THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1981—86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 4, 1986.

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

PRESENT

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Speaker)
Hon. L. S. Craig, (Minister of Information and Telecommunications, and Leader of the House)
Hon. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning)
Hon. L. B. Brathwaite, (Minister of Housing and Lands)
J. G. Odle, Esq.,B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)
B. M. Taitt, Esq., B.A., (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. L. R. Tull, Q.C., M.A., (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs)
Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw, (Minister of Labour and Community Development)
W. O. Franklin, Esq., A.I.A.S., J.P.
O. S. Arthur, Esq., M.Sc., (Econ.), (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)
Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)

Prayers were led by Rev. Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, the 21st day of January, 1986.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, the 21st day of January, 1986 be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations or objections, let the Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Adoption Regulations, 1986.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Fairfield, Black Rock, St. Michael, for Housing Development.

A Resolution to grant the sum of $110 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1985—86, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1985—86, No. 25, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Interpretation Act.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, a Bill to amend the Interpretation Act was read a first time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Government Business be the instant order of the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the instant order of the day.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, Ch.B., F.R.C.P., (Edin.) entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Order No. 1 Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SPEIGHTSTOWN, ST. PETER FOR THE PROVISION OF AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE PROPOSED FISHERIES COMPLEX

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE (St. Andrew): Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to make provision for a road which would lead to the Speightstown Fisheries Complex. This complex has been much talked about over the past two years.

From the time this party took office in 1976, we have taken a broad look at all the fisheries centres in this country, starting from Oistins in the south and stepping on to Bridgetown, Speightstown, St. Peter and Bathsheba in St. John, in that order. We are all mindful of the fact that, in order to have a viable fishing industry, we must make proper provision for the fishermen. For years no one seemed to have had the courage to tackle this important situation, and the Barbados Labour Party thought that self sufficiency in fish is very necessary in order to have a case where there will be no foreign expenditure in the importation of fish. To this end, we have been looking at the total upgrading of all the fisheries complexes in this country.

Speightstown is now going to be the fourth phase in our development, since we have already made a start in St. Joseph, we have completed Oistins and we have also started to work on the Bridgetown complex. The area of land which we seek to purchase will make provision for a roadway. My understanding is that the present pathway which would lead to Fort Denmark, which is the site of the former Speightstown District Hospital, will be now by itself, and, therefore, to make it convenient for the ingress and egress of traffic, we will have to purchase the two parcels of land which are in the Resolution.

I should mention, Mr. Speaker, in the introduction of this Resolution that at one stage it was thought that the area around the Speightstown Esplanade would have been the best area to have this complex developed. The consultants to the project to some extent felt that way, but after referring to the Manager of the Coastal Conservation Project, and having heard the views of the Project Manager and the people who are primarily concerned with coastal conservation, the Government has come to the conclusion that, in order to avoid further erosion in the area of Speightstown and St. James as well, it is absolutely necessary that we do not develop the fisheries complex at the esplanade area, but rather do it in that area of Fort Denmark.

The Coastal Conservation Unit has been looking for a long time at erosion around the entire coast of Barbados, and they have been keeping a very sharp eye on developments that are taking place now. The Town Planning Department as well as the Ministry of Housing and Lands are also looking closely at developments which are taking place.

At this stage of our development in Barbados — not only in Barbados, it seems to be a worldwide phenomenon — we are finding that beaches are seriously disturbed. Those people who are concerned with coastal preservation seem to be lost as to the reason why these developments are taking place. It is not for me to question the Divine works or the works of nature. These are things which I believe happen ever so often in all communities and are therefore things which we have to live with.
12.30 p.m.

Invariably, the Barbados Labour Party is accused of being responsible for heavy rains when it falls and hot sun when it shines, as though this party is so divine and has so much power and influence over the environment that it can stop the rain from falling or the sun from shining. We somehow admire the people who charge us with that responsibility for feeling that we are so powerful and influential, but we want to let them know that we are just human beings, and that although we are quite good in the management of the affairs of the country, we do not have influence over the behaviour of nature.

The complex which will be built at Fort Denmark will provide accommodation for 24 fish vendors and 24 vegetable vendors. It will offer a number of modern features, which we will learn as we go on, to develop these modern fishing areas.

I do not propose to speak at any further length. I know there are honourable Members on this side, as well

as, I hope, on the other side, who may want to speak on this Resolution.

There is one thing that I want to end on, that it is my happy feeling that, at long last, the people of Speightstown who have indulged over a number of years in this country in a seafaring exercise, which is daunting to many souls in this land, will find themselves, in the fullness of time, and sooner rather than later, enjoying the benefits which will come from a modern and updated facility. So that the problems which they have encountered over the past years will be eliminated in the process of time, as they will be in other parts of the country such as St. Joseph and St. John.

Too often we hear in this House that the Government is partisan in its approach to development. We are not aware if that is so and our practice has not been directed in that direction, and, therefore, when one considers that in all of our developments, especially touching on the vital aspects of employment and infrastructure, we have given total consideration to the needs of the entire country as distinct from any area where there might be representation other than on the Government side, one would be pleased to know that this Government has taken a non-partisan approach towards the total development of this country.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, the principal spokesman on the other side, in addressing this Resolution for the acquisition of parcels of land for the purpose of providing an access road to a proposed fisheries complex at Speightstown, did, indeed, take the opportunity, I believe, Sir, within the ambit of the Resolution, to announce Government's faulty plans for the development of fisheries in Speightstown and elsewhere in Barbados. However, I believe that it is our duty on this side to respond to the specific remarks which he has made about this fishing harbour and other fishing harbours in Barbados.

It is typical of this Government always to put the cart before the horse. Let it be understood that the construction of a fishing harbour does not mean, in itself, the development of a fishing industry. We have heard arguments put forward from the other side that when funds are expended in the construction of a harbour, or in the purchase of lands for an access road to a harbour, one should consider the harbour to be a factory. I have heard that kind of argument put forward from the other side. But, Sir, we believe that the essentials of a fishing industry should be adequate boats for the fishermen at reasonable prices, and boats that can be insured at a reasonable rate so as to cut down on the losses to fishermen and to enhance the safety of our fishermen at sea. We believe that it is important to improve the logistics for the collection of fish, for the catching of fish and for the marketing of such fish domestically in particular, and, also, this is very important, to enhance our export industry in relation to fish. We believe that it a greater priority to get our fish processing industries going for export than to be building ports at this stage. These are critical areas. In other words, we believe that money spent at this point in time should be going first into the business of providing boats for catching the fish, marketing the fish locally and externally and in the processing of fish for export. At that point, Sir, you are in a position to build your harbours and then amortise the cost of that harbour, particularly if it involves foreign currency borrowing, as all of these developments have involved, whether in Oistins or the proposed Bridgetown Development or this Speightstown Development.

We ought to be in a position where we could earn the foreign currency to pay the cost of the foreign currency which we will be borrowing. But, typically, they believe in bricks and mortar. They believe in high prestige points. They believe in propagandising from the floor of the House, from the television screens, from public platforms, and it has become evident that that kind of malformed planning, totally inadequate, putting the cart before the horse, is one of the factors responsible for the many problems facing this country. We have innumerable projects, Sir, where a lot of money has been sunk in bricks and mortar, and today those projects have not been turned into viable income-generating projects in Barbados, or job-producing projects.
12.40 p.m.

I am glad, Sir, that the honourable Member for St. Andrew (Hon. L. B. Brathwaite) shows such concern for the impact of such coastal developments in relation to the integrity of our coasts, particularly in relation to erosion and to the drainage of this country, because, Sir, in the past week, I have been reliably informed that since the development project started here in Bridgetown, the careenage down there is beginning to silt up, and that this will pose a problem in terms of erosion in the future and also might well pose a tremendous problem in respect of the drainage of Barbados. Sir, I understand that personnel from the Defence Force are monitoring the matter on a daily basis. I understand that other experts are daily looking to see how much silt is coming into the careenage and that there is a serious risk.

The Prime Minister can laugh if he likes to, but he knows I am telling the truth. He knows that I am telling the truth, that there is a problem that has developed in the careenage since the project started down there. People should learn that they should not just dump marl in the sea before they go and put the basic props or

whatever it is in order to stop the silt from following the tides into the careenage of Barbados. That is a fact, Sir, and I believe it is important that this Honourable House should know that the Opposition shares the concerns of the honourable Member for St. Andrew over negligence in protecting the integrity of the coasts of Barbados when a Government is involved in major construction involving fisheries and fishing ports around the harbours of this country.

Sir, there can be no doubt that many persons in Barbados, who are very knowledgeable in this area, have expressed alarm to me about these major constructions on the coasts leading to further erosion. They are deeply upset over what is happening in the careenage at the moment, although I am pleased to say, Sir, that I have heard that the Defence Force is making a major contribution in this area in monitoring the matter. I think the Prime Minister has a duty to this country to get up and say what the problem is in the careenage, if there is a problem; what steps are being taken to monitor it, and what steps are being taken to arrest the problem in the careenage, because it has two sets of implications: one in terms of silting up the careenage, and the second one, potential dangers in relation to drainage because as we know, Sir, the careenage represents a major point of drainage for at least half of Barbados, and it is important that it should be protected.

But this is typical of the planning of the Barbados Labour Party. All they want to do is to borrow money, put the money in bricks and cement and say "we have built a harbour," nothing to do with the use of the harbour, nothing to do with further forward planning. We on this side believe that there should be a happy marriage between capital investment in terms of fixed assets like harbours and capital investment that is functional, which would earn enough money in order to pay for your fixed investment. That is what we believe in, and we believe, too, that it is more important that you should make your capital investment so that you can begin to earn money whilst at the same time you are making this kind of investment.

The honourable Member must tell us here what plans they have for the fishermen, what plans he has to make sure that they would have access to boats that can go out into the deep and bring back in the fish in large numbers, what plans he has for the marketing of those fish. Tell me what plans do you have for that purpose?

Can you imagine, Sir, I went with a friend, who was trying to export $30 in fish, down to Oistins two weeks ago and it took him about two hours to get the $30 in fish in a state in which it could be packaged to be exported to another Caribbean territory. And they are talking about exports! It took almost two hours to get $30 to $40 in fish boned, put together, packaged and left overnight to be collected the following day. That is the export orientation that they are talking about, two hours for $30 in fish! There are no facilities to meet that kind of demand.

As a matter of fact, Sir, I believe that the Government should now be making further use of funds through the Development Bank to ensure that there are far more generous terms. Would you believe, Sir, that this Government has provided finance — not this Government, the Barbados Development Bank, because the Democratic Labour Party did that in the past — they actually lend money through the Development Bank and through the Barbados National Bank for a boat, and then would not lend money to have the boat insured, so that as soon as the boat goes down, the Development Bank has lost its money, the National Bank has lost its money and the individual has lost all of his money. It is a fact that this has happened to several fishermen because there is such poor financial planning on the part of Government, through its financial institutions, that they would not include the cost of insurance in the overall financing of projects for the small poor people of this country. That is their attitude to the small man. The big man would be able to get an adequate amount of capital and he would get enough capital to ensure that he can cover the insurance costs. That is their attitude to the big fisherman. But to the small fisherman they will lend you money from the Development Bank, you can go and get a commercial loan and you can go out to sea and lose it.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Those are the few comments I have to make.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution so ably introduced by my friend, the Honourable Minister responsible for Housing. In so doing, I must observe that it is not at all surprising that the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), who has just sat down, spoke with such singular lack of conviction, because his speech revealed a lack of appreciation of the fact in relation to what is going on in the fishing industry and what careful planning has gone into the major thrust which is now taking place in the fishing industry in this country. In a sense, none of that is surprising, because we must always contrast what the Democratic Labour Party Administration did and what we in the Barbados Labour Party are doing.

It is a matter of record that the former Prime Minister and still leader of the Democratic Labour Party had a view of fishermen as worthy only of a cork hat and an old pants and a nip bottle of rum. That was said by him from the public platform on more than one occasion in my presence and hearing, and that was their view about fishermen. As a result, there was no thought given

to a new facility at Oistins, or anywhere in Bridgetown, or anywhere around the coasts in this island of Barbados. We still had the old boats in their day; no consideration given to ice facilities, no consideration given to safety equipment, no consideration given to new gear technology, no consideration given to the design of fuel efficient boats. Nothing so! It was the Barbados Labour Party that came into office in 1976 and as a result invited the Canadian Government to assist us in carrying out a detailed study of the requirements to put fishing in the modern era in Barbados.
12.50 p.m.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Up to now they have not got any fish.)

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: It was as a result of that study, which was carried out by the Canadians, that we are now undertaking a major thrust in fishing in this country. It involves, as has been pointed out in our manifesto, the building of modern facilities not only in Oistins, but also in Bridgetown and in Speightstown, and the repair and upgrading of the facility at Tent Bay in St. Joseph. I am happy to report, for the benefit of this Honourable House, and for the enlightenment of the public, that the Tent Bay facility is well advanced, that Oistins, as we all know, is completed, that two parts of the three part facility in Bridgetown have already been completed and that the major works are due to start within a month's time, and that we are expecting that by the end of March this year we would be able to commence construction of the facility at Speightstown.

But, to use the jargon of the computer age, we are not only in the Barbados Labour Party concerned with hardware, we are also concerned with the provision of software. We are not concentrating our efforts only on physical facilities, which are very important, such as new and upgraded landed site involving a jetty, repair facilities, ice making plants, chill rooms and sanitation facilities. Fishermen do not have to run behind fences now to attend to the functions of nature as went on in the days of the Democratic Labour Party.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Apart from these new facilities which we may regard as hardware, we know that it is also important that the fishermen have access to credit, that they have been trained in techniques of safety and that every effort be made to assist in the distribution and marketing of fish when some is caught. That is why we opened a window at the Barbados National Bank, which was subsequently taken over by the Barbados Development Bank, and that window is available to fishermen not only for the repair of their boats, but for the maintenance and for the purchase of new boats. On that point I am to tell the House that while all the experts anticipated that by 1990 we would have 30 ice boats in Barbados, so major has been the inducement provided by Government that already in 1986 we have achieved that target. Millions of dollars are being lent out. I think the figure for the window that has just been opened is, in less than two years, something like $2 million by the Barbados Development Bank in fishing.

The Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture has undertaken in the last two, three years, several training courses relating to safety. We have not gone the route of legislation; through techniques of persuasion we have managed to get the fishermen to use ship to shore radio, to use the flyers whereby they can attract the attention of passing vehicles and to install in their boats minimum safety equipment. We have had experts from the FAO and other organizations come to Barbados and carry out studies in relation to the best designed boats, bearing in mind the fuel efficiency and other considerations for the Barbadian conditions. We have also been carrying out investigations with respect to finding new fishing banks around the coast of Barbados. Everything to make sure that the industry is put on a modern footing is being done by the Barbados Labour Party. And it is a matter of fact which cannot be disputed, regardless of what is said on the other side, that one of the major successes of the Barbados Labour Party in the last ten years has been the modernization of the fishing industry in this country. Talk to any of the fishermen at any of the centres and they will tell you that this Barbados Labour Party has paid substantial attention to the requirements of the fishing industry in this country.

We are not stopping at Tent Bay, Oistins, Speightstown and Bridgetown. We are also determined to upgrade and modernize, though on a lesser scale the facilities at Consett Bay in St. John, where, in the last Estimates and in the Estimates to come, we are providing money for the repair of the jetty. We will also make sure that chill facilities are provided there, proper sanitation facilities and other modest facilities — because we do not want to duplicate — so as to ensure that they, too, are brought into this modern era that we in the Barbados Labour Party have ushered in for fishermen. The same thing will happen in relation to the facility at Skeete's Bay in St. Philip.

It is not surprising, Mr. Speaker, that the last honourable Member opened his contribution as he did. All he was doing, in effect, was repeating an old line which was first associated with the Right Honourable Member for St. John. He got up in here one day and said that fishing harbours by themselves do not create a fishing industry. In so saying, he was setting up a straw man to knock him down, because nobody on this side has ever said that fishing harbours by themselves, the hardware, constitute all the pre-conditions for making a

modern industry. We recognize that, too, in the Barbados Labour Party, and that is why we are doing all the other things, which I have referred to as the software, to ensure that fishing in Barbados is placed on a modern footing.

Let me say this, however, for the benefit of the Members on the other side and for the benefit of the public. The waters around Barbados are not waters that are filled with fish. Anytime that you have waters that are good for the tourists, waters that you can see through, those waters are not good for fish. So that, generally speaking, the waters around Barbados are not like the waters in the Sea of Galilee. There the waters are muddy and thick and you can scarcely see through those waters — you cannot see through at all — and those are the waters that attract a lot of fish. The waters around Barbados are good for tourists, but not, generally speaking, good for fish. Nevertheless, we are trying our best to ensure that fishermen can go as far out as possible, and that is why the modern boats are being designed with ice facilities. And in so far as we are fortunate in some areas to have a surplus catch during the fishing season, November to June or thereabouts, we have taken steps to ensure that that fish can be exported, either to the United Kingdom or to North America or elsewhere, and that is exactly what Atlantic Fishmongers and others are doing. They are involved in the business of fish processing, not only for domestic consumption but also for the export market.
1.00 p.m.

But one must not give the impression that every year, or even on a regular basis, we have a surplus of fish in Barbados, because that is not true. Three years ago, for example, we were very fortunate, because of tidal movements and other factors, which even the fishermen and the experts do not all understand, to start the fishing season virtually in glut. As early as January we were hearing that we had a surplus of fish, when, in truth and in fact, we do not normally experience a surplus of flying fish before about May or June, towards the end of the season. But that was a rare and unusual experience. In the last two years, demand outstripped supply, and the fishermen had no problem in relation to marketing. But every now and again, because of tidal movements outside of the shores of Barbados, we may find ourselves with a surplus of flying fish. Barbadians still import three or four months of fish from the Virgin Islands, Guyana, and elsewhere. So that the impression must not be given that we in this country experience a surplus of fish and that there are no provisions for the marketing of that fish.

I want to emphasise that in so far as we may have a surplus of flying fish from time to time, there are adequate cold storage facilities in the country to ensure that during the off period we continue to have flying fish not only for the households, but also for the hotels. In addition, some firms in Barbados — Atlantic Fish Market being the best known — Hanschell Inniss is now attempting to get into this field — are attempting to ensure that there is proper processing and that fish can be made available for the export market when it is available.

So that, Mr. Speaker, I thought it necessary to intervene in this debate and to make the point that the Government has a comprehensive package of facilities and plans in relation to the fishing industry, that those plans do not only involve physical structures, such as boat repair facilities, new markets, new jetties, new cold storage facilities and so on, but that we are paying attention to what I call the software — the training of the fishermen, the provision of credit, the exploration of marketing opportunities overseas, the introduction of new gear technology and the emphasis of the design of new boats. All of these matters are being accommodated and attended to as we in the Barbados Labour Party get ahead with the business, which we promised the country, of modernizing and of upgrading the fishing industry in this country.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): I think it is very important that we do not excite the public about matters which have been thoroughly investigated, and because they relate to scientific matters, there is a natural tendency, automatically, to feel that the laymen are not entitled or that laymen do not have the competence to make a judgment on them.

I heard the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) pontificate on the dangers of reclamation. He also pontificated on siltation in the careenage. I want to say, Sir, that, for a long period of time, I have been a close observer of the coastline in Barbados, particularly on the south coast. I have always been an advocate of cautious approaches in schemes dealing with reclamation. Part of my view was nurtured from the conservatism of the former Member for St. Michael, the late George Fergusson, and his stories that he used to tell around the Cruising Club and other places about the impact of groynes in Florida when they were first introduced. I also had visible evidence before me of the greatest piece of bad planning ever encountered anywhere in any part of the world, and it was done by the Democratic Labour Party, for I lived to see, day after day, in the 1965 — 1966 period of time, when, as a boulder was put down, sand came in. As the engineer changed the direction, more sand came in. Nobody has ever built a harbour that never operated as a harbour like the Democratic Labour Party. So what foolishness is the honourable Member talking about in this case? The proposed Coast Guard Scheme at Enterprise is an example of what you should not do.

Now with that as the background, I want to tell the House and the public that no scheme in relation to reclamation has ever gone through and finally decided on by the Planning and Priorities Committee which was not preceded by a detailed multi-disciplinary study by engineers, by coastline experts and by others. When Oistins was to be built, the first thing done was that a coastal engineering pre-feasibility study was commissioned, and it was done by one of the greatest authorities in the Caribbean on coastal engineering, a Dr. Deane, from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Dr. Deane did his doctorate on sand formation on the south coast of Barbados, and Dr. Deane studied for a long period of time with Mr. Milt Peacewood, the expert in Florida. So before Oistins was done, a study was commissioned from Kendall Point to the area that was formerly St. Lawrence Hotel, because that was regarded as an area of literal drift which could possibly be impacted by the reclamation works. That is why before the building was built in Oistins the terminal, a series of groynes stretching from Half Moon Fort was put in. That is the pre-planning that was done. Before that, a Mr. Ziegler had done a report from the Hilton to that same area by the St. Lawrence Church. The Government has a whole series of studies that were done prior to our time and during our time, and last year, or year before, we asked for a technical co-operation agreement with the Inter-American Bank for funds to do a comprehensive survey of the coast in Barbados. That is why the honourable Member was able to say, when we were talking about the Speightstown study, that the coastal conservation consultant was able to point out that if the engineering and other views predominated that you should site the Speightstown fisheries terminal near the existing terminal, you would be running into trouble, because by having to reclaim you would be interfering with all the beaches that run to the north of it, because the way how the literal drift is in that area of Barbados is north to south and not like in the other areas. That is why, also, I am amazed that people who are architects, and others, can seek to say that the only consideration should be aesthetics and monetary and the cost of the project, and that these other areas should not be taken into account. I categorically reject that.

1.10 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, I hear people say that. If you were listening to the radio, you would hear that somebody went before the planning inquiry and said that. Monumental stupidity! Selfishness! And what is more, if there was ever any doubt about where this project should have been sited, the two successive floods that we had last year and the year before should have removed all doubt, because they wanted to site it to block the area of the outlet of the major drainage in Speightstown. Of course, the Government rejected that.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: We rejected that! We never blocked it. We rejected it. We are going to improve it. It has been rejected, and that is why we are going to Fort Denmark. The honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) will be able to handle this because he went right through the exercise and he knows all about it.

I am now coming to Bridgetown and I am going to deal with Bridgetown. One of the phenomena that has occurred in the coast between the Hilton Hotel and the baggage warehouse is the fact that Bay Street and those areas now have a beach which they never had before, and it is claimed that it is the impact of the Hilton's jetty.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: The groyne).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is no groyne there. It is the impact of the Hilton's jetty and the outer arm of the Deep Water Harbour. Those are the two things that you have, the outer arm of the Deep Water Harbour and the jetty which was built when the Hilton was first there in 1966.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: There is no groyne. If you call it a groyne, you call it a groyne. If you call it the Hilton groyne, it is a groyne. I know it was a jetty, because I remember when water sports boats used to operate from that jetty.

Now, Sir, it is not correct to say -- and I am sorry the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said it — that elaborate studies were not done prior to the reclamation at the Bridgetown Harbour.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You said that! You said that no consideration was taken to the siltation, and you had it on reliable information that there was going to be siltation. Well, listen to the facts. Before the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour was built, a prefeasibility study was carried out by joint venture firms of consulting engineers from Canada and from Barbados. The view of the Barbadian engineer and his firm was that provision had to be made by an arm for the purpose of preventing the siltation in the careenage, not so much in the careenage but within the proposed fishing harbour. The designers of the fishing harbour say that the siltation is such a remote possibility, and of so small a nature, that you could dredge it and you did not need the arm.

This matter came before the Planning and Priorities Committee and we had a little court, and we

had about ten engineers giving opinions. A simple question was put to these so called engineers: Would you put in writing that there would be no siltation? They said "no." They said they would put that in writing, but they would also go on to say the siltation would be inconsequential. So we asked them what they meant by inconsequential, to define it for us over a time span, and they could not tell us, and it went along like this. We asked the other view, and they said very clearly, "We agree that the siltation may be small, but we do not think that it is worthwhile taking the risk, having regard to what has happened when you were building the harbour for the Coast Guard at the beginning."

All sides agreed that once you put the arm, the arm will act as a deflector and the possibility of the siltation would be substantially removed. Of course, we took the decision that we were going to have the arm.

Now you hear this talk by a bunch of people, whose qualifications in this area are non-existent, that as a result of putting the arm, you will get the siltation inside the careenage now. Do you see what is happening now? You can understand it. It is the cocktail party talk. You know there is a group in Barbados who have nothing to do but go around listening to gossip and walking around repeating the gossip.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So what? If they belong to us that does not mean that we do not recognise their faults. Why don't you recognise the faults in yours?

So that is the position, that having heard that there was an argument between engineers with respect to siltation inside the new fishing harbour, they transferred that argument now to the area of the careenage. The careenage always had a small amount of siltation from time immemorial. There were always dredgings in the careenage. That comes from the land and it comes a little bit from the sea around the corner. That has always been there. But where the arm is going is way down from there, and the arm is going to protect the other area.

Those are the arguments, so do not let us get here and try to excite Barbadians about these matters. It is our responsibility as leaders to be able to justify our decisions and carry out the most elaborate investigative procedures before a decision is taken. But what I want to say is this, that the little risk that may possibly.....

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is no engineer in the world that is going to tell you.....

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So what? I now understand why you are not a surgeon. As a surgeon, every operation you go under is a risk. Your problem is that you are looking for certainty. When you walk out of here, there is no certainty that you or me will be in existence the next hour, so what are you worrying about? Men have to make decisions.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There is an increase in silt in the careenage today since you built the harbour).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is absolutely no evidence to justify that opinion, and I am told, and I am advised by both engineers of both the projects, that the position with respect to the careenage is not an issue at all. There is no issue about the careenage, so that the honourable Member can proceed in his view-point. He can continue to try to excite the public, with the view of trying to remove the political impact of that project, which has a high visibility quotient and will redound electorally to the conceivers of the project. That is your problem.

1.20 p.m.

(Certain remarks made at this stage by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the records.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a manifestation of the evil nature of the man. That really is. How he could have come from what I said to that position only shows us how twisted and distorted his mind is. A danger to the society! An enemy to the truth!

Sir, the position is very clear. We have done all of this investigative work and the project will proceed.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my concern on this matter is a lot more far-fetched than we have debated here today, and it arises from a statement made by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. First, and it is a known fact, he said that the number of ice boats we have now number about 30 and that there is a growing tendency for most of the boats to go the ice boat way, and, therefore, we must predict that within the next 18 months or so, we will have another 10 or 15. The second point which the Minister has said, which is also a fact, is that the water around Barbados are not good for fishing because it is clear water, and you do not get a lot of fish in and around the waters of Barbados.

This brings me to a fact which is very important, and I hope that the Minister, in his comprehensive

planning for fisheries, has already begun to give consideration to this point. When there were a few ice boats, Mr. Speaker, if you speak to those few ice boats owners they will tell you that it is a fact that they have been fishing for a long time just off the coast of Tobago, in the economic zone of Trinidad and Tobago. It never caused any problems because those were the days when there were only two or three. The ice boats owners are now expressing concern that, with the increase in ice boats, more and more boats are going into the economic zone of Trinidad and Tobago to fish. It has reached the stage now where they jokingly tell you that sometimes they are fishing in the economic zone and they see the Coast Guard of Trinidad and Tobago and they have to hide the dolphin underneath the flying fish, because the fellows come on and take off some of the dolphins off the boats.

The point I am trying to bring home to the Minister is that you are going down the line developing a fishing industry that would only be viable with the agreement and the compliance of the Trinidad and Tobago Government allowing you to fish in their waters. We know that right now that there is always a problem between Trinidad and Venezuela over their fishing grounds, with boats going into each other's zones, and I want to know if the Ministry has ever taken into consideration the possibility that they could wake up one morning and find that the boats cannot go into the economic zone of Trinidad and Tobago and your whole fishing fleet is ground to a halt overnight. I want to know if the comprehensive plans of the Ministry have taken into consideration that distinct possibility, that you are developing a fishing industry that is completely dependent on the goodwill of Trinidad and Tobago allowing you to fish in their economic zone. That is a point on which I want to get the Minister to reply.

There is also a point about the fishing harbour. I am glad that the Prime Minister has pointed out the reasons for the siting of the fishing harbour where it is, because there has been some debate by people who are supposed to have some kind of expertise in this area, and the Honourable Minister must understand, as he has said before, that the science has not reached that stage of perfection where nobody can predict the movement of coastal erosion. It has not reached that stage yet. As much as we are recommending that Professor Deane from Trinidad is the leading expert in the Caribbean, he would tell you that the science is, at the moment, in its infancy; that it is just a matter of guessing going on as far as soil erosion, the movement of soil, and the movement of sand, and that every precaution would have to be taken. That is the situation.

The honourable Prime Minister has given the assurance that the fishing harbour would not cause any siltation, but I find it very difficult to accept because of the simple reason that anytime you are reclaiming, you must find that the substance you are using in the reclaiming, which is marl, is going to automatically find its own angle of repose before it stops sliding, and it is, quite obviously, going to interfere with the existing situation, until you have reached that stage where you can put the outside protective barrier wall and then dredge on the inside. So I think it is not fair to give the impression that the present construction that is going on is not causing siltation inside the harbour, and I can only hope that you reach the stage where you correct it before we have any really bad weather that would cause excess drainage into the careenage, which is the major outfall for all of the lands south of the dividing ridge.

That is all of my contribution to this debate.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Speaker, I rise, with pleasure, to give my support to this Resolution, because it seeks to lay the ground work to replace the fishing facility which was built by the Barbados Labour Party in 1953 with another fishing facility which will be built by the Barbados Labour Party in 1986 and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, this debate concerns the acquisition of land for the purpose of providing an access road for a fishing facility in Speightstown. It has strayed far away from the substance of the Resolution, and I want to bring back the debate to local issues, the two most important of which concern the siting of the facility and its likely impact on the area in which the facility will be sited.

There has been a lot of controversy, Mr. Speaker, concerning the various alternative sites for a fishing facility in Speightstown. Members may not know, but it is a matter of fact that since 1980, three alternative sites have been considered for a facility in the town. The Speightstown Development Plan did, in fact, propose that a facility should be built in the area running from the existing fish market in a northerly direction behind the existing esplanade, and a study undertaken by the FAO organisation proposed that, as an alternative, the fishing complex for Speightstown should be built in that area running from the existing fish market in a southerly direction.

1.30 p.m.

Great care was exercised in arriving at a choice of site, and some of the considerations that were taken into account had to do with the impact of any development in the centre of Speightstown on the immediate environment and on the coastline, both to the north and to the south, as well as the impact of any development in the centre of Speightstown on the urban development of Speightstown as a town in its own right. The two sites to which I have referred — the site running from the existing fish market to the north such as was proposed by the planners, the persons who wrote the Speightstown Development Plan,

and the site running from the fish market to the south — were both rejected because, on the best technical evidence available, they were both unsound sites from an environmental point of view.

The Prime Minister has already alluded to the fact that both sites were unsuitable because the reclamation of land in the centre of Speightstown could drastically affect the coastal environment and put the substantial tourism investment to the north of Speightstown as well as to the south of Speightstown in considerable jeopardy. Equally, Sir, the Speightstown area is the second largest drainage area in Barbados, and the evidence clearly indicates that we would be involved in improper planning if we were to expend $4 million of public funds in a facility which would, perhaps, act as a dam to what is, indeed, the second largest drainage area in the country. So that the Fort Denmark site was chosen in order for us to minimise the environmental consequences of reclaiming land at Speightstown, and so as to allow us to create the possibility of putting a substantial public investment at risk by factors over which we have no immediate control, such as a flood.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the likely impact of the facility on Speightstown and its development, there has been some public controversy concerning the fact that the Fort Denmark site is too far from the centre of Speightstown. We considered this argument very carefully, Sir. Now the Speightstown Development Committee convened a town meeting with the fishing folk and the people of the town to discuss this and other considerations, and there was a consensus of views. There was a consensus stemming from that general meeting that it would not be in the best interest of Speightstown for us to concentrate all of the developmental activity in the centre of the town. At present, part of Speightstown's problem is the problem of congestion at the centre, and if we are to develop Speightstown over the long term as an important urban centre, then it must be obvious that development must be encouraged to the north of the town as well as to the south. At present, the new bus stand and the Golden Mile Development are shifting activities somewhat towards the north of the town, and we envisioned that this new development of Fort Denmark will bring some balance to the manner in which Speightstown is developed over the long term by acting as a catalyst for the transformation of the southern part of Speightstown, which has tremendous possibilities, which, to date, have not been taken advantage of.

To those who say that the fishing facility is too far, I can only remind the House that when a decision had to be taken in relation to the building of the Maurice Byer Polyclinic, the view was then expressed that it would be an error to move the Health Centre from the centre of Speightstown to Lichfield, because "Lichfield was too far for the old people." Experience has however shown what we already know to be a fact, that no part of Speightstown is indeed far from any other place in Speightstown, and I am satisfied, Sir, that in the same way that the Lichfield Maurice Byer Polyclinic has enjoyed general usage, despite not being in the centre of the town, the Fort Denmark site, which will be developed in a pleasant and aesthetic way, will serve as a catalyst for the development of the southern part of Speightstown, to the advantage of the town over the long term.

I want, Sir, to touch on some of the general issues that have been raised concerning the development of the fishing industry and the particular significance we must attach to the building of fishing harbours. I want to urge upon the House that in planning the development of a country, we have to be cognisant of what the theorists call "the social relations to production;" that planning a country is not only about concrete and steel, but it is about changing the way in which important classes of a society relate to each other and relate to the society in general. A society which consigns a fishing port to the type of squalid conditions that pertained in the fishing industry before 1976 is a society, Sir, which will have a very low opinion of the said fishing folk, because the social conditions within which the fishing folk themselves are asked to operate will be determinant of the particular role that they are assigned in the society itself. We see the development of fishing harbours and of fishing complexes not only in terms of earning or saving foreign exchange and the building of fishing boats, but in changing the social place that we assign to our fishing folk in the Barbados society. I, therefore, Sir, want to urge upon the House that we must stop viewing the development of a fishing industry in narrow terms, purely from an income point of view, an infrastructural point of view, but to recognise that by improving the social and physical environment within which we are asking the fishing people to operate, we are trying for the first time at long last to give them a place of respect within the Barbados society.

I was amazed by the views of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), that you should have ancillary investments taking place in fishing boats and fish processing facilities before you get the more direct and important investment in the complexes which will receive those fishing boats and which will cater to the fishing facility. But we must not be surprised about these things. We must not be surprised that the Democratic Labour Party believes that you must buy boats before you build complexes, because this was the same awkward and backward planning that they adopted in their approach to development of a cement plant in this society.

Government's planning in relation to the fishing industry has not separated ancillary facilities from the main, onshore facilities. The two things have gone on simultaneously, and this point has been stressed prior to this debate, and it has been reinforced by the Honourable

Minister of Agriculture. There is evidence which bears out the fact that direct investment in on land facilities at Oistins has served as the spur, as the signal, for people to start to make the investment in fishing boats, in fish processing facilities and the like. And it is a matter of fact, Sir, that the financial facilities to enable persons to buy larger and more sophisticated fishing vessels have been put in place as part of a general fishing policy, and, equally so, that the private sector interests in Barbados have reacted to Government's investment in on land fishing facilities by on their own accord making substantial investments in fish processing facilities, whether for the domestic market or for export.
1.40 p.m.

So that if I may conclude, Mr. Speaker, I welcome this Resolution. The fishing complex for Speightstown will cater not only to the fishing folk of the district, but it will also serve to bring a number of other market vendors off the streets. To my mind, it forms part of a general plan for the total development of the Speightstown area which will free the centre of the town from its present congestion and will allow it, for the first time, to get about the business of developing the northern and southern perimeters of Speightstown. I think that we have been careful in taking account of relevant environmental considerations in planning this facility and, despite some little controversy which the siting has aroused, I am sure that this facility will be a credit to the long term development of Speightstown.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is interesting that this debate has literally taken us around the coast of Barbados.....

Mr. SPEAKER: And beyond.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: And beyond, Sir. We have even gone as far as the Economic Zone of Trinidad and Tobago. I took note of the fact that the honourable Member who just sat down tried valiantly to see if he could bring it back to acquisition of land, but since the honourable Member who moved this Resolution has taken us into an area of debate that is, in some ways, unfortunate, I feel able to respond to some of the things which have been said by honourable Members on the other side in terms that will, at least, range as far as they did.

Now, Sir, it does seem that there is some inverse relationship between the proximity of the election date and the amount of rubbish which emanates from the mouths of Ministers, especially in the Barbados Labour Party Government. The Minister responsible for Agriculture told this Honourable House today, and no doubt it will be published abroad, that the beginning of fundamental infrastructure for fishing in Barbados began in 1976. That is in essence what he said. And what was worse is that the honourable Member who just sat down was able to frame the Resolution that we have before us in terms of a fishing harbour being built in 1953 by the Barbados Labour Party and now he is happy that they will build a new fishing harbour under the Barbados Labour Party. Amen — except that they both, Sir, mislead the population when they speak in those terms!

The honourable Member, the Minister responsible for Agriculture, must know that the land for the development of Oistins was acquired by the Democratic Labour Party Government. He must know, Sir — I certainly do, Sir, because I was there — that the monies borrowed for that development came from the European Development Fund under the terms of the LOME Convention, and that the Democratic Labour Party put the loan in place, long before the Barbados Labour Party became the Government. There can be no doubt about that. That is a historical fact. And I wonder how any Minister can get up in this House and try to give the impression that the fishing complex at Oistins began in 1976 as a result of some magnificent.....

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I hope you will also mention the Sewerage Plant.)

(*Aside:* Hon. L. R. TULL: What do you mean by "loan put in place?")

Mr. B. M. TAITT: .....projection on the part of geniuses on their part, that it is something they put in place.

Then, the Minister gets up and utters words like, "We are now undertaking a major thrust."

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: We are!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You ought to be embarrassed to come into this House in 1986 and talk about, "We are now undertaking a major thrust." The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, I recall him in 1981 saying how the economy of Barbados was just like under a cloud waiting to break into the blue yonder. He is still 'undertaking!' He is now about to begin to undertake! And he comes in here talking about the Barbados Labour Party in those terms!

Sir, they took us on to the Sea of Galilee. They took us to the Sea of Galilee in this debate. He has taken us on to the Sea of Galilee, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Would you tell us who built the Oistins Fishing Complex? Who built the Oistins Fishing Complex? We want to know that.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member for St. James North (Hon. L. S. Craig) built it, Sir, all by himself. He built it.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And I will do a lot of things by myself.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You can say that again.

Sir, no one in Barbados, least of all the fishermen, can be mislead by an rhetoric from the Barbados Labour Party. The late George Fergusson was himself a man of the sea.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: He shot them and all.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He was a man whose interest in the fishermen of this country was second to none.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And shot them after.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He was a man of whom it can be said that he put the interest of the fishermen in Barbados before any other interest. And it is a fact that a substantial amount of the forward planning, such as there has been arising out of the Ministry responsible for Fisheries, has been a direct result of inputs made in the Development Plan for Barbados in 1974. In fact, the Development Plan of 1968 envisaged most of the developments which can be successfully said to have led to any advancement in the fishing industry in Barbados.

I go further, Sir. If one uses the amount of fish landed in Barbados as the criterion for determining whether one's fisheries policy has been successful, one has only to do a comparative analysis between the catches made in Barbados between the period 1968 — 1976 and the comparative period since 1976, when the honourable Member tells us we have had this marvellous expansion. There has been a 25% drop in the amount of fish landed.

I go further. When you hear the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) talking about putting the fishing people in Barbados into a different social context, you would believe, Sir, that he is really discussing, the moving the fishermen of whom they spoke — the man with an old pants, a cork hat and a nip bottle of rum in his pocket — into this so-called new relationship. The truth is, Sir, that the Development Bank is this country has made sure that the people who are now the beneficiaries of the new approach to fishing have absolutely nothing, except in a very miniscule way, to do with those who were the fishermen of yesterday. So the social context of fishing is changing, because many of the same people who were the antagonizers in other aspects of the economic development of this country are the people who have now moved over to the new virgin territory that has been made possible by the antidiluvian and very aristocratic views of Members of the Barbados Labour Party who have been responsible for policy in this country over the last ten years — a policy that would have better come from the conservative branches of European countries than from a Party that calls itself a "labour party." You have nothing to be proud about. You cannot come in here and mislead anybody who knows your history about your position with regard to the development of fishermen.

The ice boats in 1986 are going adrift in the ocean because they do not have a simple radio. Fishermen, as a matter of course, are being reported almost every month as having gone adrift. And they are talking to Your Honour, Sir, today about social conscience? The basic equipment for a fishing boat, for any kind of vessel that leaves the harbour, the first piece of basic equipment, is a safety equipment called a radio. Many of the ships, many of the vessels, many of the boats that leave this country are without that simple protection, if the reports are accurate.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: And he comes in here and he talks about this new thrust!

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Whose fault is that?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know I cannot draw Your Honour into the debate, but I recall when Your Honour occupied another place, another seat, that I came to discuss with Your Honour — not Your Honour, to discuss with who you were then — the issues of the unceremonious dismissal of the fishermen from a traditional place in Lands End, where they had been from time immemorial. This so-called progress by the Barbados Labour Party was resulting in the fishermen from Lands End and the environs of Black Rock and Goodland being unceremoniously ejected from that area where they have always landed their catches. It was because in your capacity not as a Labour Party spokesman blindly following policies set down by those whose commitment to the lesser folk in this country cannot be recorded, that Your Honour was able in those days to understand and empathize with the plight of those fishermen who would have been uprooted and who were being told that they could find their way up Bay Street. As a result, Sir, those fishermen are still at Lands End, notwithstanding attempts from time to time to move them out under the guise of

providing security for the port, a port which has been with us from time immemorial.
1.50 p.m.

I will not be moved by utterances which tend to suggest, or seek to suggest, that we have had any enlightened fishing policy in Barbados since 1976. I will not be moved by that, Sir, because I have observed that the Barbados Labour Party Government presided over the destruction of the shrimp industry in this country. The shrimp industry in this country provided a number of forward thrusts for people in this country. It provided the opportunity for Barbadian navigators to become proficient as shrimp boat captains. It provided the opportunity for Barbadians to acquire the skills of shrimp fishing. It provided an opportunity for, literally, hundreds of Barbadians to enjoy a decent standard of living because they had work. At one point, there were 800 Barbadians involved in the shrimping industry. The venom of the Barbados Labour Party's leadership resulted in the destruction of the shrimp industry. Mr. Speaker, you would be aware, Sir — I better say you may be aware — that it was a direct result of a penchant for vengence which led to the shrimp industry being destroyed in this country.

The honourable Member for St. Peter, young as he may be in these political matters to be described as a political neophyte, might talk in theoretical terms about having the infrastructure.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He is a Classicalist. He thinks you have to say "penchant," when he should know that when you are in an English debate you can say penchant.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable Member speaking to the Chair?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir, to my colleague here, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the honourable Member concluded his speech?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the honourable Member continue then?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir.

The honourable Members must know, Sir, that when the honourable Member for St. Peter talks about infrastructure, they sold the boat, the ship.....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is called the Gatto Blanco. The Northpoint, a ship that was given to us more or less, by the United States Government that we refitted and had all ready to move the product which would have come out of a cement plant, which would have been built at a cost of $100 million less than the one which they have built, and for which we have already secured a market with the Government of Guyana.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not let us go into the cement plant now. We have gone far and wide on a land acquisition. Please do not let us go into the cement plant.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the cement plant is only incidental, as in the harbour by the cement plant.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, I will not allow you to enter the cement plant at this point.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Very well, Sir, as Your Honour pleases. I was merely.....

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: He mentioned you sold a boat. But I am not going into the mechanics of the construction of a cement plant.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir nothing like that, just the harbour.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no! We are not going to deal with the harbour up there either. We are not going down there either.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Maycocks, Sir. You would not even let me go to Maycocks Bay?

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not going into Maycocks.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Oh yes, all right. If you do not let me go to Maycocks, I will stop short in Speightstown.

Sir, the fact is that the ship which would have moved the cargo could have stopped in the new harbour which we are now constructing in Speightstown. Hopefully, Sir, there will be at least provision in this harbour for a cement boat or two.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not going to deal with cement.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Not even with the cement boat. Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: As Your Honour wishes.

Let me just say that the honourable Member ought never have mentioned that particular issue in relation to the infrastructural development, because it was arising out of the desire to demonstrate to the Barbadian polity that when they say something they mean it, that the shrimp industry in this country was destroyed, an industry that brought in $8 million in foreign exchange. The shrimp industry brought in $8 million in foreign exchange, and it is operated out of the Bridgetown Harbour. In fact, it operated from just where the new harbour facilities that are now causing the siltation are going to be sited, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the point has been made. I understand Your Honour's position in these matters and I recognize that we have ranged wide and far, and that this is the only opportunity in these acquisitions today that we will be able to range wide and far. But I am disappointed that the Barbados Labour Party took this opportunity to attempt, because in their state of total confusion, in their state of what the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central once described as cannibalism, in their state of political cannibalism they may, in fact, not understand that the people are finished with them, and so, Sir, they may attempt through their utterances to give the impression that, somehow, they have development projects that will catch the imagination of the people. You cannot be describing a development project in terms of acquisition of land for a fishing harbour at Speightstown and have the honourable Member who represents Speightstown saying things like that they are going to have development to the south of Speightstown to counter, to balance the development that has tended towards the north in Speightstown. The truth is, Sir, that their failure to do the same kind of planning that the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central accused them of, their failure to do that planning, has resulted in the death of Speightstown as the second city in this country. Speightstown is dead, Sir — all it is waiting for now is the funeral — and the Honourable Prime Minister ought not to come in this House and accuse people of selfishness and all kinds of other things when they cannot respond to him merely because they point out that the Government's lack of planning has resulted in the death of Speightstown.

The road, Sir, on the other side of the harbour — within the development of Speightstown — has resulted in.....

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not going to discuss the road either. We have gone far beyond the limits of acquisitions for entrance to and egress from a fishing harbour.

2.00 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am with Your Honour, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to let up in the other road either.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. It is merely because the honourable Member had dwelt on the whole question of the development of Speightstown that I was attempting to show that, indeed, there is a whole area of Speightstown that has resulted in the death of the other part of Speightstown. But I will not go any further. I will stop at this point, because I have made the point, and I hope that we will not have again this kind of debate in which the.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you finishing your debate.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, I was about to, but.....

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 3.00 p.m. today for lunch.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did the honourable member finish his speech?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir, I will continue after the break.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the Standing Orders have been suspended and there is a motion before the House.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: There is still only one Speaker here, Sir.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I have suspended the Standing Orders and there is a motion before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I have a seconder?

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

The question that this sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

2.05 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the honourable Member for St. Michael West was speaking. He may now continue.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I think that when the suspension was taken I was, in fact, coming to the end of my presentation. I will not detain the House further, except to say that the acquisition of land itself is not likely to find any negative response from us. The debate, unfortunately, went off in another direction, but the acquisition of land itself will find no disfavour with this side, Sir.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I want to wind up. I appreciate and welcome the last statement made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) that the Resolution has gained acceptance on that side, but while that is true, there are still a number of things that are left to be replied to by this side.

The honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin) referred to the fact that the Minister of Agriculture dealt with the question of increase in the catch of fish when there were no available resources for such. He talked about the problems in Trinidad and Tobago and the fact that there was nowhere for the people to fish, and he did not see the prospects of fishing in those areas since those areas have been declared the economic zones of the territories concerned.

Barbados have over the years fished in those waters, they have had problems from time to time, but these problems have been overcome. What is not understood, and does not seem clear to many people, is that we in Barbados fish for a type of fish that many people in the other territories are not particularly concerned with. There was a time, Mr. Speaker, when we were concerned with the catching of sea eggs but very few territories within the region had any interest at all in sea eggs, not even now, but we catch sea eggs. Some of them catch lobster and some of them knew the high cost of lobster as a delicacy, but they did not catch in the way in which the Barbadian fishermen set about to catch, and therefore we have always gone into waters that were not regarded as being in our zone, and those zones were only recognized within recent times as a result of the attitude of countries towards their territorial waters.

I do not think that the encounters with respect to Trinidad and Tobago and the problems which Trinidad and Tobago might have had with Venezuela are really any major problems. There are times when fishermen seek to encroach because of the prolific amount of fish they might see at a particular point in time and, therefore, are pursued by people who are protecting the economic zone and the territorial boundaries of a particular country. But I do not think that is anything to be particularly worried about.

We have had many fishing experiences, and the honourable Member for St. Michael West dealt with that as well, with respect to the shrimp industry and the trawlers that went abroad to catch these shrimps. We have had agreements, and it was my good or bad fortune to be Minister of Agriculture at the time when an agreement was arrived at in good faith that the trawlers in Barbados would fish in Guyana's waters that the shrimps would be processed in Guyana and that they would be disposed of in a joint venture. That was agreed upon.

We have also had problems with respect to Brazil. At one point in time, we were canvassing the possibilities of shrimping the Brazilian waters, and because of the problems which existed between the Navy and the Army at the time, and who had power to do something and who did not have power, there were difficulties that arose. Every time we came up with an agreement, the Navy said they did not like it, and when we came up with another agreement that the Navy liked the Army said no. You were dealing with a democracy on this side and you were dealing with a dictatorship on the other side, and we would always have had these problems.

Nobody can deny that within the past ten years there have been drifts in terms of sea eggs and fish and what have you in the sea. Nobody has any direct control over those things. As I said earlier in introducing this Resolution, there seemed to have been a type of phenomenon which has been stretching throughout the world in respect of interference with the sea and the question of encroachment by the sea. This holds true as well about the problems with respect to fish and the drifts which the fish make from time to time. This is also true with respect to man. In certain countries men are nomadic and keep moving from point to point.
3.10 p.m.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West adverted to the fact that it was the late Mr. George Fergusson who formulated the plan for fisheries in Barbados as contained in the Plan 1968—1976. I want to assure him that the plan for 1968—1976 is not the plan that we are working by. That plan died in 1976. The person had some idea of what he was doing, but things have gone ahead quickly since then, and, therefore, the plans of that time are not the plans of this time. They are not workable. They were good enough for the sail boat period, but not good enough for the diesel and gasolene type boats which we find today.

The honourable Member talked also about the North Point for fish. The North Point could not have even served its purpose for the time.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member never dealt with the North Point in relation to fish. He dealt with the North Point arising out of the speech made by the honourable Member for St. Peter, and I prohibited

him from going any further into the North Point with its relationship with the cement plant.

Hon L. B. BRATHWAITE: Sir, I thought that in a debate on fish the honourable Member, being such a wide and capable man, would not have drifted far and wide, and so I very well inferred that he was dealing with fish. I am glad that you have brought me on the course with respect to that one, because I was very upset about it.

The honourable Member talked about $8 million in foreign exchange being earned by the shrimp industry in Barbados, at the time, I suppose, when the last Government left office. I want to assure him that it was my experience that if at all there was a foreign exchange earning of $8 million, there would have been a foreign exchange expenditure of over $16 million. The shrimp industry was a virtual failure and a total albatross around the neck of the Government of this country. There was no way!

The shrimp business, itself, with the trawlers, was, in the words of Duffus, who headed the Commission here dealing with this matter, "a deal between friends." It is regrettable, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Member for St. Michael West adverted to the shrimp industry and what it did for Barbados, because all it did was to leave a serious, gasping hole in the economy of this country that will take many, many years to fill back up. We have to understand that. That is a fact, whether you like it or not.

(*Asides:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Don't lose your voice.)

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: The voice is always lost and, therefore, there is no problem about that.

With respect to the Speightstown Development, it is not dead as is assumed. That development down there will bear fruit and will redound to the credit of this Government for its farsighted decision in setting about to construct a proper facility there.

We are persuaded that we are right in this direction. We are persuaded that the Ministry of Agriculture is correct in pursuing projects such as these, and no amount of criticism, no matter how well meaning, will deflect us, Mr. Speaker, from the course that we have set ourselves in providing points of entry and exit for people who work in the fishing industry, people who, 10 years ago, were without hope in terms of finding proper facilities for the provision of their ships and the sale of their fish. If we have erred in any way, and I do not see how we could have, we would have erred in the interest of those seafarers out there who have gone out to catch fish to feed the population of Barbados. In so doing, they would not be like the owners of the shrimp boats dissipating hard currency in foreign exchange, but would be seeking to stop the outlet of funds which would go to other countries in the purchase of the fish which they caught.

I do not think that I have anything more to reply to, but I simply thought that I should make the records clear.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Order No. 3.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ACT, 1985

Order No. 3 was called — To move that the House resolve itself into Committee on a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, when this matter was last before the House, further consideration of this matter was moved. It has expired. We had reached the end of the matter for the day, and I beg to move that we resume consideration of this matter and that the House go into Committee on it.

The question that the House go into Committee on the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

3.20 p.m.

Clause 3 was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is an amendment in Clause 3. It has been circulated and I beg to move that Clause 3 as amended stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 4 and 5 were called and passed.

Clause 6 was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In Clause 6, there is a typographical error. Instead of the word "Caricom" substitute the word "Common".

I beg to move that Clause 6 as amended stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 7 to 18 inclusive were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill with amendments in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, with the indulgence of the House, that Government Notices be re-opened. Something has come down late, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: A Government Minister can give notice at any time.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Minister responsible for Finance for the repayment of the sum of $4 million and of interest thereon borrowed by the Barbados Development Bank from the Central Bank of Barbados.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business. I do not propose to do the BDB guarantee today because we are going to have two and we do not want to have two debates.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is a special reason why we have to have the BDB's Resolutions done, because these form part of a counterpart for a new tranche from Lome and a new Inter-American Development Bank loan.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 11, 1986, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3.30 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, January 14, 1986 3293

PAPERS

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW 3293

The Adoption Regulations, 1986.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG 3293

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Fairfield, Black Rock, St. Michael, for Housing Development.

A Resolution to grant the sum of $110 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1985–86, Part II – Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1985–86, No. 25, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Bill to amend the Interpretation Act.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN. 3309

A Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Minister responsible for Finance for the repayment of the sum of $4 million and of interest thereon borrowed by the Barbados Development Bank from the Central Bank of Barbados.

FIRST READINGS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG 3293

A Bill to amend the Interpretation Act.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS 3294

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SPEIGHTSTOWN, ST. PETER FOR THE PROVISION OF AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE PROPOSED FISHERIES COMPLEX 3294

Mr. L. B. Brathwaite, 3294, 3307; Dr. Haynes, 3295; Dr. Cheltenham, 3296; Mr. St. John, 3298; Mr. Franklin, 3300; Mr. Arthur, 3301; Mr. Taitt, 3303.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ACT, 1985 3308

Mr. St. John, 3308.

SUSPENSION. 3306

ADJOURNMENT 3309

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ARTHUR, O. S. (St. Peter)
BRATHWAITE, Hon. L. B. (St. Andrew)
CHELTENHAM, Hon. Dr. R. L. (Christ Church East)
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North)
HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
St. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church East Central)
TAITT, B. M. (St. Michael West)