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# THE House of Assembly Debates

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

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SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

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### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 26th May, 1981.*

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock on Tuesday, 26th May, 1981.

#### PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, C.B.E., J.P., 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); Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A. (Econ.); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M; 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); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; and His Hon. E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

*Prayers were taken by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.*

*Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM entered the Chamber and took his seat.*

*Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the chamber and took his seat.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The Meeting is called to order.

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 12th May, 1981.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these Minutes have been circulated and subject to any observations as to error by any Honourable Member, I beg to move that they be now confirmed.

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

*Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.*

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by Honourable Members, let those Minutes stand confirmed. (PAUSE). Those Minutes are confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meeting of Friday, 15th May, 1981.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these Minutes have been circulated and subject to any observations as to error by any Honourable Member, I beg to move that they be now confirmed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by Honourable Members, let these Minutes stand confirmed. (PAUSE). These Minutes are confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 19th May, 1981.

*Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.*

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these Minutes have been circulated and subject to any observations as to error by any Honourable Member, I beg to move that they be now confirmed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by Honourable Members, let those Minutes stand confirmed. (PAUSE.) Those Minutes are confirmed.

#### PAPERS LAID

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

The Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Rules, 1981.

I am also commanded to lay:

The Barbados National Bank (Trust Division) Regulations 1981.

The Probates and Letters of Administration (Resealing) Rules, 1981.

The Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1980.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also commanded to lay:

The Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 1981.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just exercise the right given by the Rules to comment on the last paper laid briefly to say that these amendments regulations relate to new rates of remuneration payable to election officers in respect of their services at an election. The Returning Officer will now be paid \$600 for his services, the Election Clerk \$400, Presiding Officers at Polling Stations \$100 each, Poll Clerks \$75, Accounting Assistants \$50.

That is the purport of the amended Regulations.

*Hon. L. R. TULL entered the Chamber and took his seat.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the honour to lay:

The Evidence (Proceedings in other Jurisdictions) Rules, 1981.

and

The Fire Service (Application of Fees) Regulations, 1981.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a:

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Rockley, Christ Church for the provision of a beach facility, as well as, accommodation for beach vendors;

and also, Sir a:

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Church Village, the property of Vernon Stuart for the Church Village Redevelopment Project.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to move, Sir that Item Number One be the first Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item Number One.

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT BAGATELLE, ST. JAMES TO TROWEL PLASTICS (BARBADOS) LIMITED

*Item Number One was called - To move the passing of a resolution to approve of the lease of land at Bagatelle, St. James to Trowel Plastics (Barbados) Ltd.*

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Item, Sir is for a lease to Trowel Plastics for a period of three years, Mr. Speaker.  
12.30 p.m.

It is some 3,183.79 square metres and it is to be leased to them in the sum of \$3,600 subject to review every three years.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, this is part of a component which goes into assisting the building construction in the country, trowel plastics being one of the finishing products which is so popularly accepted, and it seems to be a component which Barbadians are looking towards. We at the Ministry of Housing in particular, Mr. Speaker, are even planning to experiment on trowel plastering some of the timber houses so as to give them a finish, a more classy finish, to put it that way. Some of the houses, the terraced units which we have started at Maynards in St. Peter, I hope that some of them will also have that finish.

But there is a note, Sir, while talking about this Resolution which was a bit disturbing for me when I read the Nation newspaper this morning. I have no doubt, Sir, that I can make reference to it on this occasion, because trowel plastering is a component which is now being used in housing, and the National Housing Corporation is examining this very carefully for giving their houses a better finish.

I am not one of the politicians who go around shouting from the house tops, critical of the Press. They have their job to do, but sometimes I must confess that I become a bit concerned when I see stories that appear in the Press, and it would appear they are not even cross-checked. I have with me part of a Nation newspaper which says, Mr. Speaker, "It is a Nightmare! This dilapidated house is home for a family." I shall make it a document of the House, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please. Is the hon. member complaining to this Hon. House that the newspaper in some way offends against the dignity of this honourable institution?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No, Sir, I have no complaint to make to the House about a newspaper report, I am commenting on a report in the Nation which relates to the National Housing Corporation, and since this Resolution is dealing with a project which is part and parcel of the finish to houses, and since the National Housing Corporation is examining this idea of using trowel plastering, Sir, I am hopeful that when stories like these appear in the Press - it is not a complaint, it is an observation - when stories of this nature appear in the Press I must confess it is rather disturbing to me, because here it is this story says there is a dilapidated house for a family to live in and that the woman who made the complaint to the Press claims that she applied to the National Housing Corporation for a house and she heard nothing since. I immediately asked the Chief Estates Officer, Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate the Hon. Minister's anxiety but it is really nothing to do with the Resolution that is before this Hon. House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the leasing of lands to Trowel Plastics is before the House, and that is a component which we use at the National Housing Corporation. It is on this that I am basing my argument that the Government is setting about to provide the best housing in Barbados for the people in Barbados, but when you get stories of this nature, it is depressing. That is all I am saying, Sir. It is depressing, before the newspaper checks the facts, these are the problems that you have conveyed to the public that the National Housing Corporation is not doing anything to relieve the people of this country of bad housing conditions, and there is no truth in the story, Sir, absolutely no truth. The lady never made an application to the National Housing Corporation for better living conditions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the Hon. Minister is not using this method to have a word with the owners of the newspaper concerned.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No, Sir, what I am trying to put across is that the trowel plastering of new houses in

Barbados is going to bring about a better finish. That is what I am putting across, Sir, and I have no doubt your development at Maynards will benefit from it. I have no doubt about that, Sir, but when you see misleading stories conveying that the Government is not doing enough to relieve the people of poor housing, that distresses me.

I am not complaining in here to you, Sir for the Nation. You dealt with them already, or one of them, Sir. There is no truth, absolutely no truth in the story which complains to the public that the Government is not doing anything to improve housing in Barbados. Right now, at this very moment, Sir, there are some 387 houses under construction by the National Housing Corporation alone, and last year with Government incentives through the Barbados Mortgage Finance the Government was able to put at the disposal of the people in Barbados 1,410 units for them to live in. A record unheard of in this country. The best the former administration did was 483.

Now, Sir, it must hurt, or it must appear to the public, when one examines this newspaper to recognise that here is a poor woman who applied to the National Housing Corporation for better housing conditions and we ignored it, we did nothing about it. I say here on the floor of the House that I had a check with the Chief Estates Officer. The lady never applied for a house, her reputed husband applied for a house in the month of February, and does not live in the house with her, Sir, but like on the other side, impressions count, not facts. That is the impression we have this morning, that we have done nothing to assist. That is the type of behaviour you get from people in this society who just want to sensationalise things, who come up with stories overnight, say things on public platforms, challenge Government statistics when they themselves have nothing at their disposal to condemn the statistics coming from the Government Statistical Office. All of a sudden, Sir, that is wrong, and this is dealing with trowel plastering because you have to keep statistics on these things for housing.

This is the position, Mr. Speaker. I therefore say this. It is best at all times for journalists in this country should check and cross-check their facts when they come with stories of this nature to convey to those people who do not know any better that the Government has done nothing in the field of housing.

12.40 p.m.

As Minister of Housing, I feel proud and I know not only Lionel Craig as the Minister, but Barbadians and people from overseas have written letters to the Ministry about the outstanding work done in the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment. I have to congratulate people like Louis Redman and Mr. Edward Corbin and the entire staff of the National Housing Corporation for the trying period they have gone through without any artisans to assist, where they were scarce and

where this Government had to come in and bring about a skills training programme to help alleviate the problems in the field of housing, thereby giving Trowel Plastics an opportunity to apply to Government for a lease of land for greater production.

Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution as it stands before this august Chamber do now pass.

*Hon. C. L. BOLDEN stood.*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, there is one item.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that you are seconding the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It has been seconded by the Minister of Communications and Works.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I did not second the Resolution. I was about to stand when I saw the hon. member on his feet.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. WARD: I second it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please; we must have some order in this Honourable House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Is the Resolution now seconded, Mr. Speaker? Can I speak?

Mr. Speaker, there is one single item on the Order Paper under Government Business today. To convene a meeting of the House cost the taxpayers a lot of money because members have to be regaled with lunch and sometimes dinner and the staff; members of the Royal Barbados Police Force have to be convened, and members have to leave their lawful business to come here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes; what's the problem?

Mr. SPEAKER: No meeting of this Honourable House could be convened without His Honour consenting thereto.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not say you did not consent, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: And any attempt by any hon. member to reflect.... I do not want to stop the hon.

member from addressing the Chair, but please desist from that kind of argument.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am saying there is a single item on the Order Paper today and Your Honour would not have given consent, if you want me to come from that direction, to convening a meeting of the House unless it were a matter of great pith and moment, and therefore I would have expected that in the introduction the Minister of Housing would have given us some indication as to the urgency, what induced him to persuade Your Honour to bring us here today, and the nature of the lease, whether the Minister understands, there are two legal advisers on his right and his left and one immediately behind him, whether this involves what we call a *profit a prendre*, the right to take stone and marl from Bagatelle in the course of his lease, because it should be stated.

Now when you lease land to any company, Mr. Speaker, you can lease land for two purposes; you can lease land to people like you did to the British High Commission and the Canadian High Commission. We leased land to give them an area in which they could park their vehicles, because it was rather congested in Culloden Road and we leased approximately half an acre of land behind the Canadian High Commission and the British Development Division in order to allow them to park their cars. That is one use of land. You can also lease land to people for them to erect and construct buildings thereon. When the Minister introduced this Resolution, he said the lease was for three years. The Resolution discloses that the lease is for fifteen years. Now if the people at Trowel Plastics are going to take marl - I am not against Trowel Plastics; they do a reasonably good job. I recently had to employ their services in relation to a building for which I was responsible, and I am satisfied with the job they have done.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of elucidation, what I did say, Mr. Speaker, is that the lease is to be reviewed every three years.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You said that after. The Minister said the lease was for three years.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understood the Minister to say that the rental will be reviewed every three year period.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He did say that, Sir, but before he said that he said that the lease was for three years.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have the records checked now.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Let us have the records checked now? Would you like me to wait until the

records have been checked? I know what he said and I hope that on future occasions the records will be checked.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, please have these records checked.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: We cannot go on. Here is evidence, and I regret this, I regret that we have come to it. The Clerk of Parliament, I regret, believe me, having to do this, but I cannot do otherwise. The Hon. Minister has made a statement, the Leader of the Opposition has got up and a challenge has arisen resulting from what the Minister has said. We have reached the point where the statement by the Minister has got to be checked in the records. I have called on the Clerk at the Table to have the records checked and the Clerk is now asking me "what year".

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, if it is going to cause any difficulty, I am not accusing the Minister of anything. I think the Minister made a slip. I heard the Minister say the lease was for three years and I went back and checked my Addendum and it said the lease was for fifteen years.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If I said for three years and you understood this.....

Mr. SPEAKER: We cannot have two hon. members on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not objecting to it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Both hon. members please take your seats.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make my position clear. I am not accusing the Minister of anything; I am not objecting to anything he said. I am merely saying that the Minister appeared to have made a slip because I understood him to say that the lease was for three years, I also heard him say that it is renewable every three years, but the Addendum says fifteen years, and I understand the period is for fifteen years, and therefore if your Honour understood him to say the lease was for three years and he said so, then I withdraw that I heard him say for three years.

Normally one calls for the records when somebody is objecting to it. I am not objecting to anything. The position is as I understand from the Minister, fifteen years and that the Addendum is correct and it is renewable every three years. The point I was making is this: the very nature of the operation is one in which they use coral stone dust and mix it with various other ingredients

the nature of which I am completely unaware, paints and other pigmentations and pigments and so on.  
12.50 p.m.

Therefore, I merely wish to know whether any of these things, a little over three quaters of an acre of land by a quick calculation, I am not very well versed in the conversion of square metres to square feet but anything over 3,000 square metres is three-quarters of an acre of land and when you are doing that, I merely wish to know whether they are going to extract coral stone dust in order to make their material because, in that case, it becomes what we call a profit and they would have, in my opinion, to be called upon to pay a little more for the right to extract the raw material than somebody who is merely leasing land to put a garage or park vehicles or something of the like. It is a very simple point.

This quarrel that the Honourable Minister has with the *Nation* is a house quarrel. Is is nothing to do with me. When I say a house quarrel.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I have no quarrel with the Nation, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He is on a point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: He has given way, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have not given way, Sir. You have made a mistake.

When I say a quarrel I do not mean a quarrel about a house. I mean an in-house quarrel, an in-service quarrel, a quarrel with your own Department, as it were, a quarrel with the hon. member for Christ Church West.

The newspapers report things and it does not always please us what they report but we do not have to waste the time of the House.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get on with the debate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, but he is wasting the time of the House talking about dilapidated houses and misrepresenting the Government. This is Trowel Plastics and the Parliament of Barbados. I am only asking the Minister whether he knows whether they want to lease a part of Bagatelle Quarry to take out more fill, marl fill, rock stone, coral stone or whatever in order to mix ingredients. If they are doing that it becomes a profit.

Do you know how much a load of stone costs today, Sir — about \$150. Can you imagine if these people

are extracting stone for their operation how many lorry loads they can take out in 15 years? All I am saying, Sir, is that is only about 20 or 24 lorry loads involved in the rent there. They can use that in one day.

Therefore, I am merely asking the Minister if he knows that he should review the rent that they are charging because it is what we call an extractive industry, a wasted resource. When you take something out of the ground and you do not replace it with something else it is an extractive industry and therefore the taxpayers, the Government of Barbados, the Treasury, the Consolidated Fund should be adequately recompensed.

We are not against the lease but we merely want to know the nature of the lease and we do not see that it has anything to do with what the Newspapers might have printed about dilapidated houses, however far removed that may be from putting trowel plastic on wood. I do not know, but it is very, very remote. It is from here half-way up the road.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed strange that the hon. member for St. John should be talking about wasting assets in respect of Bagatelle Quarry at this particular stage because the hon. member, if he shakes his brain, draw upon his past experience, well remembers that the original lease to Bagatelle Quarry was created in 1967 during his administration and the quarry had been used for several purposes.

It was used for extracting large boulders for the Port. It has been used for providing aggregate for making what is now called trowel plastic which is sometimes referred to as marmoran. I believe all the proprietors are doing now is to rectify the situation which had been in existence for some time and which this Government discovered. There was no proper legal basis for Trowel Plastics to continue in operation on this particular site.

I want to deal, Mr. Speaker, particularly, with the question of mining as it relates to producing stone and stone by-products in Barbados. We have looked at a new Mining Bill because the Government is particularly worried about the mining operations which are being carried on in Barbados. There is mining of sand. There is mining of clay. There is mining of stone. There are several mining operations in this country that Government is unaware of, or Government has no sort of input, no regulations whatsoever on but, in the end, the Government suffers because after the operators have extracted what they want from the earth, they abandon the holes, you get rats, mongoose, dead dogs. You get all sorts of things being thrown into these holes and then the general public at large either call up the Sanitation Department or they call up the Ministry of Communications and Works and all of these things fall to Government.

The Cabinet has already looked at the Mining Bill which will regulate the mining operations. The hon. member for St. John has not got to worry whether you are extracting products from the hole and making profits, etc. The lease provides for a review every three years and that is the basic reason why we talked about a review every three years because by the time that the Bill comes to Parliament giving Government the power to deal with mining operations, we will not only look at Government lands but we will look at what is extracted from the land. We will look at the profitability of the operation. We will look at what is being done with the by-product.

I can say, Mr. Speaker, that a French Company came to Barbados, carried out experiments on our sands and then wanted the Government to allow them to remove sand from the Belleplaine, St. Andrew area and then ship it to a French Territory for the manufacture of glass.

Now, these are operations being carried on that the Government was not aware of until the very last minute. This is why we have to control what is happening in the mining industry.

I also want to talk about the quality of the material being taken out of these mining operations. When the new Airport was being constructed, the Canadians brought in a laboratory for checking the quality of the materials that were being used at the Airport. We have been able to transfer that equipment to the BNSI and the Ministry of Communications and Works is particularly interested in this equipment for the simple reason that we want to be able to place standards on the type of materials we are obtaining for use in specific areas.

The Ministry has been under a lot of criticism for its road work and all sorts of things but people do not realise that some quarries give a better quality stone than other quarries. Some stone mix well with the materials, the bitumen and all such like for fixing roads. Cobble stone does not mix well.

We are very happy that we will shortly be bringing into operation certain quality standards. Those persons who are engaged in the quarry business will recognise within the last two years that when tenders come out from MCW, we always ask for the place from which the stone will be obtained so that we can know exactly what kind of material we are getting. We are working Mr. Speaker, towards a higher quality of stone for certain areas. For instance, we have Rendezvous Hill, we have Horse Hill. We have several of these hills which require a special quality stone to stop skids when it rains.  
1.00 p.m.

We can only arrive at this situation, if we know the quarries, the type of material that comes from those quarries and if we test the material to make sure that it is exactly what we want for our particular form of road work. Another point that we have to look at is the control of quarries for nuisance purposes. We get complaints from persons living in particular areas that dust coming from the quarries is giving them problems. Now, this is the basic reason why we are looking at a total mining Bill because we would be able to put control as to the type of mining operations that should be carried on, the time when it should be carried on and the control of extraneous material coming out of these quarries.

I want at this point, Mr. Speaker to compliment Messrs. C. O. Williams Construction. The Government has awarded a contract for the Spring Garden Road to a local company. That means that we would be using approximately 80% locally produced materials on the two new roads which this Government will be creating, keeping the money in Barbados creating jobs in Barbados again, I must thank the quarries for having worked 24 hours a day for the past year to supply this Government with its total requirements for quarry material in order to carry our work forward. I am happy to be able to join in this resolution, Mr. Speaker because I am sure that the people in Barbados are happy today that this Government has worked so efficiently and so well and companies out there recognise what is happening in Barbados they have been able to create three shifts, create new employment, increase the number of people employed and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I join in begging that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to add two points because this matter really falls within my ministry and I would corroborate the statement made by the Honourable Member, as to Government's intention to bringing a comprehensive Bill dealing with mining and quarrying in Barbados.

We have had assistance from the British Geological Survey in the form of a specialised Geologist who worked for over a year in Barbados in conjunction with Geologists in the Natural Resources Division in our Ministry in mapping limestone, clay and other quarryable materials in Barbados. The maps are now being prepared in the United Kingdom and Honourable Members who are familiar with geological survey maps of other countries would be pleased to note that just as we have a map which sets out very clearly our underground water resources, so too, we will have a map with various colouring which would set out our quarryable material. Unfortunately, because of the sheer building and pace of the legislation, we were not able to get that Bill before this Parliament. We, however are only awaiting the

maps to give them authority in the Bill, so that the Town Planners and others will be able to deal with it in the same manner, as we deal with the preservation of our water resources.

The Bill will have a component for royalty, a royalty basis and the Town Planner will also be brought into the scheme of administration of the Bill. It is now common practice in other countries of the world to have Regulations whose object is to ensure that when mines are finished, work is carried out on them to conserve them for the purpose of bringing back into public use an alternate use of the land area which has been damaged. It is a well-known policy now. We also, Mr. Speaker have had geotechnical examinations of our limestone and it is clear that in addition to the making of cement, there are other products which can be made combining limestone with the plastics industry in the form of polyester resin. So that, Government has not been inactive in the course of the last five years in our natural resource identification. We have been working very hard in trying to ensure that we have some genuine indigenous industry.

We have been able to get off the ground the Cement Plant and the Mining Bill will be in the next Parliament. I am sure that when we consider all of these matters, you will agree, Sir that one good term deserves another, Sir.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, just briefly, in answer to the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Honourable Minister replies, it might be the appropriate time for me to enlighten him and this Honourable House on this point.

I have had the Record checked and the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition is indeed correct. The record shows that the Honourable Minister did say, that this Item is for a lease to Trowel Plastics Barbados Limited for a period of three years.

The Honourable Minister did say so. So, I believe that the Honourable Minister in his winding up address might now be desirous of setting the Record straight.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did indicate to the Rt. Hon. Member that if I had said it was for three years, it would have been a slip of the tongue. It is indeed for fifteen years renewable every three years, Sir. I am quite sure that the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition is relatively sharp in the coming weeks that lie ahead, Sir and I could leave him with this little note, Sir, he has not got to be too concerned because I have him to know that far down the ages now, her journey just begun, the BLP pursues her way and longs to meet her crown. I do not think that he has to bother about that, Mr. Speaker.

I apologise to the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition and would like to assure him that no quarrying is done by Trowel Plastics there.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would invite you to address the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, the Chair, there is no quarrying to be done there, we are only formalising the lease which was in truth and in fact held by Quarry Products and we are now shaping that out for Trowel Plastics Limited.

With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the Honourable House, Sir, I beg permission Sir that the Item Documents the laying of documents be now reopened.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister is moving that the Item respecting the laying of documents be now reopened. (PAUSE). There being no objection, let the Item be reopened.  
1.10 p.m.

#### PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Registration of Business Names Order, 1981.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, again with the permission of the House, I beg permission for the Item — Statements by Ministers — to be re-opened.

Mr. SPEAKER: As is known, a Minister can make a statement at any time, and remember, his only duty is to inform His Honour the Speaker. He does not have to ask the permission of this Hon. House. The Hon. Minister may proceed, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.

#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to inform the House that I have advised the Governor General that in accordance with section 61(2) of the Constitution he should dissolve Parliament with effect from 3.00 p.m. today, Tuesday, 26th May, 1981. His Excellency will therefore execute and issue the Proclamation for dissolution of Parliament at 3 o'clock this afternoon, from which time Parliament will stand dissolved.

Consequent upon this, His Excellency will issue Writs under the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act for a General Election. Nomination Day has been fixed for Wednesday, June 3, 1981 and Polling Day for Thursday, June 18, 1981.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and duty to thank you, Sir, the other Officers, the Deputy Speaker and Mr. Chairman, and the staff of Parliament for your service in the Session about to end. It is never easy to preside over a multi-party Parliament with opposing sides, and the dignity and presence which you have brought to the Chair have greatly contributed to maintaining the quality of parliamentary life in our country. This goes for all our Officers, and I would wish to pay a special tribute to the Clerk and to the staff, who have maintained the standard of their devoted service, despite the demands made by the record volume of legislation and parliamentary activity in the Session now ending.

It only remains, Mr. Speaker, to urge all Barbadians to exercise their democratic franchise in the Election on Thursday, June 18. No fewer than 164,676 electors are registered to vote in the 27 constituencies, but there are still a further approximately 7,000 persons whose entitlement to vote will not be complete until they have had photographs taken pursuant to the law relating to identity cards. I particularly ask these persons to attend the photographic centres and complete their registration for which the deadline will be June 2. The preliminary electoral lists will be published tomorrow, and there will be a period of six days from May 28 during which mistakes can be corrected. New voters may be registered from today until June 2, although the preliminary list itself will contain the names of all persons who will become 18 years on or before June 18. They will therefore not need to make a special effort to register.

Mr. Speaker, as our Session draws to an end I would just say "Thank you, Sir, until we meet again in this hallowed Chamber."

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: If the words "*sine die*" are giving Your Honour difficulty, I will just move, in accordance with rule 17, that the House do now adjourn.  
1.20 p.m.

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

Sir, I would be failing in my duty on this occasion as I look across the Table and seeing what I refer to and as most of us think of the man whom we can only consider now as the father of Parliament. I am told, Mr. Speaker, from reliable sources that the hon. member for St. Philip South is no longer going to seek an election and so may or may not grace this august Chamber with his presence.

I have worked with him in here for fifteen years, Mr. Speaker, and I must confess that I sought his advice and his experience over those years. I can say that I have held his respect and he has also the respect of every single member of Parliament in here. I believe that those of us who have worked with him over the years can be justly proud of knowing of a man whose academic background is not of any University level, but his contribution to Parliament is one which shall always be held high in the esteem of his colleagues on both sides of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I believe he can go to his home knowing that he has done his duty to his people and to his country, and I sincerely hope that his retirement from politics would only be from this Chamber, but he can be made of some use at some future date to help guide the destinies of this young nation. I, Sir, can only say to him "farewell, thou good and faithful servant".

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted to concur in the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for St. James, I should say that I first had the pleasure and privilege of serving under the hon. member for St. Philip South as the leader of a Parliamentary delegation to Britain in 1972 soon after I became a young member of this House, and it was for me a distinct memory which I will never cease recalling. I have always found him to be extremely courteous, his work was extremely well prepared, he gave every facility to myself and the then Senator Ward to participate in the total discussions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. In my view he put Barbados first and partisan matters second, and I think this has been one of his characteristics, and I was happy indeed to be in this House serving with him, observing the courtesy with which he always treated every hon. member and the Chair, and I think he leaves this House not having been once sent out of this House by the Speaker, not ever once having failed to exercise the courtesy to the Chair and to other hon. members, without having once been engaged in insulting either members of the public or other members of this House, at all times obeying the rulings of the Chair even if he disagreed with them on other grounds.

I think in every respect that he has been an outstanding member of our Chamber. His service to his constituency, to the people of St. Philip and to this Island is now part of the annals of this House, but I

should say that his example is one that many of us in public life and many of them hoping to aspire to public life could well emulate and use as an outstanding example.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to be associated with the remarks made by the Hon. Minister of Housing and the Hon. Attorney General in paying tribute to my friend and colleague from St. Philip South whose last day in Parliamentary life is today.

Mr. Speaker, I have known the hon. member from about age ten, 1950, and our two families have been closely associated over the years by reason of my residence and that of my family in St. Philip for many years from 1948 to 1959 in the case of my parents, and myself until 1978. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Philip South has been to all of us on both sides of the House an example of one who has rendered good, efficient, and in his own words, yeoman service to the people of Barbados and in particular to the People of St. Philip. I do not fail to be touched wherever I travel in St. Philip and hear the tributes and the good reports emanating from the residents of St. Philip, whichever constituency, North or South it does not matter, concerning the hon. member for St. Philip South. His reputation is high on both sides of St. Philip and since I have become a member of Parliament, my association with him at Parliamentary level has shown that he is a person who is bereft of malice, ill-feeling and small mindedness. He has given me many bits of advice all of which I have found sound and worthy of emulation. I have been with him on Parliamentary tours, Mr. Speaker, and he is a great companion. It is a pity that today others of his party left this Chamber before these tributes could be paid and in ignorance of the great contribution that he has made to the development of his own party, to St. Philip and Barbados as a whole. It is a pity that they are not here, but I wish him to know as he bows out of public life at this level today that I speak on behalf of the people of St. Philip and the backbenchers of my own party when I say to the hon. member that we wish him a long, happy and healthy period of retirement, and knowing that his mental faculties are still very alert, we hope that his vast experience and native commonsense can be brought to bear on public life in some other capacity in the future.

For me, Sir, it was a pleasure having worked as a representative for St. Philip North alongside the hon. member for St. Philip South. I wish him and his family all the very best in life to come.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a very few words on behalf of my colleague, friend and mentor, the hon. Reynold St. Clair Weekes. For some twenty years now he has been a member of this Honourable Chamber. For some twenty years he has honoured every summons

to attend meetings of this House and he has attended regularly.  
1.30 p.m.

Those Committees of the House of which he has been a member, he has also on those Committees performed his functions with dedication. He has been an outstanding Parliamentarian. He has interpreted the feelings of his constituents and indeed of the people of this country in a way that only he could interpret and give expression to.

He has been an outstanding representative. He has been an outstanding gentleman. Whenever I have had the privilege of leading the Opposition, I have had unfailing courtesy and unfailing support from the Honourable Reynold St. Clair Weekes. He has had a recipe for victory at the polls and I have been very close to him and I know I have touched the hem of his garment and I also have a recipe for victory.

Mr. Speaker, this Honourable Chamber will be the poorer but he can rest assured that his name has been inscribed on the political and social history of this country and his name will never die. Thank you. (Applause).

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just to add my few words of tribute to the retiring member for St. Philip South. I have had the pleasure and the privilege of acquaintance with Mr. Weekes during the 15 years that we have been in Parliament together.

The efficacy of his success at the polls did not lead him to success when he first ran in St. Thomas many long years ago and I trust that the hon. member for St. Michael South touches the right hem, the St. Philip hem and not the St. Thomas hem.

But I recall, Sir, it must be 13 years ago now, being a member of a Parliamentary delegation which was led by Mr. Weekes, a Parliamentary Course which was sponsored by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and I remarked then, after seeing the hon. member's performance at seminars and on the podium, the quality of his speeches, the knowledge which he brought to bear on the subjects on which he was addressing the assembled Commonwealth Parliamentarians, how unusual it was that his talents were being wasted by his political party.

This view was confirmed by the Attorney General when he first went on the delegation with the hon. member and indeed the service of the hon. member to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, not only the local branch but to the world-wide organization of which I venture to say that from Australia, Zambia to distant provinces of Canada, he is one of the best known members, I think he must be one of the best known M.P's in the entire Commonwealth over a period of many

years. These services were recognized by an award and recognized by the tribute in the Journal of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association itself.

Parliament at times has seemed to be a very contentious and ruthless place, Sir. None of this has ever been brought about by the hon. member for St. Philip South, Sir. No contentions, no arguments with the Chair, no trying to drag down the standards of public life in Barbados and the appreciation of those who stand on the opposite side in politics from the hon. member is well recognized by the fact that all of us today are in here to pay him tribute but the only one of his colleagues who can say anything for him is the other decent one, the hon. member for St. Michael South. (Applause).

Twenty years of service in Parliament of this country, Sir, deserves well of all of us and I am one who is honoured to be in a position to pay tribute to Reynold St. Clair Weekes for all those years of service. (Applause).

Mr. E. ALLEYNE: Mr. Speaker, as the youngest member of this Honourable Chamber, I think it is only fitting that I should add my tribute to the tributes already made to the oldest and longest serving member of this Chamber.

The Honourable member has been a friend of my in-laws for well over half a century and I have come to regard him during my time in this Honourable Chamber as a father to whom I can turn and to whom I have turned for friendly and wise advice.

If I were to put my tribute in a sentence, Mr. Speaker, I think I could do no better than to say the hon. member has been a good House of Assembly man.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member for St. Philip South in my estimation is a political institution in Barbados and he comes as an institution in my mind not only by virtue of the fact that he has served in this Honourable Assembly for 20 years, but because, Sir, he is possibly the finest exponent of gentlemanly conduct that can be found in this Chamber.

I have known him now only since I came to Parliament in 1976 but during the course of those years, he has risen in my esteem to be a gentleman whom I would be very comfortable in emulating, not only by trying to emulate the length of his stay in this Assembly but the quality of his conduct and the nobility of his courage.

I had the honour to be with him in 1979 on a CPA tour to New Zealand and I had the unique opportunity Sir, an opportunity which I will treasure for all my years of being very closely associated with him during the course of that tour. He is a man of very, very good warmth, a wealth

of knowledge and he was able to represent Barbados in a way that cannot easily be conveyed by words.

I believe, Sir, when the Prime Minister mentioned that he is probably the best known member of the Commonwealth Parliaments that he was trying to convey something that would be difficult for Barbadians to understand and it is the very high regard with which the hon. member for St. Philip South, Mr. Weekes, has held by members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

1.40 p.m.

He is known personally and the quality of his contributions in the various sessions did Barbados proud. Sir, I was very, very happy to have been able to sit back and watch this grand old gentleman of Barbadian politics inscribe the name of Barbados very indelibly on the history of the political pages far away from home.

I, Sir, would like to wish him and his family all that is good for his coming years and I hope Sir that his Party will not be the end of the tranquility and the very high quality that we have come to expect in politics not only from him but all of us who regard our duty seriously. I, Sir will be missing him and I will mention again, all of us will certainly miss him. I wish him all that is good during the remaining years that he has in retirement.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to be associated with the tributes which have been paid to the Honourable Member for St. Philip South by the Honourable Members who have spoken.

I knew the Honourable Member for a long period of time and I also recognised and appreciate the outstanding contribution which the Honourable Member made to the political life of this country in spheres of Government other than the House of Assembly. He was a member of the Vestry of St. Philip during the Vestry system, he was also a very distinguished counsellor. Indeed, I believe that he held the office of Chairman of the Southern District Council for more than one session when we had Local Government and it is in this area that I have very intimate knowledge of the performance of the Honourable Member.

As Politicians and as Honourable Members of Parliament, all of us have to combine the functions of a national politician with those of a local politician. The Honourable Member was perhaps in a unique position in this respect and since the abolition of Local Government, perhaps one of his greatest achievements has been his ability on the Floor of the Honourable House to articulate the need in the context of our present Governmental system for constant attention in debates and in other proceedings for attention to be paid to those matters which fell under the responsibility of Local Government.

I join with the others in wishing him a very happy retirement. I know that it would be difficult for the Honourable Member to separate himself from the affairs of Barbados merely because he has decided to retire from active politics and I am confident that his counsel and his advice to those who live in his area and in Barbados will still be offered.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I will not be very long. I would like to say that today is a sad day and a happy day. It is a sad day because Parliament will lose the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, a man who has served this country at the national level for quite a number of years and he has served the country at a local level. He has also served the country at the international level. He is known in St. Philip as a man who cares for all and sundry. He will well be remembered for his efforts in forcing the last Administration to begin the payment of Old Age Pensions by cheques. I well remembering him arguing with his own political Party and Government of the day that it was time you should save the senior citizens from the hot sun and standing outside of the various Parochial offices waiting for pensions.

It is a sad day, Mr. Speaker because his colleagues whom he supported so well over the years have abandoned him at this last moment in Parliament. I remember the Honourable Member and I had a quarrel on our way to Mauritius, when I said to him, you had retired, you should have gone home, you should have enjoyed the fruits of your labour, you should be able to live a long and happy life. But, he said to me that his political Party wanted his assistance in the time of need and trouble and he came out of retirement to support that political Party.

Today, the only Honourable Member sitting by his side is the Honourable Member who has always been regarded by those on this side as an honest, decent, upright and fair minded man in Parliament.

I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Philip for his service to the country. It is a sad day, Mr. Speaker because I believe that a lot of those who have gone already will not grace this Honourable Chamber in those seats again. It is a happy day because it has removed the anxiety and the pressure from those who really want to get on with the Government of the day and the people's business. I want to extend to the Honourable Member for St. Philip South the sincere thanks of the people of this country and of Parliament. I wish him a long and a happy retirement and I wish, Mr. Speaker that although he leaves this Honourable Chamber that he will not withdraw from active life in the community. It is said that those persons who have worked from a very early age when they go into retirement and they decide to give it all up, they never

live too long. I hope that the Honourable Member will continue in the social work which he has been doing for all these years. I would hate to miss the Honourable Member from around the district and around the island and I wish that he continues to look after those persons who have looked out for him on numerous occasions and I hope that we will be able to refer to him in the near future because I believe that his memory will serve us all well.

His behaviour in Parliament has been of the highest order; His behaviour in all situations in life, Mr. Speaker and I wish him and his family a long, prosperous and fruitful retirement.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: May I Mr. Speaker be permitted to add my brief personal quota of tribute to the retiring Honourable Member of Parliament, Reynold St. Clair Weekes and you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, Sir to observe that it is the lot of some of us to retire, others are retired.

The tributes today, Sir have concentrated almost exclusively on the service which the Honourable Member has rendered in this Honourable Chamber and to public life at the national level. May I, like the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central be permitted to reflect on his large long standing contribution and devoted service at the local and community level and I refer not only to his contribution to the Vestry which was then succeeded by Local Government, but also, his contribution to the Shining Bells Society not particularly well remembered now by many people, but it was an institution, Sir which was the only protective device against the hardships of life which the people in upper Christ Church, St. John and St. Philip had for many years in the forties and the fifties. He was indeed the Founder, Sir and part of the reason why he is remembered as a household word, Sir in the South and Eastern part of Barbados is because of his large outstanding and devoted service to his fellow citizens.

I think, Sir that it is because of the man himself that we are able to reflect on his many years of outstanding service. A man of great dignity, Sir, a man of great discretion. He wears many confidences which will go to the grave with him, Sir. It is not a thing that could be said for many people. A man, Sir of integrity, indeed, a good and decent man, who has given long and sustained, worth-while and worthy service to his people, Sir. That, I believe, is the memorial, that is what I believe will be able to be written when he finally goes, Sir, on his tombstone, and I think that he can take great satisfaction and great pride in the service which he has rendered to this country for over 40 years in public life.

1.50 p.m.

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be out of order if I did not join with other hon. members in

paying tribute to the hon. member for St. Philip South. I will be rather brief, time is moving on, and it will not be long before it is 3 o'clock, but I must say, Sir, that the hon. member will be remembered for a long time for his service to his constituents. I myself have had on several occasions reported from his constituents and members of his constituency praise of the hon. member.

To those of us who are here now, to those of us who will be returning here after June 18, and to all those in the future may have the honour to sit in this Chamber, my advice is to follow his example.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, you will forgive me today if I do not find words to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who have expressed themselves and have showed kudos on me for the service I have rendered to my country.

I regret, Sir, that in looking around at this side of the House that I have to ask myself one question, and it is a Biblical one, were there not ten cleansed, and where are the nine. I say so still as a loyal member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent by far more than half my age in the political arena in Local and Central Government. As the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister did mention, when I ran for St. Thomas I want to say that in those days the plantocracy dominated this country, and therefore it called for stamina for a youngster to challenge those people in those days. In the Vestry, it was also dominated by the plantation owners, and therefore it took a very good spirit to challenge those people in those days.

I remembered when I entered the Vestry of St. Philip there were approximately 150 to 200 voters. The qualification was so high that the average black man did not have the privilege of serving except he shared the views of the Conservatives. I subsequently served in the Council and had the honour and distinction of serving for two consecutive terms. No other Councillor had that special privilege. I was elected in this House of Assembly in 1961, and I am grateful to Mr. Crawford who did suggest to me to run as a Vestryman, as a Councillor and as a member of the House of Assembly.

Today I speak with mixed feelings. I am indeed happy to know that I have rendered four consecutive terms in this ancient and honourable House of Assembly, and this is due to the interest I displayed in my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I can only advise young parliamentarians that there is only one way, one method of retaining their seats, and it is, never consider yourself as the master of the people, consider yourself at all times as the servant of the people. If you are sent here for one

term and you wait until the term is about to expire then to return to the people, it is quite possible that that will be your last term. You must always do your homework daily.

2.00 p.m.

Now the time has come, Sir, for me to leave. If there is one thing I will regret, it is travelling all over the world on those various conferences which are being held by the CPA. You and I, Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt will remember travelling together to Cuba and we got on remarkably well. I have always found myself, regardless of being a leader or member of a delegation doing my utmost for my country and to realise that humility, honesty of purpose have always been my motto in life.

On this particular occasion when the time has come for me to say "goodbye" to my friends in this Parliament, I can only advise both sides of the House, Government and Opposition, that regardless of which party is given the opportunity to govern the country, the time has come when we in this country should realise that Her Majesty's Opposition plays an important role in the functioning of Government in this country, and therefore I do hope, Sir, that both sides will uphold the high tradition of this ancient and honourable House of Assembly, so that the youngsters of this country can emulate our legislators, and it will give them the spirit, the ambition to come forward from time to time and to represent the people of this country in this House.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to watch the brand of academics which are coming from the University, and we do hope that they will understand that there is no better system of government than democracy. In leaving I can only again appeal to both sides of the House to eradicate animosity, ill-will and hatred from their hearts and to realise that they will be sent here to represent the interests of the people. Let them realise in future that all of them come through the door and none have come through the window and that they are legislators. It is my fervent prayer that God will send his blessing on this House and also the people of Barbados, and that on election day they will make a right decision in selecting the various candidates to represent their interests.

Mr. Speaker, to you, Sir, I wish to say "thanks" for the cooperation and the assistance you have given me from time to time. You and I got along amicably and

now I am leaving, it is my fervent prayer that the Omnipotent will at all times guide and guard and direct the members of this ancient House in their deliberations. May God bless you all. (Cheers).

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I merely want to say that I now begin to realise how the hon. member for St. Philip South feels having been a member of this honourable and ancient institution for twenty years. He now passes out with twenty years of experience. He leaves with us a treasure which we should not bury, but those of us who remain whether for another day or two, another term or two should try to honour and seek to open up as if a book of further knowledge, for the hon. member has done all within his power to uphold the traditions of this honourable institution, he has done all in his power to enhance its dignity and he has on no occasion ever been found wanting in any respect.

As has been said before, he has answered every summons to attend to his duties, and he has always put the business of his country first, and the people of St. Philip have everything to be proud of in rejoicing with the rest of Barbados for having had an hon. member such as the hon. member for St. Philip South as their representative for so long in this Honourable House. It is for us all to wish him a retirement that can be meaningful. He remains a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and those of us who have an opportunity to keep the Association alive must remember that as long as the Association is alive, the hon. member ought to be kept alive by as close an association, calling on him wherever and whenever possible because we believe that it has meant much to him and made him to feel as he now feels today.

2.10 p.m.

Honourable members, it is for all of us as we have shown the hon. member this evening to let him feel that we are joyful for the way he has served the 20 years in his country but we all regret that he does not find it convenient to strive after another term and he leaves it to the Governing Party because for this Party he feels "one good term deserves another." I thank you.

This House now stands adjourned.

2.15 p.m.