
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th September, 1980.

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); 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, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister) (Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry), (Leader of the House); Mr. L. L. SISNETT; Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc. (Econ.); and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

Mr. SANDIFORD, Dr. CADDLE, Rt. Hon. J. M.G.M. ADAMS, Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW and Mr. TAITT entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 29th July, 1980.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes have been circulated and subject to any observations as to errors by hon. members, I beg to move that they be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by hon. members, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

Hon. L. R. TULL and Mr. BRADSHAW entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 5th August, 1980.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes have been circulated and subject to any observations by any hon. member, I beg to move that they be now confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by hon. members, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received copies of the Accounts and Statements for the months of May and June, 1980 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 7) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 8) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 9) Order, 1980.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Report on the Registration Office and the Supreme Court Registry for the year 1979.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of lands at Tudor Street and Sobers Lane for the provision of a Youth Centre.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to amend the Customs Act.

A Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1980.

A Bill to repeal the Revenue Equalisation Fund Act.

A Bill to amend the Hotels and Restaurants (Sales Tax) Act.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to amend the Housing Act.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to make provision for the registration of births, deaths, stillbirths, adoptions, marriages, divorces and changes of name occurring in Barbados and for matters connected therewith.

A Bill to make new provisions for the resealing in Barbados of probates and letters of administration and instruments having similar effect granted outside Barbados and for related matters.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to provide for the establishment of a Drug Service for Barbados.

A Bill to provide for the care and treatment of persons of unsound mind and for related matters.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Report of the Select Committee on the Bribery and Corruption Bill.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, a Bill to amend the Customs Act was read a first time.

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1980, was read a first time.

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, a Bill to repeal the Revenue Equalisation Fund Act, was read a first time.
12.30 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Hotels and Restaurants (Sales Tax) Act be now read a first time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: 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 a Bill to amend the Housing Act be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to make provision for the registration of births, deaths, stillbirths, adoptions, marriages, divorces and changes of name occurring in Barbados and for matters connected therewith be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker I beg to move that a Bill to make new provisions for the resealing in Barbados of probates and letters of administration and instruments having similar effect granted outside Barbados and for related matters be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Drug Service for Barbados be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the care and treatment of persons of unsound mind and for related matters be now read a first time.

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

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

MOTIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for St. Michael South Central, with your permission I seek approval for one month's leave of absence.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is seeking leave for one month's leave for the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. If there is no objection, leave is granted.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 51 and 53 asked by the hon. member for St. Philip South are now ready.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 55 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South is ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, there is an Item relating to the External Loan Act that was circulated. My Order Paper does not have a number ascribed to it, but I beg to move that this be the first Order of the Day.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I must ask a request of you Sir, and this Hon. House. Regrettably, a Notice which should have been given did not arrive here in time and I understand that that is due to the fact that there are certain difficulties in communicating between Bay Street and this Place due to the works that are being done in the road there and I would ask that we recommit the Item Government Notices before we commence Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking the leave of this House that we recommit Item (g) of the Order of Business, Government Notices, to afford an opportunity to give notice of a Resolution relating to today's business.
12.40 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we on this side, are not objecting to the..... (*Asides*). We are not objecting to accommodating the Government, on this occasion, but the reason for the lateness of the Notice does sound a bit thin. This question of not being able to communicate between Bay Street and this Place.

I myself passed down on a section of Bay Street this morning, I know that we have to detour up Beckles Road, but I got here as you were walking in and about to say prayers. I do not see what that has to do with a Notice arriving at this Hon. House on time.

I believe that the Hon. Leader of the Hon. House should be in a position to give us a better reason why that Notice is late, but as I said, we are not objecting to doing the particular Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, leave is granted.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$532,074 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980-81, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supple-

mentary Estimates 1980-81, No. 5 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to provide an explanatory note for Head 73, Subhead 8, Item I; and to grant the sum of \$263,618 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980-81, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980-81, No. 6 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the Instant Order of the day.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Resolution of which notice was given whilst the Hon. House was on vacation is a relatively simple one Sir, although it has occupied a page and a half of foolscap. Very shortly Sir, the Government is making arrangements to sell Debentures to the public of Trinidad and Tobago Sir, in the sum of US\$20 million which works out to TT\$48 million. It will be a single issue Sir, but we will seek to draw it in instalments. It will be used to finance projects approved in the Government Development Programme in the current year and for other Capital Expenditure which may, in due course, be approved by Parliament. The Debentures are issuable Sir, for ten years and we are raising also a sinking fund to pay for them. The interest rate is 8.5% payable half yearly and from Trinidad's point of view Sir, the loan will be managed by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The debt profile of Colonial countries has always been a difficult one. When Hon. Members — indeed I can only speak of the Hon. Member for St. John — were in Opposition, many years ago, they pointed out how Colonial countries were required to invest money overseas and therefore found themselves financing the activities of other Governments in distant places. I think that the Hon. Member for St. John used to complain about lending money to Newfoundland and Southern Rhodesia, when we needed it for development here in Barbados. Well, knowledge, wisdom and experience bring different views and when I succeeded to the office of Hon. Minister of Finance, I discovered that although the United States was not lending money to Barbados, that Barbados was lending money to the United States and that is still our situation today, Sir.

We hold American Treasury Bills, we hold American dollar bonds, we, of course, have lent money abroad to St. Vincent, Dominica, to Jamaica and to the Central Bank of Venezuela. We have borrowed money from the Orion Bank Sir and I see now that the Central Bank has lent money, four and a half million U.S. dollars worth to the Orion Bank. All of this is involved in the management

of the Foreign Reserves and I have come to the conclusion Sir, that around the Caribbean, we should take up each other's washing a little more, at least those of us who have washing to take in and that the Foreign Reserves of Barbados might with advantage, if the Trinidadians agree, be better held in part, in Trinidad, than in some of the investments which we have made abroad.

I have every trust in the Trinidad dollar, Sir, if it is going to go in any direction, it would be up, and we might be putting ourselves in a little exchange risk in this regard. I do not believe that we will be entering into a shaky arrangement, if we seek to extend our financial relationships with this particular one of our CARICOM brethren.

It is also in my mind Sir, that not only should we offer long term investments such as this one in Barbados to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, but we could usefully think of inviting the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago to hold some of the Treasury Bills, as well as, Debentures. There is really no reason, except custom, for Central Banks in Third World countries which have Foreign Reserves to invest, to insist in investing them in United States Treasury Bills, or in United Kingdom Treasury Bills. We hold some of those too, Sir and we hold a large number of Canadian Treasury Bills. There really is no reason why only the Treasury Bills of developed countries should be held as part of the Foreign Reserves and I am hoping, in due course, to persuade the Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank, no formal approach has yet been made Sir, of this particular view.

It may very well mean paying a little more interest and of course, it will mean that the element of Foreign Debt in the General Debt profile increases. On the other hand, it will also mean that some element of the National Debt is being held sympathetically and on a Foreign Exchange basis.

I am sure that Hon. Members will wish to know what the position with our Foreign Reserves and our debt including Overseas Debt is, before they commit themselves to support of this Loan. Despite the very great pressures on our economy from overseas Sir, we are keeping our heads above water where the question of Foreign Reserves is concerned.

12.50 p.m.

The foreign reserve position in Government yesterday afternoon was that we have \$142 million in total reserves. This compares quite favourably on paper, Sir, with the September position last year, but I think the average September position last year was \$143 million. Although, Mr. Speaker, the pressures of imports are very tremendous this year and the true reserve position while it is almost identical with the position of a year ago, must therefore be held to have weakened.

Imports are up over 30% this year. Most of that has been taken up with imports of immediate goods which are going to be re-exported but the size of the figure indicates that levels of economic prosperity which became clear in Barbados last year and have continued into this year have meant that private consumption is expanding and finding its way into the Import Bill. There is little doubt, Sir, that the settlement with the public workers which can be expected one way or the other within a very few days will put between, and I do not want to give an exact figure, Sir, between \$40 million and \$50 million into the hands of public officers next month. (*Asides*). One way or the other I hear repeated from the back benches.

The Government's offer to some public servants such as trained Teachers, the combination of re-grading plus the actual offer which has already been made amounts to more than 50% of existing salaries with a year's back pay and at these levels it is clear that there will be a good deal of money next month available for private consumption expenditure. It is only to be expected that this will very rapidly find its way into the foreign reserves and that in the absence of some cushioning the foreign reserves will necessarily decline during the year.

However I am satisfied that our debt profile is by no means so unfavourable that it cannot afford an increase in the foreign debt. The latest estimated figures which I have from the Central Bank are that Domestic debt amounts to \$313.9 million and the foreign debt \$114.7 million. The Debt Service Ratio which is what we have to pay to service foreign debt in interest and in debt repayment remains one of the lowest among the developing countries, still well below 5% and has received the approval of the International Monetary Fund and of overseas Lending Agencies as being well within Barbados's ability to pay and I therefore consider that some increase in foreign debt liabilities, especially, Sir, a fixed rate increase by way of interest of only 8.5% when we are paying a lot of our foreign debt. We have been paying as high as 20% and are paying 13% to 16% in various overseas debts at the present time. I consider that this will improve the profile of our foreign debt very considerably and still be very well within the limits tacitly approved by International Agencies.

The debt according to the Central Bank has in fact been declining slightly in the past few weeks. Again, I do not think that any hon. member expects that it will decline when the Government's over draft has been called into play to pay several months back pay to civil servants which may amount to between \$20 million and \$30 million. Again, I cannot be exact. I therefore can recommend this matter to the House and I should perhaps give an explanation to the House why we have had

to hasten it on to the extent of giving notice during the vacation and doing it right away as we return to Parliament.

It is necessary to advertise according to the procedures laid down in the Loan Bill, Sir, and we must get it through Parliament as soon as possible in order to allow the advertisements to be published in Trinidad. I think it is intended to publish the first advertisement this week so we must hustle and have this Resolution dealt with at this stage.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that hon. members will support the Resolution. It will provide a valuable cushion to the inevitable reserve climb that would have attended the combination of foreign pressure and the domestic pressure during the remainder of this year. We are going through perilous times in the Third World, Mr. Speaker. Any recession in North America or in Europe causes very intense ripples abroad.

From Barbados's point of view we are in fact facing more adverse conditions overseas now than we were facing in 1973 to 1974. The cost of oil imports into Barbados has increased by more this year than the entire oil bill for 1974. It has gone up 50% this year, the cost of bringing oil into Barbados. Inflation in the United States is running higher than it was in 1974. Inflation in Great Britain is running at twice the rate than it was in 1974 and today's price on the pound is higher than it was in 1974 as well, \$4.91 today, the first time it has gone over \$4.80 so far as I know since Barbados had a currency and all of these difficulties are resting on the shoulders of the Ministries responsible for conducting the financial affairs of Barbados.

1.00 p.m.

In addition, the increase in the number of tourists, for there continues to be an increase, is not as abundant and buoyant as it has been in the past. It is between 5% and 6% in the year so far. We had hoped for 40,000 tourists last month; I doubt that the number will reach 39,000, and I imagine that the increase will be to the order of only 4% to 5%. Indications are that tourist spending is increasing much more than the rate of tourist arrivals, but nonetheless we are still facing difficult problems. We are fortified in what we have done to deal with these problems by the fact that more than half the people of Barbados in a recently conducted poll say that things have got better for them in the last five years — the only time I believe that any poll in Barbados has ever produced any figure other than for capital punishment in which more than half the people say that they believe something or are in favour of something — and we also have a good deal of outside opinion on the question of management of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I can hardly expect the hon. member for St. Michael South West to say publicly that the economy is not being badly managed and that is the best thing Tom has going for him. I would like to thank him for his remarks to that effect made in private and also the hon. member for St. John for making such remarks on more than one occasion in private. If I tell the hon. member to whom he made the remarks, I do not believe that he will any longer resort to the premises on which they were made.

But we have the benefit of outside opinion, and hon. members in connection with this matter of foreign debt and local debt will, I think, be very heartened to hear that after many months of pressure on the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development known as the World Bank, those institutions are moving towards a system of what is known as programme lending. They will be called structural adjustment loans, but they will not have any conditions attached to them, programme lending where Governments which are managing their finances in a prudent and proper way and more importantly are succeeding with such prudent and proper management will be given financial support by way of these loans without any conditions and not in association with any IMF programme. The World Bank itself is planning to make these programme loans available not to Governments which are in a bad way but to Government which are in a good way to keep the Government in that good way.

Hon. members cannot fail to be impressed on whichever side of the House they sit to know that Barbados is the first country with which the World Bank had opened negotiations for such a loan, a programme loan to support the general development policies of the Government not linked to any particular project and not subject to any conditions to be laid down by the International Monetary Fund or granted in connection with any IMF programme. The first such loan for which we are negotiating and will be quite unique in Barbados if the loans are granted, the pilot scheme will be a loan for \$US12 million to be paid to the Government for support of its general development programmes and we are already earmarking programmes in agriculture, in rural infrastructure, the tenantry roads all over the country to go with the tenantry scheme which will be debated in the House later today, as well as the integrated rural development programme, and these funds, it is planned, will be disbursed over a period of two and a half years starting in the near future if this loan is successful.

I take the programme as a credit to Barbados although not necessarily to the Government of the day. We will come in for some praise, Sir, but I would not like to take all. It is a reflection of the fact that despite

the noisings, the ill-informed, the malicious comments of those who seek to drag down not the Government as a Party, but seek to drag down public life in Barbados, despite that, I take the current negotiations as a tribute to the spirit of all Barbadians and a recognition of the fact that we knew how to elect a Government to run the country properly in 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend this loan to the House. The Government has a great number of programmes which will benefit from the funds. The funds will of course be paid to the Central Bank which will place the equivalent amount in the Public Treasury and hold the rest as part of its foreign reserves. The Government's particular development programmes are set out in the Development Plan, but hon. members will, I think, want to know that supplementary votes will soon be coming to the House in respect of road building programmes, in respect of development for CARIFESTA next year. This is turning out, the Minister of Education tells me, to be a good deal more of an expensive business than the Ministry's first plans indicated and towards the developments which are now coming on stream in Barbados.

I think, Sir, that despite the recessions abroad, despite the enormous increase in the cost of oil in Barbados, despite the short fall in the hoped for number of tourists, that the Government of Barbados will keep its head as far above water in 1980 as it did in 1979. We know, Sir, that opinion at home and abroad has come to understand that we are not a Government of wastrels or a Government that seeks to provide for its friends at the public's expense or a Government that does not have the courage to take decisions that are needed to keep the country moving. Barbados is moving and we intend to keep it moving, and this Resolution for this loan is one of the means by which we will keep moving during the remainder of this financial year.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

1.10 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND TO HOMEX CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution for the lease of land at Prescod Boulevard was postponed at our last sitting on the rather sound advice and the experience which I was also able to draw on from the Leader of the Opposition, Sir....

Mr. SPEAKER: From the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: It would have been from the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: All members in here are honourable, but for the records, the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He sounded a note of warning, Mr. Speaker, that we should be very careful in dealing with the lease of the land at Prescod Boulevard because we may be giving away, as I understand it, a little more than the person was entitled to. I sought the advice of the Chief Surveyor who informed me that all of these were in order and that the only one which was a bit questionable was that of a Mr. Fergusson of which Mr. W. K. Fergusson was asked to submit the plans and up to this very day, from the time they were dealing with this they asked Mr. W. K. Fergusson to submit a plan and Mr. Fergusson is unable to submit a plan.

Apart from that, the Chief Surveyor has advised that they have all the plans and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the land of Mr. W. K. Fergusson mentioned in this Resolution and therefore I will advise the hon. member that we should not proceed with any questionable acquisitions in view of what he has stated. I should only like to say that there is no member of this House with those initials, if the hon. member is trying to make some slur on a past Minister of the former Government. There was never any member of this House with the initials W. K. Fergusson.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member is referring to an Attorney-at-Law.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know who he is referring to, but he is not entitled to refer to that person unless it is the subject matter of the Resolution. Quite apart from that, Sir, the point I made is that when one is alienating, whether it is by lease or whether it is by sale of Government land, it is customary to bring in an overall plan of the area and a plan or plans of the land which is being alienated or sequestered or whatever term or terminology one may choose to employ. We have not been given any such plan either on the occasion on which this matter was discussed before or on this occasion.

I have no personal interest in the matter either as an attorney or any proprietary interest whatsoever, otherwise I would not be taking part in this debate, but as a taxpayer of Barbados I certainly have an interest to see

that the people of Barbados do not have their lands sequestered or alienated without due process of law.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am sure that the Rt. Hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, is aware of the fact that I am not making any reference or any slur about any member of Parliament or former member of Parliament. He drew to the attention of this House that people in that area some years ago as the sea went back, to use his own words, they moved back their palings. I am quoting him, and he also said that we should try and get the 1961 plans because he knows of some of the problems which they had down there. What I am saying here is that the Chief Surveyor has advised me that all the plans for that area were well checked out, and we have them here, and the only one in that whole Fontabelle area that they had any problems with was a man by the name of Mr. W. K. Fergusson, so I do not understand what former member of Government he is referring to. What I will do is, I will let him see the plans here, and if he has an interest in down there that is the least of my unhappiness, that is of no importance to me, I will have an interest in him very soon, a couple of Sunday nights from now.

I am prepared to let the hon. members on the other side see what plans we have, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT PRESCOD BOULEVARD TO THE NATION LIMITED

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution takes a similar slant. It is for the whole of Prescod Boulevard and this one is to the Nation Limited, Sir. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ODLE: I beg to second that.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I have a suspicion that at some point in the past either the Minister or the Government indicated that the reason they were leasing this land to the various property owners on that stretch was to cause them — the land holders went into some agreement — to beautify the area. I wonder if my recollection of that is correct. If it is correct, may I ask the Minister if he would insist that the persons on that side of Prescod Boulevard, and to a lesser extent the IDC on the other side, take steps to remove some of the eyesore which is very slowly taking root in the area. If in fact I am wrong and that was not the intention, I still would offer the suggestion that those land holders — because there are a lot of Resolutions and I do not intend to say the same thing on each — those land holders who

are now getting lease of this land ought to have gone into a firm commitment, indeed a contract, to keep the area in a particular state.

I know that the Minister responsible for the environment would have as much interest or should have as much interest in beautifying that area, but in recent times as one turns the corner to come on that part of Prescod Boulevard where this land is located, one is noticing a very jungle-like appearance on both sides of the road and I hope that steps will be taken to see this removed as soon as possible.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I was saying in the course of the discussion of the previous Resolution that the Government Surveyor should check the plans of the adjoining land owners which existed prior to 1961, and I know what I am speaking about. Anyone who lived in the Fontabelle area would know what I am speaking about, Sir. It is a matter of public and general knowledge. I lived at a place called Land's End at one time, it was a Cul-de-Sac, it is now a road which is going through to Spring Garden.

The plans which the hon. member for St. James showed me are plans which have been drawn up by the Lands and Surveys Department in 1977, accepting the existing boundaries as they are. There is no prescriptive right between 1961 and 1977, and I had enjoined, I had advised the hon. member who is trying to be facetious about it now that they should go back and check the boundaries before that time and they will find that a considerable amount of land which is now taken for granted to be the property of the adjoining land owners is in truth and in fact Government land. I cannot say any more than that, and he now comes in here with a lot of hearsay evidence and tells me that the Chief Surveyor who probably was not even in Barbados in those days has assured him that he has checked them and all I see here are existing boundary lines in 1977. I cannot say any more because it appears I am wasting my time. That is all I can do.

1.20 p.m.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this area of land situated on Prescod Boulevard has been the subject of a considerable amount of Government time for the last almost twenty years.

I believe that the files will disclose that there were profound disagreements between Cabinet and the Town Planner as to the proper use to which this land should be put. I think that it was finally decided that because of its narrowness, because of the need to ensure that the flow of traffic along one of the widest roads in Barbados was not unnecessarily impeded by the granting of a number of excesses on to this land and exit from this land, that the best way of dealing with this land was to offer it to

the land owners on Fontabelle Road whose rear plots abut and abounded and that is all that we are trying to do.

The question of particular identity of particular areas of land was in dispute at a period of time. It was in dispute at the beginning. There were disputes with, as far as my memory goes, Tartan Metal Company, there were disputes with Mr. N. E. Wilson, there were disputes running right down. The problem now, is that the disputes phase into the background because of the fact that the owners whose potential land is being taken away are being offered the opportunity to lease the piece of land immediately aback of their boundaries, so therefore, no problems have arisen in that respect and that is the most equitable solution that we could have.

I think that a very valid point has been raised by the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West because I raised it before previously. I was appalled at what I saw at the back of the buildings before the Lease was even agreed to, before we came to the Resolution. I saw one person attempting to use it as a dump already and I protested very vigorously because it is not the intention of Government to allow this to be used as a dump by anybody fronting on Fontabelle. The intention of it is that they will use it, have it properly landscaped and make it a part of a whole area with the access from the front and no access on that road, otherwise it would defeat the purpose of having built that wide road and I am positive that the Covenants within the Lease, when once it is approved, the details will have in the Clauses dealing with that point.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I would like to assure the Hon. Member Sir, for St. Michael South West that I am as concerned about the environment as maybe, he is. There is nothing, I think, that I can enjoy more than riding out in the country and looking at the rolling green hills, or looking at somebody's beautiful lawns. This has been demonstrated by me even in the present housing areas owned by Government. I have been trying myself to do everything possible to get all the garbage removed, to have the lawns clipped, encourage people to grow a beautiful hedge and garden. In recent times, I have set out to build patios on to the present housing stock and put a wall fence behind them, so that they would be in a position to have nice little gardens around them. All of these things I have done and only yesterday, I signed a letter after calling Oran Limited, Mico, the Bico people, I got Parks and Beaches to call them, as a matter of fact, to ask them to do something with their lawns and the gardens which they have around them. There was no real response and if they did respond at any time, they are cleaned up now and tomorrow nothing is done about it.

Only yesterday, I signed a letter to all of them in that area asking them to control their lawns, do whatever

debushing there is to be done and to make around them look tidy and keep Barbados as beautiful as they can. As far as, the area on the other side is concerned, it is for the extension of the Nation building to put up a warehouse, Homex, extension of these areas. It is not for the purpose of cleaning it up or anything like that. There is a need for this extension and therefore, they have been asking for this all along and Government has set about to do this. I hope that it has answered your question.

As far as, the Chief Surveyor, whether he was in Barbados or not, I do not know if he is in Barbados, I do not know if he was born in Barbados. I know that he is the Chief Surveyor of Barbados, that is all I am concerned with.

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

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

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

Order Number Three was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the lease of land at Prescod Boulevard, Fontabelle, Saint Michael, to H. B. Niblock Company Limited.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: This is a Resolution for H. B. Niblock Sir and it is for the purpose of providing an extension to the area for the proposed operations of their business, Sir.

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

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

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

Order Number Four was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Cheapside, St. Michael, for road improvement.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this Resolution also is for another acquisition of another piece of land at Cheapside for the purpose of road improvement. I think that you will recognise the fact Sir, that Government is doing everything in its power to make sure that pedestrian and vehicular traffic have proper access roads and they are doing everything in their power to widen roads and with the big trucks which you have on the road now, the Government is forced to come to the Hon. House for these acquisitions.

I must sound a note however, Sir, I am particularly concerned about the loss of the nylon roads, I think that that is what they are referred to, that they have deteriorated. But, I have discovered that the reason why they have deteriorated over the past three years in particular, is because of the expansion of the economy. You cannot drive along the road, or walk along the road, unless you see eight or nine trucks coming up with sand, marl fill, boulders. The Government cannot get a chance to repair the highways, they are too busy.

In 1970 and 1971, there was a complete stagnation, therefore, you had enough time to patch roads and put nylon on them, but we are breaking them up now with heavy duty trucks, too much work. You cannot get a truck driver. I would challenge any Hon. Member of the other Side of the Hon. House now. They cannot get a heavy duty truck driver in Barbados, you cannot even get a bus driver, or truck driver now. It is easier to get somebody to fly a plane now, than to drive a truck. Every young man who gets a chance is buying a truck for \$40,000.00, \$50,000.00 or \$60,000.00 and down the sand banks, coming from down under the hills, coming up. The houses are being built, the factories are going up, Oistin Town is going up, to me, it looks like a jungle with the boulders up there, you cannot see the sea. This is expansion. This is the economic barometer to success. Any time there is construction in a country, that is the economic barometer.

I am very concerned. Only this morning on my way to the Hon. House, I had to ask a supervisor of M.C.W. if he could do anything with some big holes, like wells, in Halls Road. The holes are big. It is your Sewerage, as you say, we are carrying out your plans..... 1.30 p.m.

We are carrying out what you conceived but could not implement. That is what we are doing. I would have been able to build at least 10,000 houses in this country only if you had a Polytechnic where you had trained artisans. You cannot get a carpenter. We have carpenters doing the rehabilitation programme now out of Hurricane Allen and all of the projects belonging to Government are at a stand still because you cannot find a carpenter so we are now paying all the 16 year olds as they come out of school, begging them and sending them to learn a trade, something that you failed to do. You put them on the road at the age of 14 and up to age 16 they still cannot find work. That is why you have the frustration of the young people today. You caused it. We have rectified it, have no fear about that.

The Polytechnic that you wanted to put on Delamere Land, swampy land, the river coming down, you suggested that and the experts advised you that you would be putting more money into the ground than you

would be putting at the top. Look up there. It is your project, you said, but you could not get it off the ground. The idea was there but not the money, there was no money. You were putting the money in the wrong direction. That was your problem but we have been able now to finish your project according to you.

As a matter of fact, you said that you found the National Insurance — you remember that word?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, and what has that to do with road improvement?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir. When I am talking about road improvement it includes the building of houses, pathways and everything so do not, Mr. Speaker, with great respect.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not mind the respect. Just address the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, with great respect, Sir. All the roads in Boscobel have just been closed. All the big trucks, C. O. Williams, Rayside and all of those projects. Now, how are we going to start Highway 1 with all of those big works, Sir, and Heywoods Project. You said it was your idea again. You cannot get it off the ground. We have got it off the ground. We have started it and we have all the projects in train. That is what I mean by a good Government that is why we have been recognised internationally by the Washington Post, the World Bank, the Jamaica Gleaner, The Miami Herald, and all of those, Sir. (ASIDES). I admire you as a graceful old man. In spite of all of these problems we have had with the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition and all the lunatics in the alley, all of these problems we have had but we have still survived, that is why you cannot stop this Party.

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

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

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

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 26/1979
FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY
AT CHEAPSIDE, ST. MICHAEL**

Order No. 5 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to amend Resolution No. 26/1979 for the acquisition of property at Cheapside, St. Michael.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, again this is another acquisition. I believe you are amazed at the amount of work

that we can get out of the Crown Solicitor's Office. You are amazed. You should be tired of acquisitions, the subdivision of lands out of the Town Planning Department coming sometimes nearly every two weeks and today you do not hear anybody pointing at the Town Planning Office saying that I have money and who is the man. All of these things have been moved. The Civil servants will have confidence in them.

Of course, there would be no success of this for this Government without the civil servants and you and the Union have all arranged, Horatio Cooke and that crowd with all of them and we know your plans, and as the Prime Minister has said to them it will be between \$40 million and \$50 million. This is a lot of money in any language. You call those people multi, multi-millionaires when you get the Government paying out \$50 million.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this part of the acquisition?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, this is part of it. Let me tell you why this is part of it. When they get their back pay they will be able to go down Cheapside and shout in peace. The road is going up there, Sir, and that is why this is part of the Resolution. They do not have to go to the buyers and buy bad meat.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OF THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PAR-
CELS OF LAND DESCRIBED IN THE
SCHEDULES FOR ROAD
IMPROVEMENT**

Item No. 6 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Cheapside/Fontabelle, St. Michael, for road improvement.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this is another acquisition for road improvement along Cheapside/Fontabelle. You probably realise that there is a lot of diversion along Bridgetown now. There is one at Halls' Road. There is one at Cheapside and all of these are works we have to do. It is only for road improvement so that we will be able to have things going. They should have been going long before. There is nothing which I can add to this Sir.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

THE BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY ACT, 1980

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 14 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health and National Insurance, to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Barbados Water Authority.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Bill before the House entitled the Barbados Water Authority Act is in fact a Bill designed to provide for the creation of an autonomous authority to administer at one and the same time both the water and sewerage systems for Barbados. We have been careful in the selection of a name for this Bill and for this Authority. The term Water and Sewage Authority has very unhappy connotations in the Caribbean and because we do our business, we like to think, so well in Barbados, we have decided that the Barbados Water Authority would be an Authority which would administer all matters to do with water in Barbados, and perhaps, this is an opportunity to instruct hon. members of this House, members of the public and members of the press on the meaning of sewage.

A sewage system has to do with waterborne systems of waste disposal in the City of Bridgetown and the immediate environs of the City of Bridgetown.

Now Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the Cabinet has decided that the Water Authority for Barbados will be administered by the Ministry of Communications and Works. The sewage project itself is being executed at the moment as everybody knows by the Ministry of Health and National Insurance, and it is for this reason that this Bill is being piloted through this Honourable House by myself rather than by the Minister of Communications and Works, but the Ministry of Communications and Works will eventually administer the Barbados Water Authority as it now administers the Barbados Waterworks Department.

The Bill, as hon. members will see, caters as other Statutory Boards have been catered to, for the establishment and the constitution and functions of the Authority, for the administration by a Board of Directors; it identifies and defines certain water and sewage works, speaks to the finances of the Water Authority accounts, various other miscellaneous matters and it deals most importantly with certain transitional provisions as rights and certain privileges and functions, and powers and remedies are vested in the Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to take the opportunity to report to this Honourable Chamber on the

current status of what is known as the Bridgetown Sewage Project. I think everyone knows by this time that the sewage project is being funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Barbados Government. The project is divided into three sub-projects. The first project is the treatment plant which is under construction at Lakes Folly and is being constructed by the Canadian firm of Fitzpatrick. This is known as contract No. 1, the treatment plant. The current status of construction is, Mr. Speaker, that some 65% of the treatment plant has been completed at about April of this year. The offices where the people who administer the treatment complex will work are expected to be completed at the end of November in this year, and we hope, barring any act of God or any other possibility of delay that the plant itself should be ready for commissioning in January of 1981.

Now connected with the treatment plant is a pump station which is situated at River Road. The position is today, Mr. Speaker, that we have met certain untoward conditions at River Road. I think most members will observe that there is a cessation of work at that station site. We have taken advice from the consultant engineers who are paid to advise the Government and from the firm of Fitzpatrick that the site at River Road which will house the pump station turned out to be quite unsuitable. Sub-soil conditions show us that, for instance, at the northern end of that site we would have to pile to an extent of some 76 feet. Now everybody knows that you are working on the embankment of the Constitution River and that you are dealing mostly in peat, and that you are of necessity at one point or another going to meet difficult sub-soil conditions.

We have had a situation in the past, Mr. Speaker, in Barbados at a site known as Warrens where the last Government attempted to construct a crematorium and everybody knows what happened there; the entire cost of the crematorium went into the ground. It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, it is not the intention of this Government that that kind of exercise should occur again, and I am advised and I am advising the Government that we should abandon that site at River Road and move to a site next door to it where soil borings and testings have shown that conditions are far more suitable, and that is what will happen. This of course is going to cost us some time and some money at the pump station site at River Road. It will not however, Mr. Speaker, cost any time over-run on the entire project.

In respect of contract No. 2 which many people may not know about, this is the ocean out-fall line which is going to take the treated sewage some thousand feet out into the ocean. That contract has long been completed. We were a little fearful that Hurricane Allen might have done some damage to it. In

fact when I saw the motor vessel *Current Trader* at a certain location the day after the hurricane, I instructed immediately that we should send divers down as soon as it was possible to do so to make quite certain that no damage had been done to the outfall line which had been completed since last year. I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that in fact preliminary underwater inspections have shown that no damage, no fracture has occurred on the pipeline.

Now the third contract which is the one which will perhaps be of the greatest importance to hon. members and the public is the contract being worked by Sintra Incorporated, a French Canadian firm of contractors whose contract is to lay the sanitary sewers in Bridgetown. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that this contract No. 3 is going fairly well within its time frame. At this time my information is that this work is some 29% complete, and possibly by this time, five minutes to two today 30% complete. Some 32% of the sewers have in fact been laid and this has all been done within, I am told, 34% of the contract time.
1.50 p.m.

I think indications generally show, Mr. Speaker, that we are a third of the way along in this matter of the laying of sewers. I am advised that the completion date looks like early September 1981.

Now a great deal more, Mr. Speaker, has to be said about this business of the laying of sewers. It is a lengthy business, it is being undertaken in the heart of Bridgetown where everybody comes from time to time. It is being undertaken through the dry season, through the rainy season, through the slack season, through the busy season, through the tourist season, through the crop season. It is not going to be an easy time for us, the Government has gone to great trouble and also to some expense to employ the services of public relations consultants who will help us in the matter of designing public relations and information programmes which will make it as easy as possible for Barbadians to cope with this business of diversions, relocations and the general irritations which the project will bring. There is absolutely no way, Mr. Speaker, of escaping from the fact that certain irritant factors are built in to the business of sewerage Bridgetown. There was a significant dust factor especially when we were working at Halls Road and at River Road, and to some extent at Fairchild Street, Mr. Speaker. Some of that had to do with the quality of material supplied by local suppliers. I myself made an appeal to those local suppliers and I think it is fair to say that a tremendous improvement has been seen at subsequent locations where the contractors are sewerage, and we will go to great trouble when necessary to minimise this kind of dust factor.

We have had a tragic and unfortunate accident during the course of the laying of sewers. This matter is now *sub judice* and it would be quite improper of me to discuss it in any particular to do with the cause or any consequences of that accident, not at this time anyhow, and I do not propose to do so. What I do propose to do is to give hon. members the assurance that great care has been taken to tighten security measures, precautionary measures so that this kind of occurrence will not happen again. From time to time the laying of sewers — and this I am sure people must be reading in the media because we have to say we will expect ruptures and dislocations in the utilities — gas works are going to be disrupted, electricity works are going to be disrupted, the telephone service is going to be disrupted from time to time. We have so set up our systems that there is a committee where all the utilities are represented and wherever the digging and excavating of sewers go on in the heart of Bridgetown men or representatives from the various utilities are made to be on hand in the case of this kind of disruption, so that we hope that the kind of irritation, because there is no other word that I can think of to use, Sir, which the public will of necessity experience from time to time will be repaired at the soonest opportunity.

We had an occurrence last week, or I think it was the week before, when we ruptured a telephone line, the main telephone line, the largest telephone cable in Barbados on Bay Street, and we moved within 72 hours, and in fact it turned out to be well within 72 hours, to put that situation to right. The public I believe is cooperating and I am grateful for this cooperation, Sir. People are taking what are known as diversionary tactics, they are taking the advisories which we post in the Press and on the other media, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the public for its cooperation and to ask that this cooperation will not be short-lived and that we will continue to have it. Some tempers will fray, I know that. Only yesterday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, a man was seen to get out of his car at the Jemmotts Lane junction and do violence to a diversion sign, and offered to do violence to a very brave young lady, an employee of Sintra Incorporated, who was doing traffic duty at the sign. I should like to think, Mr. Speaker, that that is something out of the ordinary and that generally speaking Barbadians are taken in their stride the fact that this is part of the price which we pay for progress.

Now, I wish to say something, Mr. Speaker, about the condition of the roads in Bridgetown.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it that the Hon. Minister is likely to complete her address in 10 minutes' time?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is highly unlikely, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, we now have to take a break.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 2 o'clock and this sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today. 2.00 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now question time. Question Number 51 asked by the Hon. Member for St. Philip South, whom I do not now observe in his place. Let replies be laid.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question Number 51 asked by the Hon. Member for St. Philip South.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Number 53 asked by the said Hon. Member, whom I do not now observe in his place.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question Number 53 asked by the Hon. Member for St. Philip South, who is not now present.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Number 55 asked by the Hon. Member for St. Michael South, the said Hon. Member, I do not now observe in his place.

Question Number 55 asked by the Hon. Member for St. Michael South. The Hon. Leader of the Hon. House let the reply be laid to question Number 55.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question Number 55.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now time for Private Members' Business. There is one Item on Private Members' Business standing in the name of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central. I do not observe the said Hon. Member in his place.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the Instant Order of the day.

When the suspension was taken, the Hon. Minister of Health was addressing the Chair. The said Hon. Minister may continue to do so now, if it is her desire.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I had just begun on the matter of road surfaces in Bridgetown. I believe that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works will want, at some point in this debate, to say something in respect of road surfaces, as they relate to his Ministry, but it is very important for the Ministry of Health, which is executing this project, the Sewerage Project to make a statement on road surfaces.

The most important thing which I would want Hon. Members and the public Mr. Speaker, Sir, to understand, if they do not remember anything else that I have said today, is that the road surfaces which we now see in Bridgetown, consequent upon excavation of roads to lay sewers, are only temporary. I do not want anybody Mr. Speaker, Sir, to get the impression that the resurfacing which they see for instance, at Martindales Road, at Halls Road and in particular, at River Road and Fairchild Street is meant to be permanent. We are talking about temporary re-instatement. It is necessary for a period of time to pass, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for settlement to occur, for certain subsidence to occur and for the Consultant Engineers to satisfy themselves that compaction of the correct order has been carried out.

We are now in a period where subsidence and road settlement is occurring, some better than others. I am instructed, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that at River Road in particular, sub-surface soil conditions will make it perhaps the most difficult road of all to reinstate and that is not surprising when we bear in mind that we are dealing with the River embankment.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to assure Hon. Members that permanent re-instatement of Halls Road, River Road, Fairchild Street and Martindales Road will be carried out before Christmas of this year, but people must not go away with the impression that the re-instatement which they see today, has anything permanent about it. It is part of the contract that Sintra should re-instate that portion of the road which it excavates, in order to lay sewers. So, that point, Mr. Speaker, cannot be overstressed that the roads which we see now, the recovering that we see now and the surfacing which we see now, where sewers have already been laid is of a temporary time and that permanent paving will occur at a later date and certainly those four major arteries into central Bridgetown will be permanently resurfaced before Christmas of this year, Halls Road, River Road, Fairchild Street and Martindales Road.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a word or two about the contractors. Ex-patriot contractors work in developing countries all over the world. In

particular, in the Caribbean, in Latin America and in Africa, works of this kind, sewerage projects and other capital building projects are undertaken. We have heard strange stories of projects unfinished, projects half finished, projects not begun at all, projects improperly supervised. It is very important that we keep a very close eye on these two main contractors working in the city of Bridgetown. I cannot assume that they will not try to cut corners, I cannot assume that they will always offer me the best advice. You cannot make these assumptions nowadays, Mr. Speaker. But, in Barbados, we like to think that we have a reputation for doing a good job. The Government of Barbados believes that it has a good reputation in this region for doing a good job. The Ministry of Health, in particular, likes to think that it has a reputation in all of its capital projects for doing a good job and it is very important that not only the Ministry's supervisor, but every citizen of Barbados should make it his and her business to help us to monitor the works which are going down in the Sewerage Project.

It is a massive project, we are talking about close on \$40 million, Mr. Speaker, Sir and contractors — and I am saying this for the benefit of the contractors — they must not think that Barbadians do not understand the nature of the works which are going on. We are accustomed to road works, we know what compaction means, we understand about back filling of trenches and just as last Saturday afternoon and on other afternoons, I make it my business to go and visit trenches myself, I expect Barbadians to look into the trenches, to see for themselves and to make known to the Ministry of Health, if necessary, where they see for themselves works are inadequate. You do not have to be an expert or an engineer, to be able to judge the difference between throwing loose material into a trench and leaving it to settle on its own accord and throwing material into a trench and having it properly compacted with a machine specially designed for that purpose.

It is very important that we keep very close watch on these works, the sewerage of the streets is, like I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, going to cut across the tourist season. When we get to streets like Broad Street and Swan Street, I am informed that we would do as much of it by night work, as possible. But again, we have to remember that sometimes at a foot, that we are going to meet water and that trenches are going to have to be de-watered. It is important that we so as much as we can, to make life easy, not only for Barbadians, but for tourists who come here in the tourist season.

In the crop season, when it comes next year, again, we are going to be in the central areas of Bridgetown where life is going to be a little more difficult and we are just going to have to learn to cope with it and to live with it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I might venture a word or two more.

3.05 p.m.

I think everyone knows at this stage the reasons why it was urgent and necessary to sewer the City of Bridgetown. The Government has concluded that it is now urgent and very necessary to sewer not only the City of Bridgetown but the South Coast of Barbados in particular and the West Coast. The South Coast, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is a very densely populated coastal strip where it has an extremely high density of accommodation. For those who know about these things the water table along that particular strip of the South Coast is high, and the odious conditions which exist and which every day people can smell and see.

At Rockley, for instance, when the tide is high, people who bathe at Accra Beach can see for themselves raw sewage as being very systematic of this strip. We have reached saturation point and it is very necessary that we sewer the South Coast.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have extensive rural density at Oistins and the Government has approached the Inter-American Development Bank in the matter of a feasibility study for the sewerage of the South Coast, certainly just beyond Oistins taking in the new town of Oistins coming right down to the South Coast to meet the Bridgetown Sewerage Project at or about the Esplanade.

We have also applied for two extensions to this present one which was originally designed to terminate at Deacons Land. We have applied for an extension to take this Bridgetown Project up to the Esplanade so that we can take in from Government Headquarters and the Geriatric Hospital in particular because that has been responsible over many years for serious out-flowings of raw sewage just off the Esplanade, for pollution of the bathing areas and the beaches along Brown's Beach and beyond points south of Brown's Beach.

We have also applied for an extension of this Project which will take a line from a point on the street to the new housing complex at St. Cecelia in Passage Road. This is a sizeable multi-unit complex. Again we are in a fairly high water table area and it is felt that we should take the opportunity now to take in the St. Cecelia housing into the Bridgetown Sewerage Project. It was not intended in the original plan that this should be so but we have deemed it so and we have applied and received permission for that addition which would take in all of those shops and business places along Passage Road.

It is also important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for people to understand very clearly at this point that the Sewerage Project and the sewers of Bridgetown will not take in storm water. There is belief that some of the open gutters in Bridgetown which are already drains are going to be connected into the Sewerage Project and I am warning people of this at the earliest opportunity. We do not want to hear it said at a later date that people thought this and that. The Sewage System is designed to take sewage and not storm water or ordinary drain water and this is a point which has got to be made clear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at this stage of the debate there is just a little more I would like to say of the Water Authority itself. This Authority, as I have said, is going to be an autonomous Authority. It is going to have very important powers and one of those powers would be the power to fix water rates in this country. I think everyone knows but it needs repeating that part of the price which Barbadians are expected to pay for the sewerage of Bridgetown is that though water rates will go up and that in fact to some extent all of us will make some contribution to the sewerage of Bridgetown.

The contributions will be equitable in that the business houses who are directly connected to the sewage system and who in fact have direct benefit from that will of course pay rates and charges which are commensurate with the services which they get but this is all part of the implications for water rates generally. It is part of the Agreement signed by the previous Government with the Inter-American Development Bank that this would be the way for the Authority to finance itself. Certain tariff studies have been done, road structures have been studied and designed and all of this will fall within the purview of the Water Authority Board.

Apart from these matters, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Water Authority Board will behave in a similar fashion to other Statutory Boards such as the Port Authority, the Transport Board and so on and so forth. I do not think that at this reading I can usefully add much more of a general nature but will be prepared to answer clause by clause at that stage.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to second this Bill but since the Authority has been established fully within the Ministry of Communications and Works I think it is imperative that I make certain statements at this time.

3.15 p.m.

We in the Ministry recognise that the Authority must be in place by January, 1981 as was called for by the terms of the agreement which was signed at the time when the loan was made. The Authority must be fully operational by January, 8. In order to meet the deadline

as set by the lenders, we have set up what we call an Advisory Committee with the establishment of the Water Authority Board, and we have pointed out to them that they have several important tasks to perform not only at this particular stage, but it is envisaged that the members of the Advisory Committee will form the members of the Board when it comes of age. I have attempted to set up a Board, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which will be representative of all the interests that are demanded by this new Authority. I have drawn from the area of commerce, from the area of law, accounts, agriculture and I plan in the very near future to appoint a very senior and experienced worker of the present Water Works Department to the Board of the Water Authority.

The Authority will have a very difficult and trying task during the first period of its life. The Authority will come into some criticism because by the agreement they will be forced to maintain rates which are commensurate with self-sufficiency, and it is absolutely nothing that this present Government can do since those were the same terms of the agreement for the loan. They also will have the task of integrating members of the present Water Works Department into the Sewage Authority because the new Authority will take over the existing functions of many boards that are operating today, for example, the Water Works Department, the Water Board, the Irrigation Authority, etc. which will now all be mixed in this Authority. This is why I have sought to bring people of agriculture on to the Board because when the rural development scheme comes into operation you will find that the development of water resources and research into water will also fall under the Water Authority.

Barbadians have been accustomed for a very long time to a reasonable supply of water. There have been less outages in water supply in Barbados than there have been probably with other commodities or in other territories, but when Barbadians find that they will have to pay a bit more for water, they will demand a higher standard of efficiency than they have been accustomed to. It is quite natural that if you pay more for a commodity you want a far better service. The Water Authority will have to look at all this. There is the question of billing. At the minute the Water Works Department is moving to computerisation of its total accounts. Part has been computerised already, but we have the greater part begun. This is why, as I said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Advisory Committee has been brought into place at this time so that by the time the changeover comes in January, 1981, I am hopeful that most of the administrative work will be settled so that you have a very smooth changeover.

We are proposing a system in respect of staff similar to that of the Port Authority whereby we will guarantee certain rights to workers in the Waterworks Department if they should move to the Water Authority and vice versa.

I now move to the question of roads. Last year during the rainy season and early this year when we had excavations at Halls Road the Ministry received numerous calls from motorists, people living in the area and pedestrians about the state of the road in the area when the excavation was taking place. They complained about the system of recovering the tracks etc. The Minister responsible for Health under whose portfolio the actual contract for sewerage falls has explained herself efficiently. I want it to be made absolutely clear that the Ministry of Communications and Works is responsible for roads, but we are not responsible at this stage for roads which have been disrupted by the sewerage of Bridgetown. We have a coordinating Committee. There have been comments about the length of time it took to complete the road at the Halls Road Roundabout. Based on the Sewage Authority Plan Halls Road will be dug up in 1981. Because of the coordinating committee the Ministry of Communications and Works was able to point out to the contractors that we could not relay or complete the new road surface at Halls Road in June, July and August to have it disrupted in January the following year. We brought our work to a certain position and we waited until the contractors were able to lay the necessary pipes in that section before we completed our work. A similar thing has happened at the Roundabout next to the Port Authority. I understand the larger mains or largest mains will be in that vicinity and similarly at the Lakes Folly junction. These are the areas where the large mains will connect to the treatment plant in Lakes Folly. The Ministry of Communications and Works has therefore had to reduce its activities in these areas so that we can have the excavations done before the top surface can be placed on these roads.

From our plans we intend to use barbergreen for the major work in Bridgetown at this time. We have found that the cost for the barbergreen and the traditional method of surfacing the road is practically equal, but we cannot just do more at this time until the sewage work has been completed. The Minister spoke about settlement in the areas. The Ministry is involved in the construction of parts of the Spring Garden Road. We are trying to complete our roads in the shortest possible time giving the best surface available and using the type of materials that are available to us today. With this in mind the Ministry acquired a vibrator roller which would expedite its road works. Unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have found that because of the structure of the sub-soil in and around Bridgetown and the St. Michael area, we have been prevented from using that vibrator roller with its maximum capacity.

3.25 p.m.

We have attempted it on the Land's End/Spring Garden junction and we had several complaints from the residents in that area. We have attempted it on the Fontabelle Road, much to our detriment. The houses

in Barbados were constructed at a time, in my view when we had cart tracks for roads, which were completed by donkey carts, mule carts and the like, we are on a peat foundation and therefore the vibration carries. We have decided that we must leave these roads open for vehicular compaction if we are to save the damage to houses on the sides of the existing roadways. I want the public to be aware of this, it is not that we are negligent.

The Ministry will shortly be tackling the remainder of the Fontabelle Road. St. Mary's wall will be coming down, the road will be widened from its junction with the Lower Green to the new connection by Manning Wilkinson and Challenor. We have to co-ordinate the work, the Co-ordinating Committee, as I said, which comprises members from the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Ministry of Health and the contractors, are working together so that we have one disruption of a particular road.

Complaints have been received about the length of time in the filling areas. As I said, here again, it is only in recent years that charts are available for the utility services that are lying underneath our roads. When we came to the junction at President Kennedy Drive, this Government found itself having to face a bill of well over \$30,000 to move one fuel line from the Esso Plant which goes to a pumping facility at the Wharf. We had the same problem at Halls Road, we had the same problem along the lower Fontabelle Road next to Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor. There are numerous utility wires underground and we have to tread carefully if we do not want to disrupt services in the area and if we want to save costs in our operations. I believe that we are doing very well as things go on.

As I said, our job at the Ministry of Communications and Works really begins when the sewerage contract has come to an end, and I am sure that the public of Barbados will be very grateful to us. At the end of this exercise we would have improved the standard of health, or in other words, we would have probably avoided any disruption in our present health standards, and at this point I would like to thank the members of the Advisory Committee who are giving of their time freely, without charge, in trying to put together an operation which will make for smooth changeover from the Waterworks Department into the Water Authority when it comes of age in the latter part of this year. I also want to express my thanks to the public of Barbados. I have been checking the newspapers daily and I cannot say that I have seen any letters appearing which would indicate that the travelling public is really annoyed with the way things are done. I must compliment the Minister of Health and her officers and Committee, I believe they have taken the right course at this time to use the public media to inform the general population of Barbados of the areas which are impassable, and disruptions, etc. At least for once we

have seen good public relations being put into practice in what would have been a difficult situation for Barbadians. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will begin by saying that no one on this side, and certainly members of the Democratic Labour Party, is opposed to the establishment of the Water Authority, or indeed the subsequent Authority which will combine the water and sewerage works of this country. As the Hon. Minister of Health has rightly pointed out, and indeed the Minister of Communications and Works in seconding this Bill, they have pointed out that this was part and parcel of an overall agreement which the Democratic Labour Party entered into to provide this country with a sewerage scheme.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge when this matter was first aired, indeed one would have got the impression in the mid-1976 period when I recall distinctly when this matter was aired in the House and the manner in which it was aired, one would have got the impression that the Democratic Labour Party was subjecting this country to one of the worst evils that could ever have been inflicted on a society. It is good, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to hear the present Government, which was then in Opposition, indicating the virtues of a decision which was made by the Democratic Labour Party to establish the sewerage system, and of course the subsequent combining of the water systems, the operation of the two systems, the water and sewerage systems in this country, so that I do not think that there is any particular reason for prolonging the argument or discussion on this particular matter, because as I said, these have been aired over and over again.

In looking through the debates of the last Session, I was looking at part of the speech which was made by the then Minister of Health, the present member for St. Michael South, on page 7185, when he set out very clearly the benefits which would be derived to this country, and particularly to persons who live in Bridgetown and who have business in Bridgetown and the environs of Bridgetown, the benefits which would have accrued to those persons with the establishment of a sewerage system for Barbados. So that we have reached the point now where we are seeing those works being put into operation, and as I say, we do not have any quarrel with the general idea because it is one which was put up by us.

3.35 p.m.

What I want to comment on, Mr. Deputy Speaker relates to some issues which have been raised by the two Hon. Ministers who have spoken so far, on this Bill. I was particularly heartened Mr. Deputy Speaker, to hear the Hon. Minister of Health make the point about the careful attention which has to be paid to expatriate contractors and drawing attention to the fact that sometimes

expatriate contractors get the idea that they can come in to developing countries, can perform all sorts of sloppy work and that we are not accustomed to any kind of standards and that whatever they do, that this is acceptable. I think that she should be definitely encouraged in keeping a very close look at the kind of work, the quality of work which is done on the construction of the Sewerage Scheme and on the general putting back, fixing of the roads which have been disrupted, during the time that the scheme is being put down and on this Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would want to ask one question, a question which has occurred to me and which I have heard a number of other people asking relating to employment of certain persons in the Sewerage Scheme.

Now, we see that in the excavation and in the general refilling that there are persons, obviously expatriates, who are working on the Scheme, doing jobs which could easily be done by Barbadians, operating the equipment which is used in the Sewerage Scheme. I am submitting that it is nothing new to a whole range of operators who are at present in Barbados. I would want to find out what is the reason for this. If this is part of the contract also. In truth and in fact, why have we reached a point where persons, expatriates are employed on a job and doing the kind of job which could be done by Barbadians. Furthermore, it has been drawn to my attention, I have no way of verifying this, but I am told that the wage rate which these persons are paid, that these rates are high above what would be paid to Barbadians doing a similar kind of operation. One hears of rates in the tune, I think of, I am told, some in the region of \$15.00 CANADIAN, or something like that an hour, in addition to other facilities which are extended to them. I would want to find out something about this and I think that the Hon. Minister owes it, as a responsibility to the public, to allay whatever fears the public might have on this particular matter.

The Hon. Minister of Health referred to the problems which have been encountered in the general River Road area. I happen to work in that area many days and I observed that there is a problem in that particular area. She did indicate, that it was, as I recall, due to the nearness of the river and what have you there which might probably be seeping in and causing some particular problem there. But, I wonder if there is a reason, other than this, for the collapse of the works which we have heard have taken place from time to time and whether it is not due to a fault in the quality of work which is done by the contractors because it is of some concern to us members of the public who see that a particular job which has been completed has got to be gone back over and we would want therefore, to question what is the reason for this. I think that the Hon. Minister owes it to the Hon. House to give us some greater explanation on this particular matter.

I am glad also to hear the Hon. Minister indicate that the matter relating to the accident which claimed the life of one of the workers of the Sewerage Plant is now *sub judice*. I am assuming that she is referring to an inquest which would have to take place on this particular matter. But, I would want to go further and find out from the Hon. Minister whether or not, the Hon. Minister of Labour has ordered an investigation into the causes of this accident as given to him under the Occupational Accidents and Diseases Notification Act and whether or not, the Hon. Minister of Labour has ordered an investigation into this because that Act provides for the Hon. Minister, where he is satisfied that some accident has taken place and where he is satisfied that there is some occupational disease present in a particular work place, or in a particular working environment, that he could order an investigation to take place and I would want to find out whether or not, something has been done in this particular area.

I quite understand that the Hon. Minister would not want to go into any long and lengthy discussion on the nature and the cause of the accident but certainly, we would want to get some general idea about what is being done, other than just to say that there are security measures to ensure that kind of thing will not happen again. We would want something more concrete than that. So that, I would want to know whether or not, that particular point is being looked at.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you are no doubt aware, the Barbados Workers' Union represents a number of workers at the Waterworks Department who work on the outside, laying pipe tracks and doing the kind of plumbing which is involved in the Waterworks situation and we are becoming a little worried about the method which is being employed in the establishment of this Authority. I am of the view that in Barbados, and indeed, in any country where a Trade Union is established and recognised as the bargaining body for workers at that particular work place, that when we have a situation where decisions are going to be made which affect the employment of workers, that there must be some meaningful consultation and I am further of the view, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that in Barbados, we should be moving towards the whole concept of workers' participation.

Now, let me just say that I heard the Hon. Minister making the point that he proposes in the Board, to appoint a very senior and experienced worker at the Waterworks, as a member of the Board. Now, this, in my view, if it is not done in consultation with the Barbados Workers' Union is an attempt to get around this concept, the normal accepted concept of worker participation and certainly, what I recall from the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party is that they would be seeking to give effect to the concept of workers' participation and would, in collaboration and in consultation of the

Workers' Organisations, seek to have this whole concept of workers' participation come into being.
3.45 p.m.

The member for Christ Church West always glories in the fact that he wrote that Section of the Manifesto and so I do not have to remind him now because he knows what that contains so that we see now that if the Minister says if I am interpreting him in what he said, that there will be a direct appointment, I would like to suggest, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if we are going to be in a situation where the Workers' Organization has got to be involved in dealing with working conditions and generally speaking, the working environment and wages and salaries, that then the proper approach should be to make an appointment in the usual manner after consultation with and on the recommendation of the person that is suggested by the Workers' Organization and this is the position which I would want to put to the Minister on that particular matter.

There is no doubt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the workers at the Waterworks Department are very concerned about what seems to be afoot for them. They do not know precisely what is going to be happening to them in terms of their working conditions and in terms of their employment.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would want to substantiate this particular concern by reading from a letter which I am prepared to make a document of the House, which was written by the Barbados Workers' Union to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Works, The Pine, St. Michael, on the 11th June, 1980 and this stems from the concerns which were expressed and are still being expressed by the workers at the Waterworks Department about their position. It reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

RE: WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

The Executive Council of the Barbados Workers' Union has instructed me to write you regarding the matter of the establishment of the Water Authority. The Union understands that such a plan is being considered for Barbados and that the legislation and regulations are in draft form to bring into being this Statutory Board.

The Union regrets, however, that it has not seen the Regulations referred to. The Barbados Workers' Union represents the workers at the Waterworks Department of the Ministry of Communications and Works. The Union therefore feels that it should be invited to make some contribution to the terms and conditions which will govern its members in their new contract of service.

The Barbados Workers' Union is requesting that it be brought into meaningful participation at an early hour and that its role will not be designed in the exercise as one of defending attempts to erode the rights of its members."

As far as I am aware I went back to the office and checked the file and no reply has been received to that communication so that we have a situation where we are now discussing the setting up of a Water Authority. We have heard the Minister indicating about what he is doing and what he is not doing but we have not heard him mentioned anything about the consultation which I am submitting and which I am sure any reasonable person would expect should be taking place in this kind of changed situation, the consultation between the Government and the Union which is representing the workers at that particular workplace.

I would like to suggest that at least the Hon. Minister should do something about this to clear up that particular matter. He has indicated that the Authority will not come into operation immediately and it would seem as if there is still sometime and I think that it is not a question of begging but a matter of right, a matter of justice, that the Barbados Workers' Union which represents the workers should have some meaningful consultation with the Union in this particular matter.

In conclusion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would want to just repeat that we on this side do not have any quarrel about the principle of the establishment of the Authority because it follows the pattern which was laid down by the Democratic Labour Party when the whole arrangement was indicated and the necessity for a sewerage scheme was recognised in this country.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not believe that my intervention will take very long. My colleague has put very appropriately the position of this side and so what I have to say is only an addition to what he has said but I rise particularly in spite of what the Minister has said about the unfortunate accident to stress that it is very important when expatriate contractors or indeed expatriate visitors come into Barbados that they do not come with the pre-fixed ideas that they are going to some banana republic. The people in this country who are involved in administering the private and public sector are in many ways superior to a number of these persons who function outside of Barbados and who, unfortunately, through the International system we have are thrust upon those and other developing countries from time to time as "expatriates".

In that connection I am not sure if the Minister has seen a letter, a very strong and I might say a very serious letter which was published in the Newspaper

recently from the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers in which they questioned very seriously whether the correct standards were being used or are being used in this whole business of the trenches.

For a number of reasons and not wanting to hide behind the privileges of this House I would not go any further but if the Hon. Minister has not seen this letter I am suggesting that she should get a copy of the letter from the Newspaper and indeed I would be surprised if the Association did not send a copy of that letter to the appropriate Ministry because the contents of that letter are very serious, if they are true, and I would like to think that a responsible body of Engineers, a body like the Engineers, would not take a public position such as the one they took unless they felt (a) strong and (b) certain about the facts which they purported to put forward.

3.55 p.m.

I say no more on that, and I take the Minister's word that the matter is receiving Government's attention and we on this side will look at it with serious interest as the days unfold, but I hope when the matter comes out of the Court where it is now that it will not be long before we hear some definitive word on this particular unfortunate accident.

The second point I wish to make, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has to do with the Waterworks Department itself. For many years persons in this community especially persons who speak for the private sector have sought to give the unsuspecting in this community the impression that the only way anything can be run efficiently is if it is run by persons in the "private sector", but I wish to submit that our Waterworks Department is a clear example that where there are competent persons chosen on the basis of their professionalism and their expertise as opposed to any other consideration that functioning in the public sector they are able and have been able to deliver a level of efficiency that is superior to that which is vaunted in many quarters in this and other countries in the western world. I am saying that Barbados has had a Waterworks Department which in spite of the environmental difficulties within which it has had to function; for example no one can accuse the Waterworks Offices of being plush. When one considers the circumstances over the years, it would be a strange person who could not agree that the Waterworks Department in Barbados for many years has been and continues to be an efficient department. It is true that from time to time the bills are not sent out on time, but that is also true about very high-level corporations in North America, and I hope that when we have switched to the Barbados Water Authority that whatever steps are taken we will see no change in the general structure of the Waterworks Department, and I am speaking primarily of areas of personnel and personnel systems which appear to function now in that department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometimes when we move from the public sector into the quasi public sector, when it becomes necessary for the Minister now to make recommendations of persons to serve on the Water Authority, it has been demonstrated that we are not better off having that kind of system as compared with the system we have now. I heard the Minister of Communications and Works saying that he has an advisory committee and I think it is a desirable way of easing from one system into the other, but I hope that he does not become so meticulous in fulfilling the requirements of politics with a small "p" — I am saying "politics" in the broadest sense — I hope that in fulfilling the requirements of politics he does not lose in the offing the efficiency which the Waterworks Department can now be said to be known for.

Now, Sir, the Sewage project is not expected to be completed and handed over to the Authority for at least two years after it has started. That is my understanding. It is my understanding of the original concept that until the Sewage construction has been completed it would not be handed over to the Authority. I am sure the Minister would enlighten us on that; but I do not expect that in the context of the error which has occurred at River Road that it was an unforeseen error. I am very concerned that we as a country would have been advised by persons who are supposed to know precisely what they were doing; I am very concerned that we were advised on the placing of that particular pump station in that particular spot, and it could not be that they were not aware that the Constitution River had been there for many years. It would seem to me that they ought to have been particularly meticulous in the engineering work, the soil testing, the borings etc. which ought to have been done, and I believe that they in fact misled the Government on one occasion to come in here and tell us that that site had been properly and thoroughly examined and that it was the best site. It is unfortunate that we have to take advice from persons who sometimes do what they have to do and leave; they do not have to live with it. For these reasons I hope that the contractors or the engineers who advised us on the sewage project are going to bear the cost and/or the penalty for that very clear ineptitude. It is nothing short of ineptitude where you are discussing putting a pump station for sewage in an area that is traditionally and historically beset by water. None of us in here lays claims to being engineers and therefore if we are told by engineers that that is the right spot, or if we had been told by engineers that putting the crematorium where it was was the right spot, while politicians must take the blame sometimes, I think the engineers who give that kind of advice must take the full and complete blame for putting governments from whichever side of the political spectrum at their mercy and then giving them shoddy advice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, no one would hold out against the Minister because the hole crumbled in, but when it

started to crumble and ordinary Barbadians passed and said that the thing does not look right to them, the engineers were still persisting and suggesting and stating that it was okay, that it was proper and that it would be corrected. I am very pleased to hear the Minister intends to go to another site, but I hope that is not happening with impunity to those who led us in the first place to put it there. I hope that the contract makes for that kind of arrangement. If it doesn't, well you live at your aunt.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not have much more to say; in fact I have no more to say on the issue. I believe the Government has played out its hands now on this question of the IADB agreement; I think they have worked that to the very end. I am not going to even refer to the fact that the cost of water has been increased more rapidly than the agreement necessarily calls for, but that is a matter we will deal with whether the rain is coming or not on the political platform. We will have to instruct the Government on this question of how to cancel meetings too. They must not be so inept when cancelling meetings as to haul in the Met Office when the poor Met Office does not know anything about it. I am very sorry that the rains fell because I was looking forward to hearing what thunder was going to roll forth, but if earlier to day was any indication, maybe it is just as well that the meetings was cancelled. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, quite seriously it is not our intention on this side to use the sewage construction as a political point because we feel that it is something which is desirable to Barbados, and I think that the political parties irrespective of how much noise they make from time to time and the fulminations which one can expect especially from hon. members on that side, we must recognise that something such as the sewage system is fundamental, desirable, unnecessary in Barbados.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bill we are concerned with today results from an agreement entered into between the Barbados Government and the Inter-American Development Bank, so I have no quarrel with that, as I in some way have been responsible for that exercise. Looking generally at the Bill I would like to assure the public that there is nothing disturbing about the Bill; it is in the usual trend, the setting up of corporations and boards in this country, but there is one thing about the Bill that attracts my attention. Why is the name limited to Barbados Water Authority and it could not be the Barbados Water and Sewage Authority which would more reflect the functions of that Authority when it comes into operation?

4.05 p.m.

The linking of sewerage and water together under one Authority is a matter for some concern, not necessarily among the engineers, the technocrats, politicians who have been associated with the exercise in the past, but definitely a matter of concern to the public. The

Barbadian public is well aware of the high standards achieved and maintained by the Waterworks Department and they are quite comfortable in their minds when they go to turn on their water as to the lack of germs, the purity of the water, the absence of solids in the water and the absence of bacteria, the small amounts of chlorine that may be in the water. What is likely to disturb their minds, and the Government and in particular the Ministry of Health will have to pay adequate attention to this, is whether these standards to which they have become accustomed under the Waterworks Department, and whether the comfort which they have already exercised in the past in the use of water can be continued to be so exercised now that this function will become part of an Authority which will be dealing with water and sewerage.

Some of us are aware of the problems in a neighbouring island which has a Water and Sewerage Authority where, according to the reports, there have been a lot of problems, the people have been disturbed and very often people wonder whether they are getting water or sewage when they turn on their taps. I am not for one moment suggesting that this is going to be the case, but what I want to impress upon the Hon. Minister is that some exercise in public relations must be undertaken with a lot of dynamism and at a very early opportunity to assure people in this country that they can look forward to the same high standards, they can look forward to exercising the same comforts when they turn on their taps under the Waterworks Department in the past and when they turn them on in the future when the same exercise is carried on by the Barbados Water Authority.

I am not interested in the politics surrounding this matter when it was first aired, I think a lot has been stated around it, but sometimes when you are out to beat a person any whip will do, and in the particular circumstances that occurred some years ago the Democratic Labour Party was getting some lashes, and I dare suppose anything could have been used to lash the Democratic Labour Party, but it is refreshing to note that the Hon. Minister has come well around to the view and is now putting forward very strongly the benefits that one will get from a sewerage system, or from sewerage works in Bridgetown, and going a bit further I have been hearing quite forcibly that it is the intention of the Government to extend this service to the people of the south coast and in particular the west coast of this country.

We can assure her on this side that we will go all out to assure the public of the country that this is a necessary exercise and that they should go all out to support the Government in this exercise. It certainly will not be our intention to go around to whip up the ire of the public against installation or extension of any sewerage works undertaken by this or any other Government. Having held the reins of Government for some time has

left us with some amount of responsibility where these matters are concerned.

What I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister, and she has already indicated that she is aware of it, but I believe it will do no harm in drawing some of what has been made aware to her attention. There is some concern among the workers, particularly the Barbadian workers, connected with that operation about the presence of French speaking Canadians here in this country, and it has given rise to a lot of misunderstanding and a lot of problems; misunderstanding because very often there has been a language problem between the two types of workers, and further misunderstanding because the Barbadians feel that the work being done by these people should also be done by Barbadians, and they also have reason to believe that the French Canadians brought in here are being better paid and given better facilities than the Barbadians who were or who should be doing the work.

Barbadians are also a bit concerned about the way in which one of the workers lost his life, and I am glad to hear the Hon. Minister pointing out that steps are being taken to ensure that this does not happen again, but I am throwing it out to her that among the workers at that particular area there is the concern expressed in the part that the person could have been saved if more urgent steps had been taken to get that person to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. A lot of time was lost in waiting for the ambulance to arrive when one of the vehicles used by the particular organisation doing the work could have been used to take the individual to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which was not very far away. This is a matter of concern to people in this country, and I believe it would be a matter of concern to the Minister to establish whether or not there is truth in that report, because if there is any truth in that report it suggests that there has been some lack of concern, maybe even callousness, on the part of the authorities in relation to the particular worker, who unfortunately lost his life. I hope she will look into this matter and take this matter up in the necessary way that would give some relief to those workers who have expressed this concern.

My honourable colleague has already adverted to a letter written by the Barbados Professional Engineers and I would also strongly suggest that the Minister and the Government should look into this matter, because a letter of that nature appearing in the Press will raise further doubts in the minds of the people of this country and the workers themselves. In fact, it will go to strengthen their convictions that the Government could have done better by not bringing all these foreign people to do some of the work which is now being done, and entrusted that work to the Barbadians who have been accustomed and have some experience in that type of exercise.

As regards the roads, I take the point that it is the intention of Government to resurface these roads at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner, but at the same time I would also like to point out that there is a lot of inconvenience given to workers, people walking along the streets, pedestrians and drivers of vehicles when they have to travel certain roads — Halls Road, River Road, Fairchild Street, especially — because of the rapid way in which the soil has subsided. We know the reason it will have to subside, but at the same time nothing is being done at least to fill in those areas which have subsided, and now that we are getting the rain there are many puddles of water, and not only puddles of water, actually mud, and as you drive your car over some of these areas you find that you are heading for a lot of trouble.

The Minister has indicated that she takes time off to visit these works, and I dare suppose she sees the condition in Fairchild Street and River Road especially, and I wonder if some temporary exercise could not be carried out to fill in these areas so that they do not collect these large quantities of water and add to the inconvenience of pedestrians especially, because as cars and other vehicles go through them they splatter people with dirty water not only containing mud but also containing other more serious elements.

We are looking forward quite eagerly to the completion of this exercise, and the exercise is one way of improving the status of Bridgetown and its suburbs, and we look forward that the people who will be benefiting from this exercise will take special care in ensuring that the exercise maintains at a very good level of operation and in good condition.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Dr. CADDLE: When one appreciates that there is now a scarcity of well diggers, when one appreciates that there is also a scarcity of land because of the high price of land in certain areas for the traditional way of disposal of sewage, one must appreciate the importance of a sewerage system to Barbados.
4.15 p.m.

What I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister is not so much the operation of the works, but what plans does the Government have for the effluent from this exercise? It is to be expected that millions of gallons of water are going to be discharged from this Plant. I think that at this stage, one must give some serious consideration to the recycling of this water.

It may come in handy for farming. In Barbados, one of the problems surrounding good farming in this country is lack of adequate supplies of water and one has

to look seriously at whether the water, the effluent from the Sewerage Scheme could be recycled and used for farming in the areas which would not be too far removed from the Plant itself. Appreciating that this Plant be sited as a lower level compared with other areas in this country, we have to imagine that there would be some difficulty, or high cost, in pumping water from the Sewerage Plant up in those areas where a lot of agriculture is being done.

One may also have to look at the question of cultivation of Oysters in the effluent from the Sewerage Plant. I am throwing these things out because I have been interested in the Sewerage Plant. The exercise first started with myself, as Hon. Minister of Health and I am looking forward quite eagerly to see the completion of it. I would be very happy to see that it is finished in good time, that it is also finished efficiently and that the Barbadian people have good satisfaction in this exercise, unlike people in a neighbouring Island, the name of that Island I do not intend to mention at this stage.

One area of concern to the Barbadian public must be the increase in water rates. I must point out that under the Agreement, as I recall, and the Hon. Minister can correct me if I am wrong, that the Sewerage Plant is expected to take four years for completion and then there were three years after completion of the Sewerage Plant, that the water rates were expected to be increased, revised upwards, so as to ensure that the cost of the operation and the repayment of the loan be taken care of by this increase in water rates. If you look at the time expanded already, it is certainly not seven years. It has been a very short time indeed and the Barbadian people have been saddled with some interesting increases in water rates. Even now, some people are a bit concerned at the rapid rate in which these increases have been brought about. I think that it is interesting from the point of view of good public relations to seek to allay the fears of the public of this country, if the water rates have to be increased so rapidly, when there is a period of seven years over which this increase should be spread. Therefore, if that were the rule, increases could be of a lesser, or smaller quantity Sir.

Those are my remarks which I have to make in relation to the Sewerage Plant and I hope that the Hon. Minister will continue in ensuring proper standards, that the Government is getting proper work done for the money which is expended, that the interest of the Barbadian workers are being protected and that the family of that deceased worker will be well compensated and the fears allayed as to whether or not, there has been any neglect surrounding the death of that individual worker.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will attempt to answer questions put by Hon. Members, but

before I do that, there is one misconception which I must deal with.

Hon. Members, on the other Side, Mr. Speaker, Sir, go on and on and on about what happened in 1976 and what this Government said on political platforms in 1976 about the Sewerage Project. What was said on City platforms in 1976 about the Sewerage Project, had nothing to do with, to use the word of the Hon. Member for St. Lucy, of subjecting people of this country to any evil. What had to be said then, had to do with the kind of treatment which was going to be meted out to those people who had to be relocated from Emmerton to Clapham and everybody knows that. I said it already and I am going to say it again.

There was a proposal to move a ghetto from Emmerton to Clapham and this Government assumed power to find that pits had already been done at Clapham. The Cabinet directed that there were not going to be any pit latrines done at Clapham, or anywhere else in this country if we could avoid it, a stoppage had to be put to it and water borne systems were introduced. Soft loans were made available, the Housing Authority was instructed to build to certain minimal standards at Clapham and that is what the fuss was made about, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

It is said that Mary Queen of Scots said that when she died and you opened her bosom and you looked on her heart that you would see the word "Callais" written on it. I say that the word "Oistin" is written on the heart of the Hon. Member for Christ Church South Central. It is likely that the word "Emmerton" is going to be written on my heart. I know whereof I speak in this matter and as long as that Side continues to mislead and to misconstrue the truth of the platform at that time, so long, I will continue to correct it and I am not going to get tired of saying it.

Now, to the questions. The question has been raised about matters to do with differentials in wage rates between Barbadian nationals and expatriates who are employed by the contracting firms. The question has been raised about employment differentials existing between again the quality of work, the kind of work done by expatriates and the kind of work which is done by Barbadians.

Now, these are the facts, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My information is Sir, that expatriates employed by the contractors, French Canadians, are in fact, operating certain heavy machines and that some of them are working on the pipe laying crews. That is a fact. You see, a great lot of hearsay has filtered into this debate. It is a fact that the machinery used by the Contractors, Sintra, the people who are actually sewerage the streets of

Bridgetown is larger than any that you would find in this Island and that is why the expatriate drivers are being used. Also, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not as simple as it looks on the outside. These sewers are being laid to very precise specifications and certain grades have to be maintained and observed.

The pipe laying crews, I understand are very specially chosen people, they are people with very precise skills and that is why expatriates have got to be employed in that respect. It is also true to say that the expatriates are teaching and instructing Barbadian nationals in the use of these heavy machines and in the special high skills which have to do with the laying of the sewers. What they do is so highly skilled I am told, Mr. Speaker, Sir, than for instance, what the Waterworks would normally do in the pipe laying. I am instructed Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the training is underway of Barbadian nationals and that in fact, we already have a situation where a Barbadian national is driving one of the large backhoes.
4.25 p.m.

I am also informed, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that there is one Barbadian national who is already a foreman working with the contractors, Sintra.

Now in respect of the differential in wages rates, like I said just now, you are dealing with Canadian nationals who have particular skills. My understanding is, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Barbadian labourers are paid according to local wage regulations. Now we are very careful in observing that these regulations are properly adhered to. In other words, expatriate contractors may not pay less than the laws laid down by the local Labour Ministry.

It is a fact that the Canadian expatriates have had to be recruited in Canada to come to work in Barbados and I do believe that they in fact earn larger sums than Barbadian nationals but you have to recognise that this is connected to the fact that they possess certain skills which are not yet possessed by Barbadian nationals and they are paid according to their skills. You also have to bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that those people are spending large sums of their money in Barbados. They live here, work here, eat here and entertain themselves here.

We went to great trouble and personally, to let these expatriates understand that they must come to learn a certain appreciation of our ways and that if they were going to work for us for so long a period as two years, they must learn to live with us. In fact, I was very pleasantly surprised to find one or two of these expatriate workers at a dance at the Trade Winds last Saturday night, quite pleasantly surprised. (ASIDES). It does not matter that they cannot vote. The point is they are spending their money and they are learning to mix with

Barbadians and they are learning to live as well with Barbadians.

A lot of this work, Sir, is being done in my constituency and I make it my business to go into the houses and ask people how the Sewerage Project is treating them and I am satisfied that more effort is being made to reduce as far as possible the inconvenience which will be caused to householders, in particular householders as opposed to commercial concerns.

A question was raised, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in respect of reasons for the collapse of works at the River Road Pump Station. It would be very difficult for me to say, Mr. Speaker, at this stage when the Government is currently locked in negotiations with the Contractor and Consulting Engineers in respect of the collapse of work there, and in respect of the quality of the advice given by the Government to the Consulting Engineers. If necessary they will be nailed to the cross and they have been told so and head blows from the Opposition cannot do anything more than already for this because they are getting head blows from the Government as well.

I am not aware that at the time of the collapse of work at the Crematorium that the then Government sued the Contractors or the Consulting Engineers. That money went into the ground and is still there. In fact, the Ministry of Health is building on it now in the form of a Polyclinic. (ASIDES). No, you do not pay that kind of price for a foundation. Try another one. Find another one.

Negotiations are on the way, Mr. Speaker, and it would be very unwise for me to outline the Government's arguments and the Government's case at this stage but be assured, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Consulting Engineers and the Contractors are simply not going to kiss the hole in the ground good-bye and the Government foot the bill for it. In fact, very shortly they will be filling it, if they have not begun to refill that excavation at River Road and the new site, Mr. Speaker, is literally right next door to the old site. Proper test borings have been done. Certainly sub-soil investigations have been done and we are quite satisfied that the alternate site is going to be a suitable site and this attitude that the Government has in getting Consulting Engineers and the Contractors from abroad, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is not only in respect of this project or of this particular incident but we have made it very clear to these people that we are going to keep our feet in their necks for the duration of this contract and I can give the House the assurance that at no time will the Barbados Government consider itself in a situation that it could not take a second or third opinion which is more than can be said for previous Governments.

Now I am not in a position, Mr. Speaker, to speak for the Ministry of Labour or for the Minister of Labour.

I am aware that he has been called upon by the Barbados Workers' Union to investigate the accident which occurred at Bay Street. I am not in a position to say in this House whether he has already done so or what is the current status of that investigation. I might suggest that the Other Place might be the venue for a question.

Now in respect of security measures, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that the public is aware now that there is something known as a trench box, a high steel contraction which has been imported by the Contractor for use in the trenches but certain measures are in order. The Contractor, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is required, for instance, to provide adequate sheet and bracing in the trenches where there are more than 5 ft. deep. In other words where the trench is likely to be deeper than the average height of a man they have got to brace the trenches and the use of what is known as a trench shield in the circumstances has been outlined in the ordinary specifications of this project.

The trench box to which I referred is not something which has been imported into the project since the accident. The trench box was in fact used at Spruce Street before the accident occurred. I believe that since the accident certain modifications would have been done to the trench box but it is used in all trenches over 5 ft. deep. I believe that at some point certain steel sheet piling is used in the trenching operation.

I think I have referred previously to methods of dewatering the streets with trenches when there is need for that to be done and there is a system by which the Contractors will sink certain wells and the water will be properly pumped so that within the area where the works were it is possible by these works to lower the water table so that the people will work in comparatively dry conditions. They are not working in water up to the waist or anything of that kind.

4.35 p.m.

The trenches can be dewatered and will be dewatered where necessary so that workers will never be working say in waist high water or anything like that. Other aspects to do with safety is that the contractors have been requested and in fact directed, Mr. Speaker, to improve the safety measures in respect of their control of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and I think it is fair to say that visible improvement is to be observed in very recent weeks in particularly traffic control at and near the trenches. For instance last Friday afternoon I was standing next to the trench on Bay Street at the junction of Jemmotts Lane. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central says he saw me there. I was not satisfied with the quality of the back filling going on and had summoned the high chiefs and high popes of the contracting firm to observe for themselves what I had seen, and I observe for myself

that members of the public found it necessary to go to the edge of the trench. People are curious, it is a new operation, it is different and they want to see what is going on. The contractors in fact employ people at all the trench sites whose job is simply to keep the public away from the edge of the trench because it is not possible to know when the side of the trench will give way. I was very careful to stand back from it, but I found it necessary to warn young people to stay away from it.

Now that kind of safety measure has been intensified since the accident and especially at night where works are being undertaken. That is not to say that the Ministry of Health is entirely satisfied and it finds itself continually getting behind contractors in this respect.

Now much has been said about these expatriate contractors. I am fully aware of the kind of situation with which we are dealing, and I can only again reassure the House that very close supervision will be kept over the quality of the work that the contractors do. I have not seen the letter referred to written by the Association of Professional Engineers, but I am instructed it had to do with trenching and the safety measures employed at the excavation sites. I will say this, not having seen the letter, that the Barbados Sewerage Project has local counterpart staff. We have a project unit which is headed by no less a person than Mr. Arthur Archer whose brainchild in fact this sewage project is. Nobody denies that. I see nods of approval coming from the other side. He is the chief of the Project Unit and has working with him other Public Health engineers like himself who are also members of this Association of Engineers. There is Mr. Wilton Conliffe who is his deputy and who is sitting in the Visitor's Gallery at this time, and there is Mr. Andrew Hutchinson, another Barbadian engineer who is involved in this exercise.

On the matter of the assumption of authority by the Water Authority, it is my understanding that on or before 8th October this year a water bill would have had to pass through Parliament. That is now being done on today's date which is 9th September which is well in advance of that date. My further understanding is that the Water Authority itself will come into official being or must come into official being some time during the month of January 1981, but it will not assume its authority in respect of the running of the Waterworks and the running of the Sewage Authority naturally until the project itself is completed and the plant has been properly commissioned. At that point it will be handed over to the Authority and it will become theirs to run and manage.

I appreciate the comments which have been made about the quality of the engineering advice which might have been offered in respect of the River Road pump station site, but as I indicated, that is under very serious and heavy negotiation between the Government and its legal advisers and the contractors and consultant engineers and their legal advisers. They were all here last week and sat down around the table and very high-level and important negotiations are going on in that respect.

Now I thought, Mr. Speaker, that I had made it very clear in my introduction of this Bill the reasons for the naming not only of the Bill but of the Authority. I will reiterate for the benefit of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. The term "Water and Sewage Authority" commonly known as WASA enjoys such a bad reputation elsewhere in the Caribbean and has such a bad connotation, Mr. Speaker, it is a case of give a dog a bad name, that we seriously considered that it would be an early blight on our Authority to call it WASA. Apart from that, Mr. Speaker, we see this Authority eventually as having an overriding kind of control over all water matters in Barbados. That is why the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has found it necessary at this very early stage to bring and to pull the Ministry of Agriculture and its matters to do with irrigation into the composition of the Authority, and it is as simple as that and I will say no more about it. I will say however that once the Ministry of Communications and Works has assumed responsibility for the Water Authority, the Ministry of Health will not slacken its job when it comes to the maintaining of certain standards.

The Public Health Engineering Unit in the Ministry of Health monitors all sorts of public health engineering matters in Barbados. We monitor the quality of the air which is breathed in Bridgetown, we monitor the quality of sea water around certain coastal areas in Bridgetown, we monitor the quality of the water in the Careenage, we monitor the quality of all sorts of environmental considerations in Barbados and we have always monitored the quality of the water provided by the Waterworks Department, and it will continue to monitor the quality of the water and sewage which will come under the immediate control of the Ministry of Communications and Works. So the Ministry of Health certainly could not be in any way abdicating the functions of monitoring quality control, and this perhaps is a double function because my understanding is that the Ministry of Communications and Works will itself set up an institute its own quality control operations.

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central asked a question about the eventual use of the effluent from the sewage treatment plant. Now this effluent is

going to look like ordinary drinking water. It is going to be treated in the treatment plant and the intention or the original plan is that it will be taken out through the ocean outfall which is already laid and deposited at sea. The Ministry of Health has examined all sorts of possibilities including the possibility adverted to for recycling this effluent, but it is a very expensive operation, Mr. Speaker, to pump that effluent back inland for whatever use, the cost of pumping alone, and that goes for another particular too, Mr. Speaker, and it is that Barbadians do not sufficiently understand that we have no surface water. The Constitution River has not been tidied for generations. Every ounce of water, every pint of water used in Barbados is pumped up by the use of electricity from the sub-surface, and it is all right for people to talk about escalation in water rates in recent years, but the Waterworks Department is one of the largest single users of electricity in this country, and so the energy crisis has serious implications for water in Barbados. We do not have any rivers or lakes; we have no surface water at all. Another serious implication for the cost of surface water in Barbados has to do with the cost of pipes and that again has connections with the energy crisis.

4.45 p.m.

The cost of pipe has multiplied several times in the last three or four years, and those two factors alone could account for significant increases in water rates. The water rate increases which will ensue in consequence of the sewerage of Bridgetown will be granted, but hon. members clearly understand it is a part of the agreement. The Water Authority must not become a liability on the taxpayers, it must carry itself, it must become self-sufficient. One does not expect it to be a profit making organisation, but I do not think that Barbadians can continue as they have over generations to take for granted the quality of this water to which we keep referring. Everybody keeps referring to the high quality of Barbados' water, everybody keeps referring to the efficiency of the Waterworks Department, we take it for granted.

In many countries just a stone's throw across the water from us water is bought by the bottle, and it does not begin to approach the quality or the taste of Barbados' water, and so the time has come when we have to look at our water as a natural resource that we must be careful with, that we must husband and that we must attach a dollar significance to.

What I would like to say too, quite apart from the possibilities for the effluent, is that studies of the coastal waters around the south and west corners of Barbados where the effluent flow will go out will be subject to serious study. It is very important that we should look very carefully at the influence that the treated effluent may have on our marine life. We have coral reefs which we must protect, we have a fishing industry which we must protect. You do not wait until you put the effluent

out to do the study, you have to do pre-effluent studies and post-effluent studies and these pre-effluent studies have already started, and studies will continue so that we can monitor very carefully what effect this treated effluent will have on our surrounding coastline and the marine life of the treatment plant.

It is interesting too, Mr. Speaker, to know that one of the by-products of the sewerage treatment plant is the sludge, the heavy sludge which will fall at the bottom of those huge million gallon tanks down at Emmerton has a possible immediate use for Barbados. It has been suggested to us, and of course we are looking at all sorts of possibilities for it, but a very recent suggestion has been that an admixture of the sludge from the sewerage plant with pulverised material from the pulverisation plant might have very excellent possibilities for fertilisers in the agricultural industry in Barbados. All these possibilities will have to be looked at.

The final point I think was raised by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, having to do with the quality of the temporary paving. Like I said, all the resurfacing that has been done so far has been temporary, permanent paving will be done at the time when it is proper to do it. I do agree, and I have made it my business, I have visited all these sites myself with contractors and with the consultant engineers, that the quality of the temporary paved roads at Halls Road, at Martindales Road, at River Road and Fairchild Street is inadequate, and that temporary paving is going to be reworked until it is time to make the paving permanent. I do believe that even as we are debating in this Hon. House at this moment, Mr. Speaker, that certain measurements and tests are being carried out at Halls Road, and it is hoped that certain resurfacing is going to begin at Halls Road before the end of this week.

We are very mindful of these things, Sir, and I can only again appeal to the Barbadian public to exercise its patience and its common sense when it comes upon Sewerage Authority works. It is true that every pothole now is going to be blamed on the Sewerage Project. I could hear today that documents could not get to the House because of the Sewerage Project, but all of that we have to take on our backs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I therefore move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Part I was called.

4.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I could get agreement by Hon. members of the Opposition on this. Clause One stands by itself. The rest is in parts, eight parts. What is the pleasure of the Hon. Opposition? (PAUSE). Clause by Clause. You have to call all the Clauses.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Very well, Mr. Chairman.

Clauses 2 to 36 inclusive were called and passed.

5.05 p.m.

Clauses 37 – 38 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of the Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of the Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN the Bill was read a third time and passed.

EVIDENCE (PROCEEDINGS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS) ACT, 1980

Order No. 7 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to make new provisions enabling the High Court to assist in obtaining evidence required for the purposes of proceeding in other jurisdictions.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Barbados is proposing to accede to the Convention on the taking of evidence abroad in civil and commercial matters and the purpose of this Bill is therefore to pass the relevant domestic legislation which will enable us to accede to that Convention.

The Commonwealth Law Minister's Meeting in 1977 at Winnipeg considered it desirable that Commonwealth Governments which were not members of the Hague Conference on private international law should be kept informed of the proceedings of that Conference and wherever possible try to implement within the Commonwealth conclusions reached at that Conference.

The Convention on the taking of evidence abroad in civil and commercial matters is therefore one such Convention. The Convention, Mr. Speaker, provides for the taking of evidence or the performing of other judicial acts abroad by means of Letters of Request or by the use of

diplomats and consuls and commissioners and therefore if it becomes necessary for, us for instance, in either a civil case or a commercial case in some instances to take the evidence of a witness who is resident overseas, this Convention being an accessory to the Convention would arise or in that regard and we would have in turn to provide within our own internal law for a procedure which would enable persons overseas who wish their evidence of the people here in Barbados to get the evidence taken under the terms of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Convention is not inconsistent with our concept of judicial sovereignty and I should point out to members that Barbados when it was a colony had become a party to the Foreign Tribunals, Evidence Tribunals and therefore we had some United Kingdom Statutes, The Foreign Tribunals Evidence Act, 1856, the Evidence by Commission Act, 1859, and the Evidence by Commission Act, of 1885 applying to Barbados by virtue of the United Kingdom Legislation.

In our continuing effort to repatriate the laws which are of the United Kingdom that have been made to apply in Barbados, we consider it necessary that this Bill should therefore be passed. The principle features of the Bill, Mr. Speaker, are that power is conferred on the High Court to entertain applications under the Convention and to make an order for obtaining the evidence in Barbados. Recognition is given to and permission is given to preserve any privilege which was had under the Convention. Orders of the Court do not bind the Court or the Crown or its servants and the matter of policy and the application of the United Kingdom laws is discontinued. Those are perhaps the main features of this Bill.

I think it is a non-controversial piece of legislation. In many ways it is a reforming piece of legislation. It is a necessary piece of legislation in view of the fact that more and more we are engaging at the level of the state in various commercial activities and indeed as the expansion of business grows and international commerce it is expected it will be necessary for us to facilitate the settlement of transactions which have an international character and therefore I commend this Bill to the House on this Second Reading and ask that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

5.15 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 9 inclusive were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE PERJURY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 10 stands in the name of the Hon. Attorney General to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Perjury Act.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, this is a companion Bill to the Bill which has just been passed by the House. As a result of the passing of the Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act, it is necessary to amend the Perjury Act Cap. 142 to create the offence in respect of a false statement made on oath in the original Bill which we have just passed and the penalties which are being provided for this Bill are in line in general with the penalties under the main Perjury Act.

I think everybody knows of the offence of Perjury, and in the conditions laid down in the new section 7(a), it will be an offence for a person who knows a statement to be false in a material particular or who makes a false statement which he does not know to be true, and he will be guilty of an offence in those circumstances.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

On motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
5.25 p.m.

THE JUDICIAL SALE OF LAND (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the House will recall that in 1979 the House passed the Property Act, 1979 together with other legislation which amended conveyancing practice in Barbados and updated the land laws of Barbados. At the time we tried to amend all of the companion legislation which would have been affected by these changes, we did not bring down the changes essentially to two Bills, the Judicial Sale of Land Act and the Court Process Act, by means of which Statutory conveyances are given pursuant to processes largely speaking initiated through the Supreme Court. For instance, where the court orders a judicial sale of land it is usually the Registrar who conveys that land to the purchaser or the person standing in a similar position to a purchaser, and the conveyance usually given is in the form set out in the Schedule to the Judicial Sale of Land Act, Cap. 225.

The purpose of this Bill, therefore, is essentially to update the form of conveyances contained in the Judicial Sale of Land Act, having regard to the changes made by the Property Act and other combining legislation passed last year. Opportunity has been taken also to update in some respects certain provisions of the Act in the light of this House having passed other legislation. For instance, we have had the Legal Profession Act, Cap. 370 which abolished the concept of barrister-at-law and solicitor-at-law and created a unified profession under the title of attorney-at-law. Despite the fact that this legislation was passed some considerable time ago, I think it was six or seven years ago now, no amendment was made to various bits of legislation to do away with the title of solicitor or barrister as the case may be.

Also, the passing of the Barbados National Bank Act and the Professions (Trade and Business) Act, 1978 has necessitated amendments to the Judicial Sale Act to reflect more accurately the terminology used in these two Acts. That is essentially the purpose of the Judicial Sale of Land Act.

The Act has worked very well in this country, there have been no major abuses that I know of, in fact no recent abuses of the Judicial Sale of Land Act that I know of, and I believe that conveyances obtained by a Court Order under the provisions of the Act have withstood the test of time.

This Bill was circulated to the attorneys-at-law several months ago but I have had no comments whatsoever from them in relation to the Bill, but I have had the advice of the person who acted in the capacity of Crown Solicitor on the form of conveyancing which we are using, and as a result of his advice Your Honour will have seen circulated some very limited amendments

to the Schedule to the Bill which I intend to ask leave to introduce at the Committee stage of the Bill.

With those short words, Sir, I beg to move that his Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed.
5.35 p.m.

Clauses 6 to 11 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule, as amended, was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill with amendment in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Order Number 12 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Court Process Act.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need not repeat on the Second Reading of this Bill, what I have just said on the Second Reading of the Judicial Sale of Land Amendment Bill. The remarks which I made then are applicable to this bit of Legislation.

It is merely a consequential amendment following from the changes in our Property Law and the Reform of the Property Law.

In the circumstances, I ask this Hon. House that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive, were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Schedule, as amended, with the amendments which have been circulated, be the Schedule to the Bill.

I should just like to require Sir, that the Clerk, when the Schedule is being printed, the second word Schedule in Clause 5 be printed in a small print because that standard schedule is the schedule to the schedule. It is not a mistake, it is just in the manner in which it is set forth, so that it would be clear in the future.

I beg to move that the Schedule, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that the Schedule, as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you report to His Honour, the Speaker, the passing of one Bill, as amended, in Committee.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.
5.45 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. CHAIRMAN, reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES ACT, 1980

Order No. 13 was called – to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Constitution of Barbados so as to enable membership of the Commonwealth to be more easily ascertained, and to provide for the continued operation of the law of Barbados in relation to certain Commonwealth countries.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to make it easier in future for Commonwealth countries to be designated as such countries who have persons in Barbados in reading the various bits of legislation to be sure as to which countries are Commonwealth Countries. In short, the Bill enables the membership of the Commonwealth to be more easily ascertained and its second purpose, Mr. Speaker, is to

provide for the continued operation of the law of Barbados in relation to the Commonwealth countries.

At present the definition of the term "Commonwealth" is contained in the Interpretation Act but despite changes in the Commonwealth since the passing of that Act no attempt has been made to amend the Act so that the Act reflects accurately those countries which at any time are considered members of the Commonwealth. Enactment of this Bill will simplify the procedures to enable us as soon as a country has been accepted for membership of the Commonwealth to so designate that country and it will have effect automatically or *ipso facto* of extending the laws of Barbados so far as they apply to Commonwealth Countries to the new member, except of course one does not want the particular law so extended.

In Chapter II of the Constitution of Barbados the Commonwealth has been defined in terms of citizenship in relation to specific countries again. It is significant that no changes have been made to this provision to reflect changes in the membership of the Commonwealth and I will think that hon. members will be surprised to learn that despite the fact that Southern Rhodesia as it then was was considered to have been in opposition to the Crown and of course its then relations with the illegal regime to have committed acts of treason and rebellion against the Crown, yet Southern Rhodesia continued to be designated for the purpose of our legislation as a Commonwealth country and it would have meant that the benefits flowing from the provision of Chapter II of the Constitution would have been extended to such a country.

I believe that because we are a small developing country without the complete human resources to monitor such events that this hiatus occurred and indeed I hate having to come to the House for changes in our Constitutional Law and in the fundamental Bill so often, but it appears to me that there are several areas in which our Constitution needs up-dating and this is one of them and I will have to warn the House that certainly before the session of this Parliament finishes I will be asking for other consequential amendments to our Constitution to reflect the necessary changes.

For instance, in the same Chapter II, Mr. Speaker, we still speak of illegitimate children and of course the House earlier this year abolished the status of illegitimacy and therefore I will have to seek later, as I intend to seek, I hope some time before the end of this year, or certainly early next year, a change to remove that term from Chapter II of our laws.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill which I am asking hon. members to accept is a standard form Bill for all Commonwealth Countries and it will now become the model Bill

and I can say that the first draft of the Bill arose out of consultations throughout all of the Commonwealth countries and indeed the first draft was actually done by the Commonwealth Secretariat itself. I am sure that at least one country, New Zealand, has already passed this legislation and probably a few others have done also but we will now be adopting it.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for an amendment to the Schedule to spell the name "VANUAATU" correctly. It is spelt with three "a's" and it should be two "a's" "VANUATU" and this will be the only change I will be asking for in Committee.

Although I am doing the second reading of this Bill at this stage, Mr. Speaker, subject to any comments which any hon. members would wish to make, I will then at the end of my contribution and the contribution of any hon. member ask that actual voting on the Bill and that further consideration be postponed because it is necessary since a Constitutional change is involved and it affects the fundamental right of provision that it be passed by a two-thirds majority and I would wish therefore that this be noted by the House. It does show that some of the fundamental rights provision rules are not to be drafted. In fact it is the section dealing with citizenship and that is the only reason why we have to have a two-thirds majority.
5.55 p.m.

You will notice, Sir, that there are some 43 countries in the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is an Organisation to which all of us in this country subscribe and both political Parties have shown their commitment to the principles of the Commonwealth, both the Opposition and the Government, and indeed on independence I think it was the wish of all three political parties represented at the constitutional talks — there were then three political parties in the House — that membership of the Commonwealth should be sought. We have participated fully in all Commonwealth Organisations and in all of the functional bodies of the Commonwealth. We have benefitted in many ways both politically, socially, functionally, financially, in terms of cooperation from this Association, and we have been able to participate on equal terms with other members of the Commonwealth. I believe that the Commonwealth will continue to expand to embrace new countries, and certainly Barbados looks forward to the early independence of those territories within the Caribbean which still are not fully independent, particularly Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and of course Belize on the Central American Peninsula.

It is important that we reflect very often the strong views that we have about the early independence of Belize, and I hope to have the pleasure. I hope by

next year, Mr. Speaker, to welcome the accession of Belize to the Commonwealth, and whoever will be the appropriate Minister whenever that shall happen, I shall have the pleasure, I hope — I hope I will still be in the House — to at least second the Resolution if not move it myself. I have singled out Belize not because I wish in any way at all to say that we do not lay stress on the independence of those Commonwealth countries who want to become independent, because I think that Belize is a classic case of a situation where the metropolitan power is anxious to grant independence whereas an adjoining neighbouring state dictatorial in habits and attitude is holding up the early independence of a country well suited to become an outstanding member of the Commonwealth.

I therefore beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member in the course of his speech indicated that it was not his intention to have the question put because he wanted at the time of voting for all the members to be in the House to satisfy a particular requirement. I am merely drawing it to Your Honour's attention before you put the question. If that is the case, Mr. Speaker, I am reserving my right to speak assuming that the second reading would not have been completed at this point. I am seeking the Chair's guidance on this.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry for the hon. member, but the hon. member has merely made a second reading speech. However, if the hon. member wants to make a contribution to the second reading, he may do so now.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, I am seeking the guidance of the Chair in this matter. I am not ready to make a contribution to the second reading. If however the matter is going to be put, then the matter is going to be put. I understood from the Attorney General that he was providing opportunity for further debates on this issue since it was a constitutional amendment and he was merely introducing the Bill. This is what I understood from the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Hon. Attorney General speaks in introducing a second reading, the Chair must make the proposal on the second reading by the hon. member to the question so that other members can make their contribution. That is all that has taken place. In other words, if the Hon. Attorney General

had spoken and nothing else had taken place, if the Chair did not intervene, no other hon. member could get up and address the Chair making a second reading speech. That is the procedure.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, in view of your clear exposition and my friend's clear indication that he would wish to speak to the substance of the Bill at an appropriate time, it may now be appropriate for me to move that further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

I beg to move that further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

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

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th September, 1980, at 12 o'clock noon.

Mr. Speaker, there is some difficulty in choosing the 16th, but speaking on the Adjournment, I want to find out as a matter of fact whether all hon. members have been circulated with two Bills which appear on the Order Paper. Some of our members on our side have complained to me that they did not receive until today two Bills standing in the name of the hon. member for St. James, namely Items 8 and 9, and I had enquired earlier and I understood that they were circulated during the recess. It is not the Government's intention to proceed with these Bills until they have been circulated in sufficient time, and I just want to intimate to those that are responsible for circulation that the Government places a high priority on circulation of these Bills, and I should like the assurance that this will be done as soon as possible because they are Bills of great magnitude and some complexity and we would like not only members in the House but other people whose interest would be affected to have the opportunity of looking at the Bills.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before putting the question, I must say that I have the assurance from the Clerks at the Table that the Bills referred to by the Hon. Leader of the House were circulated long ago to all hon. members.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I believe I can shed a little light on this matter. I have a suspicion, Sir, that in the folding of the batch of papers which came out that

these Bills might have been left out because while I appear to have been in receipt of papers, I do not find these Bills among that batch of papers. If you are assured that they have been circulated, I would have to say that I have not been so circulated with at least one of those Bills which I can find nowhere among my batch.

Mr. SIMMONS: As the little boy would say in school, please, Sir, me too, Sir. I only got my copies of the Bills today. I have searched up and down at home and at the office and these were never among any papers that I received for Parliament during August or September.

6.05 p.m.

The pile came on Friday for today's sitting, nothing about the Tenant's Bill was included among my papers, and I only learnt about them talking with my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael South West, in the dining hall earlier this afternoon and I just requested

copies from the Clerk of Parliament to take away, these were not among my papers originally, I was looking for them. (*Asides*). Well, they are put together by man and circulated by man, the possibility of error is therefore real, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not overlooking the possibility of error, but I have the double assurance from the Clerks at the Table, and I believe that on this occasion I must stand firmly behind the Clerks at the Table. I very well know what happens during the Recess and papers are circulated. It is not every hon. member who pays all the attention to his papers at that particular time, and I accept the assurance from the Clerk that these Bills were circulated five weeks ago to hon. members.

The question that the House now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 16th September, 1980 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
6.10 p.m.