Engineers to draw up the detailed working plans. You know how you have to go through pre-qualification notices and all of that but we will be finished by 1981.

Mr. Speaker, you know because I have shown it to you that in our structure for development of the North that at least similar facilities will be granted to the people of Speightstown. You know that. That has nothing to do with 1986 because the pre-feasibility study has been done already. This Government commissioned a study for the total development of Speightstown in which we took into consideration the areas of development like you did and we said it is necessary to integrate that development into the overall Development Plan, the whole of Speightstown, and we have commissioned Robertson Ward and Company and they are to make a Comprehensive Development Plan for the whole of Speightstown from Retreat back up to Cobbler's Cove. As a matter of fact, the Speightstown by-pass is being built, as you, Mr. Speaker, know. You pass there everyday and you see it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am aware that action is speaking louder than words.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We have also brought in Experts with a view to seeing whether a Harbour could be built in Bathsheba. Bathsheba has a very serious problem. Everyone who has had lunch, dined or gone by Atlantis would know. We brought in Experts to see if we can build a Harbour there. The Expert Advisor did indicate quite clearly that it can be done. Everything can be done by Engineers but there is a cost. What we have to do as Financial Managers is to balance our judgment between the Expenditure of what is really necessary and alternatives.

Now the question of Bathsheba is a very serious one. Everyone knows what down there is like. We are looking for alternatives. Again we have to appeal to people to forget their traditional areas and maybe they might have to shift a little distance but we are working on these things. The Government would like to enlist the co-operation of everybody in persuading the people.

When we tried to knock down the houses along Oistins sea shore to facilitate the Development and hon. members went there, the Democratic Labour Party held a Meeting not so long ago in Oistins outside Flemming's Shop and the Leader of the Opposition got up and said "Do not move, do not let them develop Oistins because Mr. St. John only want to develop Oistins because he has an interest there in Oistins." That is a fact.

I know, Sir, but that does not make any difference to me because the houses are down already. I know that everyone of those people who were living in those houses on the seashore now enjoy that sea shore. When there is an Oistins Fishing Festival they now enjoy it as a recreational area and they have some leeway instead of butting up in somebody else's house. When we clap 2.5 acres of reclaimed land on them with 200 car-parking spaces I know they will enjoy it more.

Do not try to take up the cause of people who have no cause. You should use your influence to persuade them that in this life, if the community has to progress, sometimes some people have to adjust and as the Minister has said, the Government will do everything in its power to ensure that there is a minimum amount of inconvenience to the people of Barbados. I am sure that the Prime Minister will deal with the other aspects.

There is only one other aspect that the hon. member for Christ Church East raised on the question of the Export Processing Zone. We commissioned a study of that and as he said, the results of the study showed quite clearly that we have to put a little constraint in relation to the Export Processing Zone but with an Export Processing Zone, not only must it be marketable, but they like a physical demarkation of the area. You must have an adjustment to the Customs Laws to facilitate the movements in and out, reduce the documentation and things of that kind.

We looked and looked at the Port. A study has been commissioned of the impact of that major road. I think it is Delcina International. I do not wish to trespass too much on that because the Chairman is on a priority Committee and the Prime Minister knows about that. They have reported it.

We have done a complete Land Use Study of the best and optimum use in that area. As the Prime Minister has said that is no land for warehousing. You cannot put warehousing on land that costs $4.00 per sq. ft., *(Asides.)* The Prime Minister made a speech at the Flour Mill. I

was there. He said it was expensive land and Land Reclaimers was charged with the responsibility of earning a rate of return to repay the loan that the taxpayers of Barbados would not be saddled with the repayment because of reclaiming that land. It would be an unfair burden on the taxpayers and the normal subsidy of IDC operation could not operate on that 20 acres of land. I was present. You do not know, just listen.

Now Delcina International, in their Report have earmarked an area of land on the new Road, and the landward side is being considered for warehousing because of the type of terrain that there is and the drainage problems that they have we find that that is more suitable.

Has anybody ever gone through Parravicino Swamp? You must walk. We physically walked through the bush, the back of Deacon's Road Housing Area down through where the swamp is. We walked there. We know and you have not seen the Delcina Report.
1.15 p.m.

There will be warehousing along that road. That is what the Prime Minister said, but he did not say it would be on the reclaimed land which is there already or that the land reclaimed already would be used. It may be on reclaimed land that we will reclaim after we build the road and we take the top soil and put it over the other side. You see, you must not get confused with where the reclamation is. I will tell you something else. In the Indian Ground area where the drain comes down by Goodland, there is also land there that would be subject to some reclamation with a proper canalisation. Already the outlets into the sea have been enlarged because it comes down from Goodland and I believe it drains as far up as the back of Spooners Hill, Grazettes and so on. You have to build it up, you have to canalise it and that land may also be suitable for warehousing. So the proper thing as the hon. member for Christ Church East has said is that there should be a proper land use study. The only thing is that he is not aware of the fact that that study has been done and as a result of that study the proposals for the financing of the totality of that development has been put to the Inter American Development Bank and I am pretty sure that the economics are such that a loan will come through. I believe they are meeting in December this year; so the whole of that area is under intense planning.

Sir, people do not recall it, but the Government has already at Cabinet passed an order making the whole of that area a development area, and the Hon. Minister of Housing has come in here with the necessary acquisition notices in respect of all of that. There is a comprehensive development plan for the area. I just thought I would bring all these things to attention.

In respect of the export processing zone, the whole Airport is 1,000 acres and we have a very large area which A.D.C... uses. Now that the Airport is finished we will be moving on to the big cargo shed that we will be building in half of the old air terminal, and we will be able to demark a specific area when we get the amendments to the customs laws as an export processing zone. We even have the type of industry that will relate to air cargo, so that we are well aware of these things, but it takes some time. We have done so much in three years, and by the next two we not only would have talked about it, but as you would say, action will speak louder than words, and there will be a lot of projects with high visibility quotient, and good economic sense though.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think it is generally accepted that the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Deputy Prime Minister is perhaps one of the most skilful debators in this Chamber, and I think we did admire his mental contortions and the verbal gymnastics which he just employed in order to reconcile what was said by the Prime Minister and what was said by the hon. member for Christ Church East. It is good. The House does enjoy these moments of levity as we did on this particular occasion. But, Mr. Speaker, there are just about three points I wish to raise and they are largely seeking information. The first two arises out of what has been said by two previous speakers. First of all the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Deputy Prime Minister indicated that he used to be the spokesman for the then Barbados Labour Party Opposition on agriculture and fisheries, and I think there would be bi-partisan agreement on both sides of this Chamber and in the country generally if in fact he did take over those portfolios again because they seem to be tottering and in a lot of trouble now under the present Minister or the various persons who have held them.

Secondly, I listened to the member for St. Joseph...

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it you mean the hon. member.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, the short hon. member for St. Joseph, and I heard him say that one Bull, a fisherman whom he referred to as Bull – I did not hear any other name or nomenclature – But I heard him say that he offered this fisherman a job. Now he said that the fisherman used to sit on the doorsteps of his mother, that the Government is proposing to build a road somewhere in the Lands End area and that he offered this Bull a job on the same road. Now I would like the Prime Minister to indicate whether this job that was offered was offered that the hon. member's mother's home working at that home or on some private enterprise along the road, and if it was not offered there, I want to know since when Ministers have the constitutional authority to go about offering people jobs. That is what I want to know because I am under the impression..... it is good that we hear this constitutional position. I would like to hear the

constitutional position on this, whether Ministers have the authority to go about offering persons directly jobs because I thought there was a machinery and a mechanism for that. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Barrow didn't offer Glasgow one, and he offered you one, and he has another one for you?)

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member address the Chair.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, will you speak to those members over there? They are preventing me from speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will speak to hon. members from time to time, but despite this, it is the House that must make the final decision as the whether or not they want to hear an hon. member speak.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I know this House always wants to hear me speak and you also always want to hear me speak because you know I speak up for your interests in St. Peter. But I would be glad, Mr. Speaker, to make the serious point whether the Hon. Prime Minister, the member for St. Thomas could give us a little more information about this land Reclaimers Limited. I do not recall, and I may be wrong, any information coming to this Honourable Chamber about Land Reclaimers Limited. I confess I may be wrong on it and I stand corrected if I make a mistake in this regard, but I certainly do not recall this House being given any detailed information on Land Reclaimers Limited. I note from the matter that we are dealing with that it is a Company incorporated and registered in Barbados and according to the Addendum the shareholders are the Government of Barbados and the Barbados National Bank. I do not know how many shares there are, how the shares are divided between the Government of Barbados and the Barbados National Bank, who holds the shares for the Government of Barbados, what is the paid-up capital of this particular company, who are the directors of the company, who is the managing director and details of that sort, because it is to carry out some important functions according to the Addendum, the reclamation of land in and around Barbados, and maybe the Prime Minister could also give us some information as to where these lands are to be reclaimed or if there are any other sites identified for land reclamation apart from what the House has been given.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The question is, Mr. Speaker, that this Resolution has incited a good deal more attention perhaps than was anticipated. We had arguments about the desirability of warehousing. In this country one of the safest ways to put a statement into circulation is to deny it, and you put it into circulation more effectively by denying it, if it was never made in the first place then you could get it circulated any other way. There is nothing more certain of circulation than somebody,especially a politician, saying that the Prime Minister said so and so and it is not true. Never mind the Prime Minister did not say it, once it is denied it will go into wide general circulation, and it has become the subject of debate in the House. I am very pleased on this occasion that the interpretation of what I said about a warehousing application has received such general notice by hon. members.

To deal with the various points raised. The hon. member's question on Land Reclaimers, I think I can best refer him, as the Standing Orders of the House do, to the place where the information is properly recorded. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Standing Orders say that you shall not ask a question which seeks to get information readily and easily available from known sources. The hon. member may check the Articles of Association registered at the Registry in Bridgetown. I say this without any intention of being quarrelsome, but that is the place where you find out about companies. If he wishes to save himself the trouble, he can ask to see the file and look at the memorandum on the Articles of Association also, but I resent his suggestion, the implicit suggestion that there is something secret about this company or it is some kind of hidden company. I was of the impression that members of the previous Cabinet would be aware of it, since it has always been my impression, which I cannot confirm from the file, that the existence of Land Reclaimers Ltd. owes something to conditions imposed by the Inter-American Development Bank. I cannot confirm this, but this is merely an impression I have. Certainly, it is a company openly formed, openly registered and openly administered, and I said in my opening speech that its Chairman was the Director of Finance and Planning, and I mentioned who else were its Directors. It is a company primarily set up for the purpose of administering the reclaimed land at the Port, it will be possible for other parcels of land to be vested in it. I anticipate that this company – or its successor should it default, should it be found necessary to reshape its Articles of Association somewhat – would have the administration of other lands along the site of the Spring Garden Road.

I have perhaps to apologise to the House for anticipating when I spoke in terms of some of the developments which were mentioned. There is a warehouse scheme under proposal to be financed by the Barbados Development Bank, certainly not to be put on the land next to the Flour Mill but perhaps to be put nearby on lands which will be reclaimed by inland reclamation rather than by seaward reclamation. There is indeed another warehouse and rum bottling scheme over to the north which is also under consideration. One of

the major firms in Bridgetown which owns land in an inland site that is in the Government's view more suitable for improving housing in many parts of the hon. member for St. Michael South West's constituency and in the City, this land has been earmarked for warehouse development. We think really that as many people as live in the northern parts of the City and the southern parts of St. Michael South West will be better placed, and negotiations are currently underway to exchange a large parcel of land in the area of the harbour for a parcel of land in inner St. Michael to allow the Minister of Housing to carry through yet another of his major urban development schemes within the boundaries of inner St. Michael itself, and that is yet another warehouse scheme.

The warehouse scheme of which I spoke originally is one which will not be connected with an existing importing or exporting firm, a warehouse for the sake of a warehouse. There are in fact no fewer than three warehouse schemes in this harbour related development, but none so far as I know are intended to be on the actual reclaimed land which juts out into the sea. If I did not make myself clear at the start, I wish to make myself clear now.

Now we heard a good deal about fishing. We even heard the hon. member for St. Michael South indicate that there is bi-partisan agreement on both sides in favour of the expertise of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central on fisheries. Well, the hon. member could perhaps have said that there is bi-partisan agreement not only on both sides – presumably if it is on both sides it could be on all sides – that there is bi-partisan agreement on all sides that the record of fisheries development under the previous regime was perhaps one of the worst of all, with sins of omission. Indeed, it is arguable that nothing has been done for fishermen of any seriousness since the fishing fleet was motorised by the initiative of the Barbados Labour Party Government of 1951, and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central has indicated some of what we are now doing at present. It is all part of a general review of fisheries, a general review which will take into account the need for larger boats able to stay longer at sea, refrigerated facilities available at sea, conversion of the shrimp fleet whose economics have now proved to be disastrous into food fishing, perhaps also export fishing to assist the smaller islands of the Eastern Caribbean whose fishing fleets are not as developed as ours; all of this is in prospect, the fishing harbour at Oistins, the prospective fishing harbour at Speightstown, developments at Bathsheba, and also possible developments at Consett Bay; all of these are under consideration.

But the particular question raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South West points to Bridgetown. I will endorse what the hon. members for St. Joseph and Christ Church South Central have said about the demands that are sometimes made by the fishermen. Fishermen are said to be very conservative, but I know they are also very sensible. I notice that when the survey on daylight saving time went about fishermen were among those surveyed and not one single fisherman said he was against it, but that is only in passing. That particular example of commonsense is only in passing. They are sensible at some times, they like to see something before their eyes before they are sure of it. The hon. member can rest assured that the fishermen of Fontabelle, all the fishermen who use Bridgetown, including those who use Browns Beach, are going to be looked after. The Minister of Health is looking after the dogs to make sure that they do not bite them on their way to their boats in the early morning, and the Government is going to look after them because not last month, but last week the Planning and Priorities Committee has decided positively, it was only on Friday that the Planning and Priorities Committee finalised arrangements for the construction of a substantial fishing harbour at Bridgetown itself. We had two plans before us and we are very glad to say that the two consultants who had put up proposals will now apparently form a joint consortium to deal with the proposal which we can finance. It will be a substantial amount of money, certainly in excess of $10 million, perhaps $12 million.

1.35 p.m.

But what we are going to do is to produce another body of enclosed water nearly as large as the careenage to the north of the careenage. There will be reclamation starting from what is now the DaCosta Car park and we will reclaim upwards continuing the line to the careenage up to the north. The scheme may indeed go as far as the outfall of the drain where the ship ran aground in the recent bad weather. This project will be administered by the Port Department, and the Planning and Priorities Committee has agreed that we will build a small boat repair yard with adequate listing facilities, a dock, a marine railway for bringing ships out of the water and complete repair facilities. There will be an anchorage for all the fishing boats that wish to use Bridgetown and a direct delivery of fish to the Cheap Side market. The proposals also contain space for a marina; this would be to the north of the present careenage. Another breakwater would come out into Carlisle Bay so that the careenage will be blocked off to the north from the effects of the sea, and beyond that there will be a second fishing harbour. We have not yet decided on the disposition of the present vessels that use the careenage. For instance, some say that the Jolly Roger is going to the new harbour while others say it should stay where it is, but all these are details that will be determined in the course of planning.

At the back of all the buildings along Hincks Street there will be new and fairly substantial reclamation some of which would be tourist related facilities, restaurant facilities, a parade of shops and so on. The Barbados Development Bank has bought the block between Cowell Street and the Building I know as the Union Club, and will develop an office building there and provide a parade of shops for small artisans. The Chairman of the Bank has told me that he would like to make the shops available to small businessmen who have no serious hope of getting a retail outlet in the centre of Bridgetown. All of this is still on the drawing board and in the hands of the consultants, but I am hoping that within a year and certainly before the end of next year, construction will begin. So the hon. member can rest assured that the needs of all the fishermen will be looked after. The new fishing harbour will have as much room for anchoring as the outer basin of the careenage. Advice has always been against allowing fishing boats to use the careenage. I remember the hon. George Fergusson talking about how things are thrown over board that pollute the careenage. At the moment it is not a very clean place, and the careenage study which was commissioned by the Government has recommended that for two years the careenage be virtually unused so that it could have a chance to purify itself and a general clean up operation carried out; and usage after that would be very limited except by the Defence Force. The marine Defence Force Headquarters will be at the Pier Head which will be a security area and the installations necessary for the Defence Force will be put at the Pier Head. But in the meantime until the fishing harbour is built the present facilities available to fishermen for hoisting up their boats on the Pier Head and repairing them will be maintained; they will be allowed to go on using the Pier Head until the new fishing harbour is built.

Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence that this part of the face of Bridgetown will be really transformed by this Development. We have had to commercial development with the deep water harbour; we have industrial development at the Harbour Industrial Park and in the development now going on in Fontabelle. We now need a recreational development for the fishermen of the Island and I believe that a new fishing harbour will provide this. It will give a longer stretch because we will then have from the O'Neal Bridge to the Harbour Road a continuous closed body of water which can be used for the benefit of the people of the island. As I said, it is ten or twelve million dollars but I hope that the Government financial position will be in sufficiently good shape at that time to allow us to find that sum without having to set up a project for overseas aid.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is fond of saying that by 1981 the Government will be half million dollars in debt. I cannot say whether or not it will reach that figure but what I know is that by present projections by 1981–82 we will be spending close to half million dollars, if not half million dollars, for development purposes. The hon. member for St. Michael South West is saying we would spend it for that year. The computer projections for the moment are four hundred and fifty one million for that year and five hundred and four million for the following year; so we are exceeding the computer projection. What the hon. member means is that if by some unexpected chance they come to power it is possible that even in one year they could manage to run down the finances of the country to the extent that they would not be able to spend that sum of money; anything is possible when dealing with some hon. members of the other side. So the answer to the hon. member's question is that a substantial fishing harbour along with all the recreational facilities is going to be built at the back of Hincks Street going towards the Deep Water Harbour and fishermen will find more than adequate anchorage, delivery facilities and more income capacity in that area. And they will not have to wait very long for it either.

1.45 p.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 4 is the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT THE CENTRAL AGRONOMIC RESEARCH STATION AT GRAEME HALL, CHRIST CHURCH, TO THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, Sir, is not what I think may cause any opposition though when you are in Parliament it is always felt that what you do not consider to be a very serious matter invariably turns out to be a very problematic matter.

This Resolution is to approve the lease of land at the Central Agronomic Research Station at Graeme Hall. As I understand it, Sir, the Government has an Agreement with CARDI, I think that is what it is supposed to be known as, Sir, and the Ministry of Agriculture has given this Resolution its blessings. I cannot think of anything which I can add to a Resolution of this nature but to seek Parliamentary approval for this lease of land to the Central Agronomic Research Station at Graeme Hall.

If there is any information which hon. members on the other side would need, I would be in a position, I believe, to give them this information. It is primarily a matter for the Ministry of Agriculture and since the

Ministry of Housing and Lands who have requested through its performance to do this acquisition and the lease etc., known as the superior landlord, I happen to be either in the fortunate or unfortunate position of introducing this legislation, but it is a matter entirely for the Ministry of Agriculture.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I know that the annual rental of the parcel of land will be in the region of $10.00. I therefore presume, Mr. Speaker, that part of this exercise is the promotion of Research in Agriculture and hopefully for the benefit of Barbados.

The pattern of research whether it be in Medicine or whether it be in Agriculture has changed somewhat over the years and now many Funding Agencies are beginning to realise the need for the diversification of funds in the applied areas of research rather than in areas of pure research. I would wish to know, seeing that we are making substantial concessionary arrangements to a Research Institution in Barbados, which, of course, is developing whether inputs from the appropriate Ministry would be available as to the type of research from which the people of Barbados can benefit maximally.

I refer, Mr. Speaker, to research in the area of Agro-Industrial Development because I believe that it is being increasingly recognised that in this area of industrialisation perhaps lies the greatest benefits in terms of Industrial Development in Barbados in the long term when one compares all the factors relating to Agro-Industrial Development in terms of availability and the utility of raw materials etc., and other patterns of Industrial Development.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether there will be any other input in relation to the training of the staff from the Research Institution and inputs into the sectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and into the community so that such training can benefit the community as a whole. Also, Mr. Chairman, whether or not there will be special emphasis in the context of Barbados by such an Institution to see the extent to which we can maximise benefits which can arise out of the much talked about diversification of our Agricultural exercise in this country.

There are other areas which I would like to refer to but I do not think it is necessary because I simply wanted to make the point by drawing these three particular areas to the attention of this Honourable House, whether or not the pattern of research would be one which would give maximum benefits to Barbados and whether in making concessions of this kind, whether Government would be in a position to in any way influence the pattern of research that goes on in Institutions of this nature.

I say this, Mr. Speaker, with some knowledge of what is obtained, not only in respect, as I said earlier, of health, medicine, agriculture and other areas in respect of Third World Countries where much time, much effort, and many concessions have been made over the past 25 years in the pure forms of research where they cannot compete with the more developed countries and yet they have continued to indulge resources in all sorts of abstruse areas rather than concentrating on the applied forms of research and maximising the information which they can readily obtain from the more extensive and much purer forms of research.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the hon. member who just sat down, since 1974 Barbados has been a signatory to CARDI. He is completely ignorant of all that is going on. He does not know what he is talking about.

I beg to move that you do now put the question, Sir.

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

1.55 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 2 o'clock. This sitting now stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised there are no Replies ready to Questions. We will go on to Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1 stands in the name of the hon. member for Christ Church East whom I do not now see in his place.

Item No. 2 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Lucy whom I do not now observe in his place.

That brings us to the end of Private Members' Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND AT FONTABELLE, ST. MICHAEL, TO MANNING, WILKINSON AND CHALLENOR LIMITED

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease of land at Fontabelle, St. Michael to Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor Limited.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to approve the lease of land at Fontabelle, St. Michael. It is 1,931 square metres, and there is a copy of the plan of the lands at Prescod Boulevard if hon. members are interested in seeing this. The lease is for a period of at least five years in the first instance and to be reviewed thereafter. All the Government however is attempting to do is to allow a number of persons who own lands on the Fontabelle Road that adjoin Prescod Boulevard to be able to have these lands at a more generous figure for the purpose of putting down car parks or establishing small warehouses or things of that nature.

I do not think there is much more that I can say on this. The lease is for a period of five years in the first instance to be reviewed every five years. It is a simple lease.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I really actually want to speak on this Resolution. I am not replying on behalf of the Government or anything. Mr. Speaker, it arises out of what the hon. member who is introducing it has said. The Government is really very anxious that that entire stretch of property from what may be called the Oran site where the IDC is to build its headquarters right up to the new roundabout be brought into a state of harmonious development with the rest of the harbour-related development. At the moment it has stayed pretty well fallow after being reclaimed from the sea back in 1959 and 1960. There is a drain and that creates some difficulties to development, and the remaining land, that is, the land between the Cluster Block and this land that we are leasing to Mannings is a bit too narrow with the drain to consider building any serious structure on, and to some extent it is still an eyesore, and the Government is very anxious that the owners of the land at Fontabelle take the opportunity of extending through it and getting a frontage on Prescod Boulevard. The drain is a relatively simple thing to bridge by a footpath or even I believe in some cases a vehicular path. It will only take a slab of concrete, and it seems to me sometimes that when people deal with the Government and the Government wants to give a benefit that people begin to get suspicious.

The Government will consider favourably any application from any Fontabelle owner to push his land through to Prescod Boulevard, that is, the ones who are to the North of the Cluster Block: the Nation Newspaper; there is a property owned by Niblock; there is a property owned by Hill; there is Homex Construction; the Ministry of Civil Aviation which is now occupying Herbert House. We actually want the fences demolished and the frontage run right through in the interest of using the land for whatever purpose it can be used for and also in the interest of a proper development. We do not want to go on now 20 years of having a lot of open ground with the weeds gradually growing up out of the coral stone and sand that was dropped there. Generally there cannot be a major entrance on Prescod Boulevard. So far the Town Planners do not like that, but we are perfectly happy for complete occupation of the land in the back. I daresay that the Town Planner can even be asked to revise his attitude. Prescod Boulevard is a wide road and there is some possibility of entry if necessary by a service road up from where Mr. N. E. Wilson is.....We have to call people's names now; we are not being critical of them; we are just identifying the property..... if necessary from by Mr. N. E. Wilson's property. We are anxious to have the place developed and we have no use for it except to attach it to the Fontabelle owners. The area at the back again of Mr. N. E. Wilson and the next property to the south the Government is negotiating and is willing to concede on generous terms to a commercial organisation that wishes to have a Fontabelle to Prescod Boulevard development. The Town Planner in fact has already allowed entry from an existing road to that property; similarly the Wilson property; but we do not any longer want to see the bush, the rat nests, the old machinery, the old boats, the old cars. We do not want to see them there. We want to see the new three-storied factory set in properly landscaped grounds; we want the Ministry of Tourism to have a nice property there extending to the North of what it has built already. We want the service industry to set up a nice place, and the Government is anxious, I mean I would have to repeat myself, to obtain cooperation of the adjacent owners in this matter. There is no catch. The land is there. We are not giving it away. A nominal rent will obviously be required, but we are sure that economic use can be made of some of the reclaimed land in this district, and I hope that all the owners will hear this announcement by the Minister responsible for lands, that the Government wishes to see the development and will respond accordingly.

2.55 p.m

I am sure the hon. member for St. Michael South West will be glad to see the approach to his constituency beautified and made more attractive.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, just a few observations here. I am a bit puzzled about what is going on in this Government, because I try to follow from week to week the approaches on these matters but it seems as though there is some disarray somewhere. Last week we heard about something creeping into legislation and now this week in the Schedule I read that no new access on to Prescod Boulevard should be allowed the company. The Minister introduced the legislation, then the Prime Minister got up – and I am not really quarrelling with the sentiments that he has expressed, because he is obviously in disagreement with this particular provision that is in the Schedule –

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of explanation. I am not in the slightest disagreement with the restriction of access to the Manning site. The Manning site is next to a roundabout, you cannot have new access on Prescod Boulevard there, it has abundant access on Fontabelle and the whole of Fontabelle will be widened, but if the hon. member had listened he would have heard that I said that at the other end the Town Planner has allowed an access along the existing pathway from Prescod Boulevard to one of the proposed commercial sites, and it may be that there are other areas where access from Prescod Boulevard may not hamper the traffic flow and so on. It may very well be – obviously the little entrance to the Advocate nobody believes that that interferes with the traffic, and that is access from Prescod Boulevard, the rear entrance to the Advocate. Maybe the property to the north could also use that access, and for all I know the property to the north of that could too – but obviously the consideration that applies at the new roundabout which will be finished in a month or two at Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor cannot apply lower down. The hon. member can see with his own eyes that there is access from Prescod Boulevard to some of the properties.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am grateful to the Prime Minister for that particular explanation, but one could not help thinking that there was some criticism of the Town Planner in terms of access on to that particular road there. Be that as it may, I am not really quarrelling with the sentiments expressed by the .....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order. I would like to assure the hon. member that there is no criticism from this side of the Chief Town Planner of Barbados or the Town Planning Department. Apart from that we have defended him when he had to be defended and you all have crucified him. There is absolutely no kind of criticism of the Chief Town Planner or his Department from over here.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am grateful for that clarification. This strip of land we are talking about.... *(Asides)*... I know something about it as well, because at one stage it was suggested.....(Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You park out there at night). That is for one minute people. I know, Mr. Speaker, because it was suggested at one stage that possibly the polytechnic could have been located there in some long sheds stretching from the cluster block back up to Manning, or below Herbert House, but I did not accept that particular proposal as being the most desirable for education or industrial development in this country. It was a suggestion and I know it does present a problem and I can quite understand why the Prime Minister has spoken in the way that he did, but I hope that there can be some rationalisation in approaches on these particular matters.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, my contribution will be relatively short. I just wish to join in any sentiment which is expressed which suggests that we are going to be beautifying that entire area that runs along Prescod Boulevard right up to the Marketing Corporation. It is not often known, and one does not go around trying to claim kudos for these things, but the area immediately aback or in front of what is now the handicraft emporium used to be almost like a wilderness, and I sent instructions in writing to the IDC to transform that area into what it is now. I say that to make this point. I feel that the unused area in the industrial park on the other side can do with a cleaning up, and I believe that on the same side where this land is, on the landward side, where we are now giving this strip, that the Government ought to insist that all the owners along that area take steps to beautify the area in keeping with the two areas up by Pelican Village which are now beautiful areas for anyone. It blesses my heart when I drive from the Marketing Corporation going towards the roundabout, you leave the areas up there which are beautiful. No one can doubt that Trevor's Way and all these areas provide some psychological uplift for all who pass there, and when you turn the corner now by the industrial park the cluster block is new and I think has been developed along the lines that we all anticipated, but when you leave the cluster block that area down there requires development along the same lines, and I would like to see the Government insist in granting this lease that the lessees take steps to ensure that the area is developed in keeping with the environment. If it is possible they could include this as part of the lease.

I think it would be desirable, because there are a number of private owners in Barbados who can and who will not take steps to assist in the beautification of Barbados. We have a piece of land – I say we because it is owned by the people of Barbados – on the southern side of Oran which is an eyesore compared with the other part of the area, and I believe that there must be another

way of disposal of some of the waste which comes out of that factory. I know the IDC has some responsibility for it and it used to be the subject of discussions because I feel and I am sure the present Minister feels the same way that we must take steps to change that part or indeed the whole of Barbados, but especially that part which is the first sight seen by Barbadian and visitor alike as they approach the land of Barbados, and I hope as I said if it is possible to get into this lease, and perhaps prepare a model lease that where the Government is making land available to private persons at pepper corn rent or reasonable rent, that we insist that part of the terms and conditions of the lease be that they take steps to do the kinds of things which Government has been doing with areas such as the industrial park area and Trevor's Way.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I agree. This strip of land has caused a considerable amount of headache not only to this Government but to the previous Government. If you go through the files you will see that this is a piece of land that nobody wanted to claim ownership of for a long period of time.
3.05 p.m.

As a matter of fact there was some doubt about where the boundary of the Government started and where the boundary of the other land owners started. That was settled, as far as I understand it, by a survey plan around 1972. Then the Government had the problem of whom to give it to. The Town Planning Department had their idea, and in the end the IDC disclaimed any interest in the whole of the land. On the small piece that they use they have built a Cluster Block; the rest of the area is too small and narrow and the Town Planner said he did not want other than two entrances in the area of the Cluster Block. When we took over from Motor Services part of their building – as hon. members will recall Motor Services was built partly on Government land and partly on their own land. To consolidate the whole area we took over half of Motor Services. Where the Tartan Metal Company was we have that back in now. The survey line is clear and the Civil Aviation and Tourist Offices will go in that direction. So we are left with two little pieces; I understand Chefette is interested in moving their restaurant because the present location is too small and they have bought the front land; but the front land is too small and they have put in an application so that they can consolidate the two. But there will be no question of access on that side, as I understand it, other than for pedestrians. It is a very inconvenient piece of land and the Government has taken the decision – we do not want to see it overgrown with bush and we have offered it to the owners of the land fronting Fontabelle, on certain conditions. One is that there must be an access road so that the people working around the road who want to go over to Goddards do not have to walk all the way over to Motor Services and then walk back down. So we hope to get an access way either next to the Nation or the Advocate, and the Town Planner is kind of sympathetic to the kind of development he will allow; but the frontage of the development, as far as I understand it, is to be on the Fontabelle road as far as the Town Planner is concerned. So that we had hoped this is a plan now – Manning,Wilkinson and Challenor were the first to take up the offer – I believe there are others who are interested and letters have been written to each and every owner offering Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor who are engaged in building these prebuilt houses and my understanding is that they don't want to use that site for show houses so that people would be able to walk in and look at the houses and have that as an area for ready built houses.

On the other side of the road now that the Port Authority building has been put up there it has enhanced the area. Landscaping has been started and there will be a lot of greenery there. Next to that there are two applications for the old Barbados Feeds building – there is one application for fibre glass boats which will be near the Harbour and on the other side there is another entrance road next to the Harbour, which road was built when extending the Harbour. Another factory wants to import things in bulk. The other area of land we have been begging the IDC to landscape it and they have started to do so. The problem is that they do not regard this as a proper charge on their budget to do this all the time. There are landlords who have a piece of land and only want to use it for industries which need direct access to the Harbour. It is a difficult area of land to use because you do not want to put an industry there that does not need the Harbour, but Government has taken a decision to grant rent on reasonable terms to everybody on the other side of the road. We would like also to see it properly cleaned up and landscaped.

With respect to the other area by Pelican Village, I love that area. I see that the hon. member for St. Michael South West doesn't have as many complaints as before because I am sure there are from his constituency. I see many budding Wes Halls and Sobers – they have a perfect concrete pitch and I see them playing cricket in cricket season, football in football season, I see the Parks and Beaches manicuring the area, it is coming very nicely, they have spent a lot of money; lower down they are building up the car park and extending palm trees; and on the other side they have the greenery and they are making more greenery right down. The little enclave between the restaurant and Tropical Battery a master plan has shown that you can put some more Pelican Village type huts there, so that greenery was put in there for greenery when there was no greenery on the other side. Now that we have greenery on the other side, the best use of that would be to put a courtyard with greenery in the centre and

about ten more of those Pelican Village things. IDC's building will be down at the corner by Oran to hideout the back of Oran so to speak. We are putting a design centre where IDC was and where Fantasy Garments and others were they are to go out for a warehouse for small businessmen which is before this House now. It was signed by the Prime Minister on the 18th October, so we have a master plan for the whole development area and this is just the beginning of it because we all would like to see it as an area in which Barbadians can be proud and which people when they come here they can look at it and say this is a country in which people live who have some values and who understand the importance of the environment. I am sure in ten years time when that area by the seaside is fully landscaped it will be a prize to everybody in Barbados, particularly when those palms go right up in the air in a couple of years' time.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I think, Sir, quite a number of things have been said by the Minister of Finance and the Deputy Prime Minister in relation to this matter and I would like to make one point clear. I am particularly concerned about the number of letters which went out from the Ministry to the business houses along the Prescod Boulevard calling on them to landscape their grounds to enhance the area. But there has been no response and I wonder at times how some of them feel when they look at the Port Authority building with its well-landscaped grounds. I can only make a plea on the floor of this House to let them feel it is coming from the highest office of the land asking them to do something to enhance the surroundings in which they operate their businesses.

I can also tell this House that I am having talks with the Bowen Car Museum and they are willing to go anywhere. In his house he has a picture of the late Sir Grantley Adams and yours truly. I don't know if it is because I sold him an old car for $100 and he sold the gear box for $200.
3.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that concludes Government Business for today. I beg to move, Sir, that this Sitting be now adjourned until Tuesday, 20th November, at 12.00 noon.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the Meeting until Tuesday, 20th November, at 12.00 noon.
3.18 p.m.