
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 25, 1986.

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. Weekes, (Speaker)

His Honour J. J. Payne, (Deputy Speaker)

Hon. L. E. Sandiford, B.A., M.A., (Econ.) J.P.,
(Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Culture
and Leader of the House)

Hon. H. deB. Forde, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Leader
of the Opposition)

Hon. P. M. Greaves, B.A., (Minister of Transport,
Works and Telecommunications)

Hon. E. E. Greaves, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade
and Commerce)

Hon. Dr. R. C. Haynes, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.
(Edin.) (Minister of Finance)

Hon. W. O. Franklin, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister
of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)

Hon. N. K. Simmons, (Minister of Health)

Hon. H. A. Blackman, B.Sc., (Econ.) (Minister of
Housing and Lands)

Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M.

Mr. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc., (Econ.)

Mrs. M. Barker-Welch, (Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Com-
munity Development)

Mr. C. V. Walker, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry
of Education and Culture)

Mr. L. L. Brathwaite, J.P.

Dr. E. A. Simmons

Mr. C. A. Neblett, B.A., A.C.M.A.

Mr. R. L. Morris, B.A., Cert. Ed.

Mr. P. J. M. Miller

Mr. R. P. Byer, LL.B., L.E.C.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session. The Minutes
of Tuesday, November 11, 1986.

MINUTES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes
of that meeting have been circulated, and I beg to move
that these be taken as an accurate record of the pro-
ceedings of this Honourable Chamber on that day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will someone second it?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Mr.
Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by
honourable Members let those Minutes stand confirmed.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

"MESSAGE No. 3/1986.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency The Governor-General has the
honour to inform The Honourable The House of
Assembly that, on the recommendation of the
Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of
the Opposition, under Section 3(1) of the Ombuds-
man Act, 1980 (1980-68), he proposes to appoint
Sir Frank Milton Blackman, KA, KCVO, OBE, J.P.,
to the Office of Ombudsman established by Section
2 of the said Act.

His Excellency further has the honour to seek the approval of The Honourable The House of Assembly of the proposed appointment pursuant to Section 3(2) of the said Act.

H. W. SPRINGER
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
BARBADOS.

21 November, 1986."

"MESSAGE NO. 4/1986

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that he will be absent from the country during the period 2nd to 13th December, 1986, on a private visit to Britain and Israel.

Under the provisions of Section 29(1)(b) of the Constitution, the Chief Justice, the Right Honourable Sir William Douglas, KCMG will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during my absence.

HUGH W. SPRINGER
Governor-General.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
BARBADOS.

25 November, 1986."

PAPERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay and I am commanded to lay the following:

Representation of the People (Expenses) Amendment) Regulations, 1986.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1986.

and on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development — the Eighth Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the year 1985–1986.

Hon. M. A. KING entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay:

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the months ended June, July and August, 1986.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay:

The Annual Report of the Immigration and Passport Department for the year ended 31st December, 1985.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1986.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$6 300 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of making advances of salaries or wages on the terms and conditions set out in the Schedule of the Resolution.

Resolution to amend the Explanatory Note to Subhead 4 — Sanitation Service Authority — Head 85, Ministry of Tourism and the Environment.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$12 085 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986–87, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986–87, No. 12, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$1 600 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986–87, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986–87, No. 10, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$346 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986–87, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986–87, No. 11, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. W. W. Hall entered the Chamber and took his seat.

NOTICE OF BILLS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I also beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act, 1980.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The first question standing in the name of the honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to ask the following questions of the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

1. Is the Minister aware of the following problems resulting from the recent heavy rains in the St. Andrew area:

- (1) that landslides have caused a complete break in the Shorey Village/Bridgetown bus service at Spring Vale and the St. Andrew Church/Bridgetown bus service at Turner Hall and White Hill, resulting in long delays to the travelling public in reaching their destinations.
- (2) that the Transport Board has removed most of the newer buses from the Haggatts Depot and replaced them with older units which are prone to frequent breakdowns, and
- (3) that, despite temporary repairs to White Hill Road, which is now used by delivery trucks, heavy duty vehicles from Soil Conservation and even the Water Vat from Barbados Water Authority, bus drivers are consistently refusing to use the regular bus terminal in the district, forcing residents, especially those from Mount All, to walk over 1 mile to reach a bus stop?

2. If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Minister, in the present emergency, consider the issue of permits to minibus operators to ply the affected areas until the roads become serviceable once more?
12.25 p.m.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

1. Is the Minister aware that 4th Avenue, Rock Dundo, St. James is in a dire state of disrepair and becomes a hazard to pedestrians and vehicular traffic whenever there is a downpour of rain, despite numerous petitions submitted to Government by the residents and citizens of Rock Dundo calling for action?

2. Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the Government intends to repair this road and, if so, how soon repair works to this road will commence?

Mr. SPEAKER: By the same honourable Member, lack of proper drainage facilities in Holetown and Sunset Crest, St. James.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question to the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

1. Is the Minister aware that lack of proper drainage facilities in the Holetown and Sunset Crest areas of St. James is causing a serious problem of flooding resulting in loss and/or such inconvenience to the residents, the public and property owners in the area including the Police Station and Magistrates Court?

2. Will the Minister state Government's plans for immediately remedying the problem in this area?

Mr. C. L. Trotman entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: And by the same honourable Member, the taking over by the Government of the roads in the Sunset Crest Development.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question to the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

1. Is the Minister aware that written representations were made to the previous Government requesting that the roads in the Sunset Crest Development, St. James be taken over by Government?

2. Is the Minister also aware that an undertaking was given by the previous Government to the Sunset Crest Owners' Association to take over the roads but was never fulfilled?

3. Will the Minister take urgent steps to effect the taking over of the said roads as is earnestly expected by the residents of Sunset Crest?

Mr. SPEAKER: And by the same honourable Member to the appropriate Minister on the provision of playing field facilities for the residents of Hoytes Village, St. James.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question to the Minister of Housing and Lands:

1. Is the Minister aware that the residents of Hoytes Village, St. James keenly desire Government to pursue negotiations for the purchase of a parcel of land to the east of the St. John the Baptist Church, St. James for providing playing facilities for the residents of the area?

2. Will the Minister take appropriate steps to effect such acquisition as soon as possible?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. George South, to ask of the appropriate Minister about legislation to amend the law relating to land holding by aliens.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question:

To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands:

Will the Minister state whether Government intends to initiate legislation to amend the law relating to the acquisition and transfer of land, whether by freehold or leasehold or otherwise so as to:

- (1) regulate and control landholding by aliens,
- (2) stipulate the interests and the duration of the interests which aliens may own in land, and
- (3) to stipulate the maximum amount of land which any alien, whether individually or otherwise, may acquire in Barbados so as to stop such large scale purchases of land by aliens as have been taking place in recent years in Barbados?

Mr. SPEAKER: By the same honourable Member, the disposal of pigs for pork products by small farmers.

Mr. R. P. BYER: To ask the Minister of Agriculture Food and Fisheries:

1. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties being faced by small farmers in the disposal of their pigs for pork and pork products?

2. Will the Minister state whether import licences have been issued during 1986 for the importation of pork and/or pork products, and, if so, how many licences have been issued, to whom were they issued, for what items and quantities in each instance and the date of issue of each licence?

Mr. SPEAKER: By the same honourable Member, to ask the same Minister about problems caused now that plantations are ploughing to the edges of the roads.

Mr. R. P. BYER: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries:

1. Is the Minister aware that

- (a) plantations are removing and in some cases discontinuing the planting of grass around hedgerows,
- (b) plantations are now ploughing to the very edges of roads,
- (c) as a result of the above new actions, soil is now washing on to and covering main and subsidiary roads in areas such as Applewhaites, Locust Hall, Cole Hole, Glebe near Walkers and Rowans, Redland and Sweet Vale, Constant and Drax Hall in the constituencies of St. George North and St. George South, and
- (d) that numerous houses have had considerable quantities of top soil washed on to the land they occupy, including backyards and garages, and numerous minor accidents have consequently occurred in the above areas during the recent rainfall?

(2) If the Minister is aware of the above, will he state what action, if any, Government proposes so as to remedy the problems outlined above and, if he is not so aware, whether he will cause investigations to be undertaken to ascertain the scope of the problems expressed in this question and solutions to them?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Thomas to the Minister responsible for Housing and Lands, compensation for persons whose services have been terminated with the National Conservation Commission.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question to the Minister responsible for Housing and Lands:

Will the Minister please state the total amount of compensation or termination benefits paid to all persons whose services with the National Conservation Commission have been terminated since May 28, 1986?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member, to ask of the Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, aircraft used by Caribbean Airways.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question:

To ask the Minister responsible for Civil Aviation:

- (a) Is the D.C. 8 aircraft now being used by Caribbean Airways owned by or leased from Overseas Airways or Viasa?
- (b) Is it a fact that this aircraft was not in use for a considerable period of time and, if so, for how long?
- (c) Under the law of which country is Overseas Airways registered?
- (d) Who are its principal shareholders and directors and where are its registered offices situated?
- (e) How long has Overseas Airways been in existence?
- (f) What is the age of the said D.C.8?
- (g) Does the D.C. 8 operate non-stop from England to Barbados?
- (h) What are the nationalities of the cockpit and cabin crews respectively?
- (i) Does the said D.C. 8 comply with the noise regulations as set out in Annex 16 of the Chicago Convention; or is it fitted with "hush-kits"?
- (j) In the event of death, wounding or other bodily injury to passengers suffered while being carried by Caribbean Airways to points excluding the U.S.A., does Caribbean Airways, under its general conditions of carriage, limit the maximum amount of liability to only U.S. \$20,000 or U.S. \$75,000 with proof of damage?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of Notices of Questions.
12.35 p.m.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, a Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act, 1980 was read a first time.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that replies to the following questions are now ready — Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 10 and 11 asked by the honourable Member for the City and replies

to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 27, 28 and 32 asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 12 and 15 asked by the honourable Member for St. George South are ready and reply to Parliamentary Question No. 24 asked by the honourable Member for the City is ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 38 asked by the honourable Member for Christ Church East is now ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, I am proceeding to move a motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders, but before doing so, I wish to indicate and to give notice that consequent upon Message No. 3 which was read to this Honourable Chamber a little earlier in today's sitting, I am hereby giving notice of a Resolution seeking the approval of the Honourable House of Assembly of the proposed appointment of Sir Frank M. Blackman to the office of Ombudsman, and we propose that this will be debated in due course. Not at today's sitting, Sir, but maybe at the next sitting of the House.

Asides

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: We are seeking the approval of the Honourable House for the appointment and, therefore, it has to come by way of a motion. Whether there will be a debate is at the pleasure of the Honourable House.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

The question that those several Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Order No. 2, Sir.

Order No. 2 was called – To move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

On motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply on the Bill, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$20 400
FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO
PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOV-
ERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTI-
MATES 1986-87, PART I – CURRENT,
AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES 1986-87, NO. 9 WHICH
FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE
RESOLUTION

HEAD 36 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY – \$20 400

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this is a matter over which I do not believe we will have much debate. It is to seek a funding of Bds. \$20 400 as the first payment of two payments by way of a contribution to the North Shore Hospital and, although we might not have any debate, I think I should give some background as to the reason why we are seeking this supplementary.

North Shore Hospital situated in New York is the Hospital to which most of our heart patients go, children, that is for open heart surgery, and it is a non-profit organisation and, therefore, gets most of its funding from private citizens and institutions.

The programme as such is most inexpensive to us. The operations themselves cost between U.S. \$15 000 to U.S. \$20 000 but we only pay \$2 500 which is about just under a tenth of the cost of the operations. The programme was made possible by a Barbadian cardiologist by the name of Dr. Richard Ishmael, and it started in 1982.

We have had about eighteen or twenty operations so far and, recently, we had a request from that Hospital for a contribution because they are now having a building programme going on and the Ministry thought it would be a good gesture to make a slight contribution – which it really is – which is the cost of one operation; although we have had eighteen.

I am coming now to the Honourable House to ask that we give them the \$20 400 as the first part of that contribution.

I think at this stage as well I would just like to pay some compliments to Dr. Ishmael who has pioneered this whole programme, and in visiting New York earlier this

year I had occasion to visit that Hospital which, incidentally, had never been visited by a Government official before, and he told me that as far as he can see, in another two years we will be running out of this problem, that congestive heart disease would no longer be a problem for children in Barbados. So you can see the benefits of it.

Mr. E. Bourne entered the Chamber and took his seat.

We have never had a fatality. All eighteen patients have been successful, and besides the actual operations in the North Shore Hospital, he and Dr. LeCord who is the specialist come to Barbados at least once a year to have a follow-up with the patients at no expense at all to the Barbados Government.
12.45 p.m.

In paying compliments to them, I should also like to pay a special compliment to another Barbadian, Mr. Michael Clarke, in whose house most of these patients have to live before and after the operation in New York.

So far we have not even made a contribution to Mr. Michael Clarke either, and we have got to remedy the situation because you can imagine it is not only the patient who goes up, but invariably it is a relative who goes up as well, and he has got to transport them to and from the hospital, and then very often Mr. Clarke spends the whole day at the hospital because some of the parents as you can appreciate, are not familiar with the filling of all these forms.

I thought I should let the Honourable House know that Mr. Clarke too is also playing his role in making sure that all is well with the patients when they go to hospital.

I do not think I need say much more on that. I just ask that the Honourable House do agree to contribute this sum as the first part of two payments to the hospital.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second the motion and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just briefly, the Opposition obviously supports this.

I just wish to endorse what the Honourable Minister said about Mr. Michael Clarke. He is a Barbadian well known to me and I believe to some honourable Members in here. Mr. Clarke is a Barbadian who goes outside of his own private business to look after Barbadians and to show them some hospitality and warmth when they are in the United States of America and he deserves recognition.

I believe that the Government has it in its power at a suitable time to pay regard in a meaningful way to the contribution that this Barbadian is making overseas.

Having said that, I just want to mention something peripheral to this matter but germane to the Ministry of Health.

I am making a plea to the Honourable Minister to give serious consideration to coming with a Resolution for some money to employ some of the unemployed in a programme which does not have to be short term, but which could be a permanent programme aimed at beautifying Barbados. You have to start with debushing.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Whichever Minister it applies to.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know if it is a health matter. I thought sanitation used to be a matter for the Ministry of Health, and that the problems caused by having a garrison of mosquitoes making you miserable at night was a matter that affected the Ministry of Health.

I think it can be seen as productive when one considers that Barbados is a country which wishes to attract tourists to its shores; which has prided itself rightfully on the quality of its health services and health care over the years, and I think that useful and gainful employment can be provided for five hundred and forty people, twenty per constituency. You do not even have to do it like that. You can do it on the basis of eleven parishes and perhaps have twenty or thirty per parish, and I think it would be money well spent if the workers are properly supervised and if a proper programme for debushing and consequential landscaping is done, and we can make Barbados into something that is permanently attractive. We vote money for all kinds of things. I do not know what the cost will be. I said five hundred and forty persons but perhaps that is too large a number. If we do it on a parish basis, for 250 people even for a year, I do not believe you would spend more than \$720 000, but that is a matter for the Ministry of Finance to work out.

I am throwing out the idea that honourable Members on that side will know that people come to them.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS..... people to weed the roads. We have encouraged the general public to have gardeners and to get a tax free benefit. The Honourable Minister of Finance in his budgetary reply urged the population who could afford it to employ gardeners and maids, and so on to help relieve unemployment.

I do not believe that we must be so "poor great" to believe that there are not people in this community who are willing to do the work of keeping the country tidy, and I am sure it is the experience of all the honourable Members on that side that people who are in need of jobs would come to them and say they are willing to do anything, and you have to stop them and say: "Not anything"; and they tell you "I don't mind".

I think we have to devise a programme, and I say it can be a permanent programme to employ two or three hundred people to assist. Parks and Beaches cannot do all; MTW cannot do all. It has a health angle, and I hope that the Government will pay some regard to it. I just throw it out as a suggestion, and I quite modestly suggest it is worthy of study. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how what the honourable Member who has just sat down said concerns health, or in fact concerns the Resolution that we are discussing at the moment.

However, I should like to say that what the honourable Member said about employing a large number of persons has already been conceptualised by this Administration. We have given serious thought to this whole idea of beautifying and landscaping Barbados as well, and we have also been tackling it from a point of view of urgency, because of the vast amount of rain that fell the first ten days of November.

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am positive the honourable Member would have heard that the Democratic Labour Party, this present Administration was in the process of employing persons, and he even knew the number.

Laughter.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, let me just say briefly that it will be a different programme from what took place just prior to the General Election, because this programme will not be a programme where you have three hundred and twenty people just debushing. The smallest proportion of the number of persons whom we are going to employ will be doing the debushing, and the greater number will be doing the landscaping and beautifying. I am very glad that we have already got the blessing of the Opposition.

I would go further and say that I personally would like to see persons in districts as well as Parliamentarians

doing whatever they can to provide better and prettier constituencies. Parliamentarians can get involved. You can get involved to make St. George South prettier than St. George North. I believe that is the idea we are getting at and this is the plan of this Administration; so I should just like to make it known to this Honourable House that the honourable Member who just spoke must have heard about what we are going to do, and all we are waiting on now is to come to Parliament next week with a Supplementary to put these persons to work to beautify Barbados. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that I am in full agreement with the proposal for the contribution to the North Shore Hospital which is doing a very good job in correcting the heart problems of our children who are born with congenital heart disease.

But I must make a few comments coming out of some of the statements made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas. I think that I am on record in this Honourable House as having said that part of the mosquito problem that we have in Barbados is due to the fact that the wells which are supposed to be drainage areas for heavy rainfall over the past ten years have become clogged up, and they do not function any more.

(Aside: Right!)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: If you were to visit the wells throughout Barbados, you would find that they are now reservoirs of water which are the breeding sources of mosquitoes. So it is a fact that we have to maintain our wells and make sure that the wells go down to suck so that when the water goes in that we can replenish our water source. I think that it is very, very important that we understand that.

I am glad that the honourable Member for St. Philip South, the Minister of Housing mentioned the concept of beautification of the constituency because, in the constituency of St. Michael South East, we have already started to build a park.

(Aside: Hear, hear!)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: We have already got in the bulldozers in a community effort and I, along with the driver of the tractor have been up there daily landscaping the area, and we have not come and we have not asked for any money for that, because we believe it is a community effort, and all of you who are interested in looking at how to beautify your constituency, you can come up to 6th Avenue Wildey just adjacent to the

Sanitation Department and you can see the work that we are doing up there. So I am glad to hear the Honourable Minister of Housing say that we will be able to get constituency based people to work within the constituency, because the concept of community development is a concept that I have been talking about in this area all the time.

Day after day, you know that at the time of heavy rainfall, you are getting requests from constituents about the overgrowth of bush, and my point is that if you have people from within the constituency taking care of their constituency, you would not get the overgrowth of bush because they would be looking after their own environment.

But it is interesting that the honourable Member for St. Thomas should mention that the Ministry of Health should employ people on a kind of permanent basis for debushing

(Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: True. Sanitation Authority.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: because I want again to refer to a very interesting thing that happened just before the election.

Money that was allocated to the polyclinics, in the case of Ladymeade \$160 256; in the case of the Black Rock Polyclinic \$28 509; in the case of Warrens \$21 783; in the case of Edgar Cockrane \$6 064; at the Randall Phillips \$69 517; at the Maurice Byer Clinic \$60 129; and at the Six Roads Polyclinic \$9 723; a total of \$347 536 which was allocated to the running of the polyclinics in this country was taken off and put to employ one hundred and seven people to weed the road.

(Aside: Hear, hear!)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: That is what happened. The money that was allocated to running the polyclinics was put to employ one hundred and seven people leading up to the election for short-term employment.

I am glad now to hear from the other side that they are thinking of a programme not to employ people for six weeks just before election, but to have full-term employment. So the concept, though a good concept, I am sure that we on this side would never use that kind of money, over a quarter million dollars just for the employment of people for six weeks just before election.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: This is what happened and you can challenge it, if you want to! This is what happened! And that is why we on this side have to come

to Parliament time after time to ask for supplementary votes, because the money that was allocated to run this country in the two months before the election was frittered away in order to buy votes.

I want you to know that we on this side are serious people, and the kind of programme that you hear proposed by the Honourable Minister of Housing is the kind of programme that will employ people on a full-time basis and not just put young ladies with their finger nails polished to stand up by the side of the road for six weeks before the election.

So, Mr. Chairman, I just want to add my support to the contribution that would be made from our country to the North Shore Hospital which I think is a worthwhile effort.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, it is interesting that a Resolution on Health relating to the pediatrics aspect of the community should turn out to be a Resolution on debushing and beautifying the island. I said it is interesting because it is a typical example of how the work of one Ministry is related to the other, and I think that I approach this with a sort of *de ja vu* attitude, Sir.

I have seen the argument as to which Ministry has responsibility for matters such as these, and we have to expect in Government that the programme in one department of Government can impinge on programmes in other departments of Government. There is no doubt that the health of a community is a most important matter reflecting very strongly of course on the economic health of the community as well. If people are not well, it is impossible to work; it is impossible to produce.

I see the Honourable Minister of Finance is in his place today after his several long journeys abroad, and I hope that he has therefore recovered some money in order to give the Honourable Minister of Health.

But I said, Sir, that I come with a *de ja vu* attitude to this debate, because I have heard before criticism when the former Minister of Tourism used one of the votes in his Ministry in order to help with the debushing and beautification programme. I hear now that such a programme is a programme that is to be welcomed. And obviously, we recognize that that programme was welcome for a long time, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, you have to sometimes let the neophytes know that some of us have been in

this Honourable House, like the Honourable Leader of the House and myself for a long time and recognize some of these arguments as being very repetitive.

When the honourable Member, the learned doctor from St. Michael South East says that they will not be employing people for six weeks, as happened before, his memory obviously does not extend to the position when a former Chairman, the predecessor to the National Conservation Commission who was running as the then candidate for the City of Bridgetown employed a whole host of people a few weeks leading up to the Election I believe in 1976 or thereabouts. He does not recall that, and also at the time of the bye-election when Senator Miller for instance was elected, the same thing was done. So that I do not want to hear the Honourable Minister of Housing who was then.....
1.05 p.m.

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Minister of Transport and Works who was then Minister of Housing and under whose portfolio the National Conservation Commission comes is going to say they were long-term jobs. Likewise we can get up and say they were long-term jobs which the present Government probably terminated and that is why I am going to ask — the Honourable Minister of Health may not be able to even get the vote for Sanitation because I see his fellow Minister has zoned in on this, Sir..... is not going to be allowed to be treated as a health matter and a sanitation matter. The Ministry of Housing is going to have control over the vote if they can wring the hands of the Honourable Minister of Finance enough to expend rather scarce resources.

But what I am trying to say is that I hope that priority will be given to the three hundred and twenty-one people who were turned off from the National Conservation Commission. They at least have the experience of having started to carry out this work:....

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: They said that they want workers, Sir. They want workers, Sir. I understand the reason why three hundred and twenty-one were sent home, was not because they were not workers. The reason given in this Committee in this Honourable House was that the vote ran out. That is what I heard, Sir. No reason was given otherwise. That was the reason advanced. I do not want to hear *sotto voce* that they want workers, Sir. I want to know that people who have been employed before and whom this Government terminated on the basis that there were no resources doing exactly this job, that when the resources now all of a sudden become available at Christmas that these people will be given a priority to be re-employed, and that is the assurance that I am asking from the Committee, Sir.

The honourable Member got up and said that the Government had run out of a vote, they did not have the money — I understand now the Minister is going to make the resources available although from looking at the figures it seems to me that such a programme for a full year will cost in the region of \$3 million and that is a very quick calculation, a minimum of \$3 million.

I will be happy to come in here and support a Resolution to put back to work those three hundred and twenty whom this Government terminated, more than happy to do so. I am glad to hear now that the Ministry can afford a Supplementary for \$3 million to \$4 million. I am told by my Shadow Minister of Finance that on a full year not for the balance of this financial year the cost is likely to be \$6 million. I am glad that they will be able to do so because I was concerned when the Honourable Minister of Employment said at one stage that he did not have enough money and he too had to terminate people from the National Assistance Board. So the Government can find the resources now. In that debate then I said the Government should come for a Supplementary rather than terminate people at that time, and there was no plea then that those people did not have the skills to carry out the job. The plea was that there was not enough in supplementary. But is it not really the truth, Mr. Chairman, that the Government is obviously feeling the pressures of its own supporters? I hope they would not conceive of the programme as a way merely of every MP hiring twenty of its supporters for the job. So that I want to know, Sir.

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is exactly why I wanted to provoke the reaction, Sir. Sometimes you have to say something in order to find out. A Member asked: "Why not?" I am glad that the Government is prepared to admit now that pressure of politics means that they too will be trying to place their resources directly in selecting them in jobs.

So that when I hear of the Ministry of the Public Service and in the very Ministry of Health will tell me that they are not having anything to do with the direct recruitment of people in the Public Service, quasi and public, I say: "It is not true; it is still continuing," and that is why sometimes I throw out a scrap, Sir. I throw out a scrap to hear them, Sir! The honourable Member for instance will know that when he sent up his last list of names to be appointed and he did not get two because another Minister wanted two to be appointed he was not too please.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, look he is trying to mislead himself. What foolishness is he talking? I do not come in here and mislead people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point you are making?

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I would like him to withdraw that. I have never sent up any list of maids. I do not employ maids. I am not an employment agency.

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not making sport, Sir. I am telling the Honourable Minister that he knew the list of people who went up to be appointed as maids. The list was shown to him by his Permanent Secretary; that he approved of them; and when another Minister wanted to get two in, the Honourable Minister knows that he objected, and he was not too please about it.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am serious about this. There is no truth in that whatsoever. If the so-called Assistant Director is giving him information, she is giving the wrong information. There is no truth in that. I do not see anything. It has nothing to do with me. What foolishness is he talking? I take these accusations very seriously, because obviously if somebody from the hospital is feeding him wrong information, he should deal with them but stop doing that. You are wrong and stop it!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point taken.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am not like the last Minister who used to send maids to do the job!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Minister will have to quarrel with his Ministerial colleagues. He will have to quarrel with the Minister of the Public Service, not with me, Sir, if the information is correct.

Asides

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Not any Directors. He has to quarrel with his direct Ministerial colleagues. Well, that is the information and I am glad to hear that the Honourable Minister is saying that the information is incorrect then. I hope it is incorrect, Sir. But I do not want honourable Members to sit down and say in here *sotto voce*,.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let the Honourable Minister keep quiet for a while, Sir. He has a chance to get up and deny anything that he hears in here, Sir. The Honourable Minister must realize..... I do not want to hear that

we are now going to get a preference to those three hundred and twenty-one.

I want to make one last point on this matter. I am glad to see that we are supporting programmes where our hospital and our resources do not allow us to give the resources here. It is something that both Governments supported, and I am happy to join in the words of commendation for Dr. Ismael, a very outstanding young Barbadian not only with one speciality but with several specialities, and also to Mr. Clarke as has been made here, Sir.

But I also want to pay tribute to some other Barbadians. There are several outstanding Barbadians and in this case Dr. Lacey Walkes for the assistance he has been rendering the Government in looking after the health of the Honourable Prime Minister from time to time, and I would wish that when the Honourable Prime Minister has to seek medical attention outside, that it has happened in other countries like in the United States, that some comment is made about the Prime Minister's Health from the Government's point of view. You will never see a leading country in the world where a Prime Minister has to get attention overseas and the matter is treated as a State secret. He is after all the Prime Minister of Barbados and it is a matter on which there ought to be comment.....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order!

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member can shout as much as he likes. The point is that I want to commend Dr. Lacey Walkes for the attention that he has been giving to the Honourable Prime Minister and I hope that the honourable Minister of Health will bear that in mind when he is making announcements.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I will like some honourable Members have done say that we should pay tribute to all of those outstanding Barbadians and in this particular case it is Dr. Ismael who have made their time and skills available to persons from Barbados who have gone to the United States or wherever for treatment.
1.15 p.m.

I also support what the Honourable Minister of Health said, that the time will come when we will also have to recognise the contribution made by Mr. Michael Clarke, who though not himself a physician, a doctor, is able in his way to contribute towards making life easier for those children who go abroad for services.

This debate has turned on matters other than health. It also had some health related connotations, and we heard that one of the problems here in this country is that the wells get filled up and then they breed mosquitoes. I believe, Sir, that probably there is some truth in that. What we have done in the Ministry of Transport and Works, the Ministry that is responsible for the wells, we have subdivided the island into several districts and we have appointed a number of contractors to look after the wells, both in terms of cleaning old wells and in terms of sinking new wells.

That is the position, Sir, so that we are hoping that in time not only will we be able to relieve the island from flooding, as in fact I believe we have succeeded in some small way in the Wotton area. I do not believe that Wotton suffered in the same way after these heavy rainfalls as it had done in the past, and the officers of my Ministry — I see the member responsible for the Wotton area is smiling, that is Christ Church East Central, and I hope what I am saying is a fact, because we have got no complaints whatsoever in my Ministry from the Wotton area after this last set of flooding, and I am hoping, Sir, that the same will be true not only of flooding but of mosquitoes.

I know the honourable Member for St. Peter is getting ready to speak, but we are also working on the St. Peter area in terms of wells hoping.....

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am not claiming credit for anything, I am only saying what the Ministry is doing. I am merely saying what the Ministry is doing to relieve the country of the two problems — (1) the problem of flooding and (2) the problem of mosquitoes — but if you want to get up and talk about credit, that is a matter for yourself. I am not interested in the credit, I am interested in the work. I am no person interested in any credit. I do not want any newspapers. When I go about to do my work, I do not take newspaper people behind me, so therefore I am not interested in any credit, so get that straight! I am interested in getting the work done for the people who need the work done, so do not talk to me about that! Okay?

We have problems. We have problems of drainage. This morning I paid a surprise visit, as I am doing now, to where some drains were being put in in the area of Eckstein Village, a place called Kellman's Land, where the residents were complaining of flooding and mosquitoes as well, and when I went to that area, four people on the job and not one man at work at 10 o'clock this morning. They are on the job, they are present. One man was cooling out under a tree; one man emerged from a house after I got there; another man was standing virtually in the drain; another one disappeared, I understand, to some

public bath about a mile away, and for the half an hour that we were there had not reported.

Now I want those persons to know, as I told them then, that this is a new dispensation. We will go back to the days of Senator Boxill and we will get people working or else there are several people who want to work. For every individual who is out there standing up with a piece of equipment in his hand, who is not working, there are twenty or more persons out there waiting for his job, and that will be the position. Those persons were spoiled by the last Government. They should have carried on the work that Senator Boxill started; they should have carried on that work. There is a lot of work that needs to be done in this country and I want the people working. If they are not working they are going home, and I am making no bones about this. They are going home, and if we have to tangle with any person or their representative, Mr. Unionist, I want you to understand this, I want the members to understand this, we may have to tangle with the Union in this regard. We may have to do so. If we have to do so, we will do so, but I believe that the Barbados Workers' Union, being a responsible Union, will encourage the people to work. I am sure that they will. In fact, this is their policy and their philosophy.

Now I support those persons who claim that there is need — well, in this Resolution we should not talk about beautifying the landscape — for something being done to the landscape. As far as my Ministry is concerned, something has got to be done about the areas of land bordering on the roadways, those that are overgrown with bush and shrubs. From the days of the last Government road weeding was almost a thing of the past, virtually cut out; gutters had been eliminated, so that now all the earth flows into the road; water stays at the side of the road where the road is overgrown; and all kinds of mosquitoes and so on breed there.

I would like, Sir, during my term of office as Minister of Transport and Works to do something about those road works. We have heard here, Sir, that in the times when Mr. Carmichael was the Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I don't think the name was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Well, I thought I heard Mr. Carmichael's name.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Maybe you heard it *sotto voce*.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: However, Sir.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That name was not mentioned in here; not as far as I can recall.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Okay, all right, I accept that admonition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No notice was given to me about anybody's name being called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The man who ran in the City was a man called Carmichael. The man who was Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission at the time when he ran in the City was a man called Lisle Carmichael.

It is true, Sir, that there were a number of persons employed by the Parks and Beaches Commission when Mr. Carmichael, who was a candidate for the City during a by-election and the following General Election. A number of persons were employed but there were not employed for a short term, they were employed permanently. They were employed before the bye-election, which was in April I believe, and they were employed during the time of the General Election which was in September, Mr. Chairman, in 1976. Those persons were fired by the past Government. We did not put them on for a short period, they were put on there by the Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission and the new Government then in 1976 promptly fired them.

This is not the same, Mr. Chairman, as what happened before the last election, and I can speak about my Ministry, because in my Ministry over two hundred persons were taken on from December of 1985 with letters stating that they would be employed for four months, for a specific period. The letter stated that. 1.25 p.m.

I am going to bring the letter here at some point in time when we are debating MTW, and I am going to read it into the Debates of this Honourable House. For four months. So it is not a question of terminating the employment of those persons. The employment of those persons expired. Their contract of employment expired. It is not a question of terminating it. Their contract expired so it is not a question of terminating their employment.

I do not see anything wrong with employing on a constituency basis because there are twenty-seven constituencies that form Barbados, and it is for Barbados that the suggestion has been made that we should beautify, if you like, remove the shrubs and the bush and everything else that breed mosquitoes and make the landscape look bad. I see nothing wrong in employing persons from the various constituencies to work in their own constituencies or even elsewhere. Every constituency is affected. There is not a single constituency affected. The bush does not ask if the honourable Member for Christ Church West is representing this area and not to grow there. The bush grows everywhere and for that reason, Sir, I believe that we should employ persons to move that bush because..... It is called a debushing programme and I can see absolutely nothing wrong with this, nothing at all.

I can support the honourable Member. The honourable Member says that..... If I may revert to the Resolution — like every other honourable Member, I was merely responding.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is what we were doing all the time. Everybody spoke on the Resolution as far as I am concerned.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: As far as you are concerned, I am now returning to the Resolution, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is nothing that was said today that was outside the scope of this Resolution.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I accept that. Very good. Anyhow, then my response was really and truly on the Resolution itself, not necessarily responding, but I just thought of responding when the honourable Member for Christ Church West said..... The honourable Member for Christ Church West can now come in and say that when the Honourable Prime Minister goes abroad for medical attention it must not be treated as a state secret.

None of us knew that a former Prime Minister had a heart problem diagnosed by a Hartley Street Specialist until he was dead. I do not know what kind of secret you would call that, but I did not hear then the honourable Member for Christ Church West get up and admonish. Maybe he was in the dark.

Asides

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I understand even Hartley Street did not know. It was such a secret even Hartley Street did not know.

Asides

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Anyhow, Sir, we will not speak about that now.

I want the honourable Member not to blow hot and cold. Let him be consistent. When he can go and tell his own members what he is telling us now we will accept what he is telling us as regards to his admonitions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, in this healthy debate, I would like to make a few comments and observations. The first of them is, Sir, that the Trade Union does not go out of its way to tangle with anyone but if perforce we have to tangle; then we shall tangle.

For example, Sir, I understand that we are going to have to tangle with the Ministry of Transport and Works

where it has discontinued an arrangement during lunch time for people with the hot mix because if you remove the hot mix extra overtime arrangement then the people will have to take their lunch at 11 o'clock like anybody else in the Ministry of Transport and Works, so you see, Sir, if we have to tangle we are going to have to tangle.

I wish further to make the observation which has been addressed by the former speaker and by the honourable Member for Christ Church West relating to illustrious persons who take ill. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that when one deals with health matters of that sort that one has to recognize that the attitude of Barbadians to health and health matters is different from the attitude of several other persons. Perhaps, it has something to do with the size of our country.

It is not unusual, Mr. Chairman, for persons to suffer from all kinds of illnesses which they never had. At the same time, it is not unusual for persons who are ill to refrain from making that public knowledge. It might be useful if we were able to work out some form of code where we would know in advance what happens to persons who are illustrious and important before they die and after they are dead because, after all, when people are important and they have contributions to make to the society, then their lives become very much the centre of the interest of all the people.

Another important matter I wish to touch on — important to me, Sir — is the fact that in this matter of trying to make Barbados healthy, several persons were engaged during the last Administration and if one is to give credit to the words of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the number was three hundred and twenty-one that got laid off recently from Parks and Beaches.

I have a particular concern, Mr. Chairman, for that and for that particular number because two hundred and fifty of those persons came from St. Michael Central and the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands was kind enough before the television cameras to indicate that any effort to re-employ would look first of all at those persons and I wish, on behalf of those persons, to thank him now in advance for recognizing that in any dispensation for re-employment that there cannot be a strict mathematical calculation but that St. Michael Central will have to get some additional credit in terms of those persons who were bereft of their jobs and their livelihoods.

Asides.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Well, I may not be asking for two hundred and fifty but I am sure that we can negotiate, Mr. Chairman with the Honourable Minister responsible for Health and the Honourable Minister responsible for Lands and that we can end up with some

amicable arrangement, perhaps two hundred and forty-nine. That would not hurt anybody.

Asides.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: If the Attorney General wants me to put in a submission for him, I might do so.

I just want the Ministers responsible for beautification and environmental upgrading to remember that it is necessary to keep our promises and pay our debts, and I have already told the people in St. Michael Central in their name that when this programme starts, that they will be remembered in keeping with promises that have been made and this, Sir, will trust me to make the right comments.

I wish, Sir, continuing to make the observation that it is important that we recognize the contribution of the North Shore Hospital, as the Honourable Minister of Health has already said, and that we are not going to be divided on the question of the token contribution that we are giving in that regard.

The general concern for health that has been expressed by other persons is one that has to have national significance rising beyond narrow partisan views and whether the matter relates to the cleaning of wells, or to debushing, or otherwise, it is still very important for us to recognize that at the very core of this arrangement for making healthy the country, there must lie the question of educating our peoples.

I think it is most regrettable to find and to see evidence of situations, Mr. Chairman, where persons who, perhaps, have moved from the villages and the gaps and who have gone, perhaps, to live in the terraces, the parks or sometimes the heights, who themselves recognize the very great importance there is to keep clean and healthy the areas immediately surrounding their own homes.

1.35 p.m.

It is disappointing to find sometimes if you drive behind such persons that when they get to places that are slightly abandoned or perhaps when they approach villages that they open the trunks of their cars or throw from their speeding cars cans or bags of garbage which would no longer be a problem to them, but would cause a problem to somebody else, and I am suggesting that this is because there is a lack of a sufficiency of a consciousness, consciousness about the importance of health, consciousness about the importance of our need to be our brother's keeper that prompts that kind of indifference, and sometimes that kind of selfishness that makes for a downgrading of our environment. Other persons will remove the bush from around their own homes but have no qualms whatsoever about dumping that bush in the

same way that they dump their garbage on somebody else's property, and I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that there needs to be some upgrading of the level of consciousness, and whereas I do not suggest that the Ministry of Education now has to go and get a curriculum and start a class at some school, I am suggesting that all of us have to play a role in upgrading and educating our constituents and the country at large in recognising that the matter of health does not begin and end with an advertisement on television, but is much more than this. It has to do with making our people conscious of their commitment to one another.

I would wish in closing, Sir, to remind the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works that when the wells are being cleared that there are some in St. Michael Central that could use some of that attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a short contribution to this debate, and I would like to say that when this matter came before the Ministry of Finance, I was happy to support it not only because of the small amount of money involved, but also because of the cause, and I am referring to \$20 400.

For many years, Sir, Barbados has had to depend on support in the area of major surgical procedures particularly in those relating to the heart and those relating to the brain, and I think that this will be a continuing factor because we are a relatively small population, just over a quarter of a million, the cost of maintenance of these facilities is extremely high, and even where we have the trained personnel, where Barbadians have acquired these skills, it would be difficult for them to maintain the skills because of the small number of cases which would arise out of a population of a quarter of a million. In other words we have a very small catchment area, and even if we were to spend many, many millions of dollars to establish and staff these facilities, we would not be able to maintain them either economically or professionally. So that one would see that over the years we have sent many of our patients to the University of the West Indies which of course would have a much wider catchment of three million people or so, and where if the procedures could not be done there, then they were sent to other institutions in the United States going back as far as twenty years.

I am very pleased indeed that this is yet another relationship which has developed between Barbados and an outstanding institution of cardiac surgery.

The second point I would like to make is that whilst we depend on this sort of arrangement in a

limited number of cases, Barbados over the past twenty to twenty years has developed a significant medical facility, and I think that it is important that we should recognise and encourage our professional personnel in this area to export their services; that is, provide services in Barbados for not only the Eastern Caribbean and Trinidad which has been fairly traditional, and Guyana, and to the visitors who come to Barbados, but to recognise that this export of services concept can be a very valuable additional area of economic development in Barbados and professional enhancement. This is particularly so in the area of tourism. I do not think enough emphasis is put in our tourist promotional development to emphasise the facilities that Barbados have which could make it quite an attractive alternative in specific instances to the southern United States and in particular the south-east United States.

So I think bearing these two things in mind, one can see the kind of framework in which the Ministry of Finance and Planning would be thinking not only in generating funds to satisfy the domestic needs of our population in relation to health, but to recognise that both from a professional enhancement and an economic enhancement point of view, that if our services are structured within that kind of economic context, there is a considerable amount to be gained.

Now in terms, Sir, of the quantum that needs to be expended in terms of beautification of the Island, I would like to assure this Honourable House that the Ministry of Finance would do all it possibly can at all times to ensure that public funds are expended in a manner which is to the greatest advantage to the community.

But I believe that I should draw to the attention of this Honourable House one of the major current constraints on the kind of expenditures advocated. Firstly we have inherited a core of capital expenditure largely in terms of road development and so on where vast sums have to be spent on those roads. Apart from the borrowed money, the domestic counterpart funds constitute a considerable proportion of public expenditure. That amount this year will probably be, I suspect, I would not like to be very specific, in the region of over 80 per cent. Next year our projections are that \$88 million of all public capital expenditure would have to go to continual satisfaction of the contractual arrangements in respect of those projects started by the previous Governments, or where firm contracts were made prior to the Democratic Labour Party assuming office. This means that only the amount which we spend in excess of that \$88 million next year and only the amount that we spend in excess of what is contracted this year can go to this kind of capital development, and I wish to say that I agree with all honourable Members of the Honourable House that the type of programmes which they are advocating are far more relevant to Barbados today, but

there is a major constraint, the fact that so much money has to be spent on projects which in my view absorb a large amount of funds and contribute very little to employment generation or to the overall development of the community, certainly not in the short or medium term.

1.45 p.m.

However, I wish to give the public an assurance that our future capital programmes would be so structured that matters such as maintenance of Government properties; matters such as drainage of the island; matters such as road maintenance; matters such as environmental development; matters such as infrastructural development for the tourist industry; matters such as housing at all levels whether it be at the low income, middle income or otherwise, that this will be the priority of Government expenditure and that by the end of Fiscal Year 1987-88 that I will be in a position to allocate probably well over 80% of all funds spent on capital expenditure in those areas which I have just identified. In other words, what I have just announced is a gradual diminution of the emphasis on capital expenditure on projects which have a high visibility quotient, which involve heavy counterpart funds locally and involve heavy borrowings overseas, and to try to restructure our capital programme in a manner that has considerable immediacy in terms of the population of Barbados which would be employment generating and which, in the long term, I feel would benefit the country more fundamentally.

So therefore, what I am trying to say is that we are going to have to hold some element of strain for the time being in terms of this kind of capital expenditure. And the reason for this is obviously you cannot superimpose this kind of programme on top of committed expenditures already because then you reach a situation where your expenditures would get completely out of hand. While, Sir, at the same time.....

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I did not say I am not going to give you any money. What I am saying is that one has to be cautious and prudent in terms of the amount of additional expenditure that you commit yourself to over and above that which you have contractual obligations to.

So that I think that on balance, I entirely agree.....

Aside.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES:..... I am in full agreement with all the sentiments expressed here, but it is a question of careful timing and organizing of these programmes.

And make no mistake about it, I heard the Honourable Minister of Transport spent some time on improved drainage in Barbados. That must be a high priority. It has a priority in respect of agriculture, in terms of soil erosion. It has a priority in terms of the lives of people in this country, in terms of flooding. It has a priority in terms of property. It has a priority in terms of the amount of money that you have to spend on road maintenance, because if you look very carefully you will see how our roads virtually disintegrate when they have been exposed to floods and water for a long period of time. And of course it has a very fundamental relationship to the health of the community as a whole.

So I think that the debate, although it was not confined so far within the narrow limits of the Resolution, I think that it has been a very worthwhile debate and I can assure all honourable Members and assure the public in general that this Government is extremely concerned over the fact that we need to restructure our capital programmes when we are permitted to do so by allowing this hard core of expenditures to flow through the system and get back to the kind of programmes which, as I say, have immediate and permanent effects in terms of the population of Barbados.

Thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Chairman, I should like to add my support for the Resolution granting \$20 400 to the North Shore Hospital in New York. I am also very proud that the person there, the Cardiologist there is a Barbadian. As you know, I have always had a deep interest in children. I am now working in a Ministry where we also have the responsibility for children and I am very happy to see that the honourable Members of the Opposition are understanding that health is important.

I heard remarks about mosquitoes and all things like that. I must say that in my going about in the constituency which I am proud to represent, there has not been any evidence of any Minister, representative or anything looking after the health of the children in St. Joseph. I can

(*Aside:* Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Before now.)

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Before now. I can attest to that fact that when it comes to roads and mosquitoes.

If you went down in Mellows Hill you will see the people there many months ago complain to me that they have to spend great sums of money getting insecticides because the gutters in Mellows Hill are clogged up.

Aside.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Fifty-two years, if you please! The gutters in Mellows Hill are so clogged up that the mosquitoes give those people a fit.

I am also very pleased to know that the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works is doing a very good job. He at least is visiting to see what is going on. And I am assured that he will be visiting my constituency, and the people in that constituency would be seeing a Minister of Government for the first time for many, many years.

I also have to agree with some of the honourable Members who said that some roads have not been weeded for years. Let me tell you, I myself have traversed a road called Suriname. Now at the end of Suriname where the houses are I thought it was all bush, I thought it was just weeds. I was told two weeks ago when I went to see what was happening after the heavy rains, "This road needs weeding." I said, "That is a lane." They said, "No, it is Government road." I went down that road and the bushes and the weeds are all growing in it. It is Government road and for several yards, there is nothing but weeds and bushes. So I am happy to know that at last, something is going to be done. I am assured by the Honourable Minister that something will be done in those areas.

I can go on talking for a whole year about the health problems that are in St. Joseph, but I know that enough has been said already about the North Shore Hospital. I would not want to carry the debate any further, but I will come back on that when the relevant issues are being discussed.

Thank you.

(*Aside:* Hear, hear!)

Applause.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to briefly respond to a statement made by the honourable Member for Christ Church West when he said that the reason given by this Administration for terminating the three hundred and twenty-one persons by the National Conservation Commission was an insufficiency of funds.

We gave many reasons for terminating the employment of those three hundred and twenty-one persons. In fact, this Administration did not turn off the entire three hundred and twenty-one.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. deB. FORDE: How many?)

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: A lot of persons in Barbados would not know that on May 29, the day after the General Elections, one hundred and nine of those persons' jobs were terminated because their contract, if you can call it a contract had expired. One hundred and eighty-three persons got letters telling them that they are going to be employed until June 6 and, in fact, we kept them on until June 23. I want the people to understand what is happening.

1.55 p.m.

Asides.

Quite apart from that, Mr. Chairman, is this: We in this Administration who are thinking now about bringing on persons under this same N.C.C., this corporation, right at this moment today, yesterday as well, the Chairman of N.C.C., the General Manager and other senior personnel in N.C.C. are sitting down and working out the best way to deploy the persons who are going to be working in this scheme. What we saw immediately prior to the last General Election was a bunching of forty and fifty people in one area making it impossible for anyone to weed. It was an *ad hoc* and haphazard arrangement done by the past administration for election purposes. That is not what we are doing at the moment. We are carrying out a systematic inquiry, if you can call it that, into how best to deploy these people in the different constituencies because in the first ten days of November almost 7 inches of rain fell in Barbados....there are complaints about the beaches; there are complaints about the parks; there are complaints about the roads; and there are complaints about the cemeteries. We have to understand something — there is a difference.

So when the honourable Member for Christ Church West is saying that we terminated the employment of three hundred and twenty-one persons immediately after elections, that is incorrect. I repeat. That is incorrect because on May 29 before we took office one hundred and nine went and the rest of them were told that they would be employed until June 6 and we actually employed them for two or three weeks longer. That is what the situation is.

So I just wanted to make that point clear and let the people in Barbados and in this Honourable House realize that the project which we are in the process of implementing is a project that will be thought out deeply and is being thought out deeply, and you will not see any forty people standing up like on the Airport Road just before Election time, all forty of them bunching up together talking, and then when you get down at Callender Road you see another fifty standing up talking. That is not the sort of programme that we are planning.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 3 o'clock for lunch.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that Sir.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 3 o'clock for lunch was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

2.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall now revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is still in Committee. When we were about to retire, the honourable Member for St. Michael South East was on his feet.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for Christ Church West said that he was surprised to find that the Resolution to discuss the granting of money to North Shore Hospital should also involve debushing, and then he went on to make what I consider to be some very serious statements and in that he mentioned a prominent surgeon in the United States and said that this surgeon, Dr. Walkes, was in some way associated with taking care of our present Prime Minister. I find it very interesting that a member of that party should call to mention the fact that the people of Barbados should be at all times apprised of the health I guess of their Prime Minister. I do not know why he restricted it to Prime Minister but if he wants to go that far then they should be apprised of the health of the people who govern the country — the Governor-General, the Ministers, et cetera. But I guess that he made that point, and the speakers as well, to telegraph some information which we might see in tomorrow's newspaper and, therefore, I cannot allow that statement to be laid to rest.

The Honourable Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications quite rightly said that it was only

after the death of a former Prime Minister that we were told that we should not be surprised of a sudden death because there was a long-standing history of heart disease and that the diagnosis was made by Harley Street specialists. Now we have heart specialists in Barbados and if the argument is that a former Prime Minister was so seriously ill with heart disease, it stands to reason from his line of argument that the people of Barbados should have been apprised of the fact that our Prime Minister had a serious heart problem.

But I want to recall and I want the honourable Members of this House to recall that especially during the St. Peter bye-election there were statements made — the first bye-election — as to how the present Prime Minister was seriously ill, and I recall a night in St. Peter where they said he had had a stroke and could not come onto the platform. He was supposed to have had one foot amputated. All of those statements were made.

But I want to refer to the Laws of Barbados, I want us to be a serious people in this country and the Laws of Barbados say this; and I am quoting from Chapter 113, Section 6. I think that is what it is. I do not know very much about the law.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which Act is that?

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: The Coroners Act, Cap. 113, Section 6 and the Subheading is: "Power of the Coroner to Dispense with Inquest if Satisfied by Post-mortem Examination that the Inquest is Unnecessary". It says this:

"Where there is any case of an unnatural death the Coroner, if he is of the opinion that a post-mortem examination may approve an inquest to be unnecessary may order that a post mortem examination be done by a medical practitioner who shall after the identification of the body report the result of such examination to the Coroner in writing."

Now the point I am making is this: In this country we had a situation where the Prime Minister of this country at 2 o'clock in the day went from his residence at Ilaro Court and inspected the fencing to the east of the house. On his way back he laid down and he looked in the well and in approximately twenty-five minutes after he was dead. I am saying as a medical practitioner that if a man is alive and well at 2 o'clock and then is found dead at half past two, it is an unnatural death. But what is even more important, as the honourable Member for Christ Church West said, he was not just an ordinary man; he was the Prime Minister.....And that same Prime Minister I think it was in the Budget Debate before his death had said that the Cubans were about to kill him.
3.05 p.m.

Therefore, any reasonable person would have thought that if a Prime Minister who made a statement that a foreign country was about to put his life out died suddenly, the citizens of Barbados cannot feel justified in picking up that Prime Minister with some scribble and scratch saying that he died of a heart attack.

Only this week I had an experience where I issued a death certificate for a 75-year old woman who I had been taking care of. She was diabetic and hypertensive and she had a stroke a couple days before she died, and some recording clerk at the hospital made a statement that that was a Coroner's case and refused to issue the body to the undertakers. That happened in this country, but we could take up a Prime Minister who was supposed to be well at 2 o'clock and died at half past two and bury him, but I will say this; I will make this point.

History will demand, if the Democratic Labour Party does not do it, that the people and future generations of this country will investigate thoroughly the death of that Prime Minister, and I make bold to say that some day in the future — it may not be in the immediate future — that that body will be dug up, if it can be found, and that proper investigations will be carried out on the body, because we know in today's world science is so advanced that we can go into the pyramids and we can dig up the mummies and we can decide whether they had arsenic poisoning or whether a bullet went through the skull. We can make those determinations.

So when we come in here and we send messages to the Press for tomorrow morning's headlines, let it also be said that the people of Barbados will demand an explanation as to why a former Prime Minister died, because the history books of Barbados will never be complete until that sudden death is explained to posterity.

Mr. Chairman, I only wanted to make that point for the record. I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution concerns Head 36 — Ministry of Health, and the debate that has surrounded it has started in New York and has ended up in the graveyard of the St. Michael's Cathedral.

I want to focus somewhat on the specific purposes for which the funds will be put and to talk particularly, Sir, perhaps about the need to widen the scope and coverage of Subhead 2 of Head 36 in the light of the contemporary drift in health policy in this country.

From this Head, Mr. Speaker, are made a number of contributions to a large number of institutions — the Red Cross, the Barbados Nurses' Association and other such places — and I would suppose that when once the medical aid scheme is no longer funded off budget through the health levy that in years to come the provisions allowed for under that medical aid scheme would be reflected at Subhead 2 of Head 36 — Ministry of Health and Social Security.

I really want to make a plea, Mr. Speaker, that we really ought to be thinking in terms of earmarking a larger amount of the funds provided for through the health levy to supplement this medical aid scheme, because there is a recurring difficulty in Barbados faced by many persons who need to have access to medical services which cannot simply be provided for in Barbados, and persons who have great financial difficulties on their own accord in financing such services from their own behalf.

Now that the Government has disengaged from the concept of the National Health Service as proposed by the Barbados Labour Party, and now that the full amount of the health levy is going into the Consolidated Fund, I want to make the point that we can only ask the taxpayers to continue to pay this levy for a service which is not provided if some alternative and proper use is to be made of those funds which are going into the Consolidated Fund, and I want therefore to suggest to the Ministry of Health that we should be looking not only to increase the medical aid scheme but we should be looking as well in the absence of a National Health Service to pass back a large part of that health levy collected from the general public to a number of the community based institutions whose subventions are covered by Subhead 2 of this particular Head of the Estimates.

Mr. Speaker, a lot was made in this debate of the desirability of an environmental programme to deal with problems of debushing and landscaping in Barbados. The one significant point, as I gather from the Government, is that despite the extent to which members regard it as desirable the Honourable Minister of Finance has poured cold water on the issue, because if you read the Honourable Minister of Finance very carefully, he was saying that yes, Barbados needs to spend money on maintenance and landscaping and beautification exercises, but that the Government is no longer in a position, Mr. Speaker, to expend the amounts of monies that the Honourable Minister's colleagues regard as being desirable for Barbados. So that despite the fact that the Government regards a beautification programme and an environmental programme as being important this financial year, the sad and sorry situation in which this country finds itself now, Mr. Speaker, if we are to understand the Honourable Minister of Finance very carefully — and he was speaking

in very guarded terms — is that the Government of Barbados is no longer in a position to fund it. And, Mr. Speaker, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. I was elevating you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In time.

Laughter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I was not aware that the honourable Member for St. Michael North West was proposing to retire within this term.

Mr. Chairman, I want to draw reference to how very unfortunate it is that a country can find itself in a position where an entire House of Assembly is agreed as to the urgency and the need to put in place a small project which any reasonable country should be able to take in stride, to improve the landscape, to beautify the country, but a Minister of Finance and Planning has to come to the Honourable House and tell Members of the House of Assembly that despite the desirability of this type of activity we are in no position to finance it.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot accept the position of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning that this has to do with the size of the capital programme that you are carrying on, it also has to do with the fact, Mr. Chairman, that the Government of Barbados has yielded a lot of revenues which could usefully be utilised by a Government with priorities to ensure that social priorities of this character are always attended to.

I think, Mr. Chairman, it is a very serious indictment of the sense of priorities of the Government that it now finds itself unable by reason of financial difficulties to put in place a programme which the entire House of Assembly finds so desirable.

3.15 p.m.

If, as the Minister of Finance finds it possible in 1988, as he implied, to bring this programme into place, Sir, I would want, Mr. Chairman

Laughs.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It will be in place as Christmas work in the Jamaican way. In Jamaica you have Christmas work where members of Parliament are given twenty jobs for their supporters to hold them for six weeks at Christmas.

As conceived by the Government, the debushing programme, over the objection of people like Mr.

McClean, in the Esplanade is Christmas work for six weeks to provide twenty jobs for members of the Democratic Labour Party representatives.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Let the honourable Member proceed in silence!

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It is Christmas work! We know that it is Christmas work.

But, Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point that once the Government eventually finds itself in a position to support this type of priority which we all agree is a national priority, I would want to urge the Government not to treat this issue on a constituency basis. Matters such as these, in my mind, have to be dealt with on the basis of need; that we can take a programme to beautify Barbados and we can allocate the resources behind it on the basis of the most pressing need. The need differs from constituency to constituency.

I also hold the same position in relation to roads that there are things which this country shares in common, and I have already said on the floor of this Honourable House, that I have as much interest in seeing good roads in St. Peter as I have interest in seeing good roads in St. James North, or St. John because the people of St. Peter use roads jointly as all other people in Barbados do, and I think we would be making a very serious mistake in allocating resources to a programme of this character if we see the programme purely in terms of finding twenty or thirty jobs for individual Members of Parliament to allocate here and there.

Let us go about it in a more systematic fashion, Mr. Chairman, identify the areas of greatest needs in the society and allocate the resources in a fashion that would allow these needs to be redressed, but the manner in which this particular programme is being approached is on the basis of strict "pork barrel" politics.

The Minister of Housing and Lands knows that the.....

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am arguing for St. Peter, because I know if you are allocating it only on the basis of constituency needs, then the people of St. Peter who have not voted for the Democratic Labour Party would suddenly find themselves not sharing in this type of programme and there are mosquitoes in St. Peter too.

I am saying Mr. Chairman, that this type of programme could best be addressed by our formulating a

programme to be applied to address needs on a priority basis.

Asides.

Mr. Chairman, despite the hecklings of the Democratic Labour Party, the Democratic Labour Party now knows that they are desperate to find jobs in the short term.

We have had the amazing situation in which the Honourable Prime Minister of this country has said that he is not interested in any debushing programme or creating jobs; that they should be done by machine, and his Personal Aide on Sunday night in the Esplanade made the point that you should have more types of programmes of this character. But the pressure is on for jobs, and the pressure is on for Christmas jobs, and the Government knows that a decision has already been taken to create twenty jobs in each constituency to hand out to people in this kind of programme.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I am making this point because I want to underscore two points. The first is the complete conflict within the Democratic Labour Party as to how the issue of job creation should be addressed. You have the Honourable Prime Minister saying that he has no interest in this kind of matter. His Personal Aide is saying that he has no interest in this kind of matter. The Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning is saying that he cannot finance it and here his other colleagues.....

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

I went to great effort this morning to try to point out the need for discipline in expenditures, and if the honourable Member believes that because he knows of the kind of indiscretions that took place when he was in the Ministry and if he thinks he is going to dislocate our programme by coming here to create demands for expenditure, he is not going to succeed. We will proceed in well modulated tones in terms of how we address this problem.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister has merely risen on a point of order to substantiate the argument that I have been holding out all along that he will be proceeding in well modulated tones, that things are tight. You have to hold a strain and, as a result, I stand on the point that I am making that one could not have any full-fledged programme of the character envisaged for a full year in the context of the situation where the Honourable Minister of Finance is proceeding on a well

modulated basis of asking you to hold a strain and, as I said earlier, it is a piece of Christmas work to address the agitation of people who have been misled by the Democratic Labour Party to believe that you can have an instant solution to unemployment in this country.

But, if I may conclude, Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty at all supporting this Resolution for such a worthy purpose. I want also to urge on the Ministry of Health that in constructing its new budget, now that you have the Health Levy to be used for purposes other than a National Health Service, that we can look to increasing grants and subventions to institutions so that the money can go back out into the community from whence it comes and I want to urge upon the Honourable House that if we are going to have an environmental programme to beautify Barbados, let us just not deal with it from the point of view of "pork barrel" politics on a constituency by constituency basis, but deal with it with reference to national priority.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution deals with matters of the heart, and Wotton is very near to my heart so that when my friend the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works alluded to the situation at Wotton, I thought I would have to give him some support on the situation here because the Wotton situation has been looked at more in terms of the resiting problem but I think the fundamental problem has been the problem of drainage and it is not really a Wotton problem as such.

It is a problem that ranges throughout that entire geographical area, a problem that ranges from Newton right through Lodge Road and, in fact, it culminates in the Oistins area. It is a massive problem of drainage. It is a problem of development that did not have the kind of planning that was required and that was necessary, and we know that a number of developments have gone up in that area — the Kingsland Development, the Newton, etc. — and the problem has been that the kinds of wells that should have been dug have not been dug in the area and the result is that even now when following the Miles Rothwell Plan that was submitted to the National Housing Corporation a serious drainage experiment has been put into place which depends on two particular functions: one is that of digging wells and the other is cleaning wells.
3.25 p.m.

We find that the well digging process is working quite well, I would say, but the whole problem of well cleaning has been exacerbated because in attempting to clean the wells, what we are finding is that the wells are

actually caving in because they should not have been placed in those particular areas to start with.

It is a serious problem that I would like to extend away from that particular area as a lesson really in terms of the entire country, that if we have to go about providing drainage in these areas that are prone to flooding, we have to follow from the bad examples of what was done in the past, because it is very difficult when you have scarce resources to allocate into things like drainage, you have to try to attempt to solve the problem two and three times.

Even in the recent instance of the flooding that we had earlier in this month, I was amazed when I went over to the area aback of the Water Street School to see that wells that had recently been dug were destroyed by the torrent of water after the casing was put up. Now that casing has been pushed away, and I believe there has been a serious caving in of wells in the area, and it is of particular concern to me because we are talking about at the back of the school where children are likely to come out and see water and believe that this is a playing area only to find that in fact they might be going into wells that are quite treacherous and quite deep. So that is my concern really, that the whole question of drainage is a very serious one.

I am very happy that the Democratic Labour Party Government is continuing the programme of digging wells in that particular area and of providing boxed canals to take the water from the high land right down into the Oistin area. I just want to ensure that the engineers will have an oversight to make sure that the programme goes efficiently and well, and I hope we will not have further complaints from the residents of the area about wells caving in.

I have a problem for instance — this might appear to be parochial — but there is a lady who lives at No. 106 Wotton where a well has been opening and when it is closed, opening again, and she is fearful that she might step out of her home at night and find herself engulfed in the earth. And it is not an isolated instance, because I believe that the area has a lot of subterranean canals and so on, and it is a very dangerous area. I do not know if the problem might be the same in St. Peter, but this is a problem we are experiencing in that part of Christ Church, and you have problems then of pockets of water appearing at certain places with the concomitant problem of mosquitoes etcetera.

I think we have moved away from the major theme of the Resolution, but the points were well made. I just wanted to support what the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works said, that we have not had any serious problems from the area in Wotton that was affected, but this does not mean that looking at the

broad area we still are not concerned about the whole question of drainage.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, as the Honourable Minister of Health has said at the beginning of his presentation of this Resolution, we did not envisage a long debate on this Resolution, but the scope that has been covered as a result of the very clever intervention by the honourable Member for St. Thomas permits me, Sir, to approach my contribution to this Resolution in a manner that I would have to some extent look back at the reasons why the honourable Members on the other side can take the positions that they are taking today.

It is true that I am a very junior Member of this Honourable House, but I have been involved in the politics of Barbados for a very long time, and I recall that after the 1976 General Election that a programme that had been put in place by the Democratic Labour Party Government had been taken by the Barbados Labour Party's representatives to be an election gimmick. The fact is that they have not, except for renaming the Parks and Beaches Commission as the National Conservation Commission, scrapped it, but what is very significant, Sir, is that after a very drastic reduction in the number of persons employed by the Parks and Beaches Commission some time between 1976 and 1977, it took the Barbados Labour Party until 1985 just before the General Election of 1986 to pick up the strings and carry forward a programme of electioneering in terms of a few short term jobs.

I, Mr. Chairman, represent a constituency that is just adjacent to the constituency of St. Michael Central which to some extent had the largest number of persons who were employed in this election exercise, and it is true that what was left over from St. Michael Central has found some of its scope in the St. Michael North East constituency because there is still a large number of persons who confess to having received letters of appointment that made it clear to them that they would not have been employed after June, so that when their services were terminated, all they could come and tell you was "see what you can do for us; we know it is not a long term thing, but see how you can help us".

Mr. Chairman, I am happy that the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands has been able to assure us that there is a programme afoot and not just a programme for electioneering jobs, not just a programme for Christmas jobs, but a programme that will take us through a period of very considerable anxiety in terms of the number of people who have been laid off and who still require work in order to earn themselves an honest living.

I think, Sir, that the Government should be complimented in terms of taking a situation in hand that was not of their making and trying to instil in the minds of those persons some degree of hope that there are persons in Government; there are persons in positions of authority and responsibility who think of their welfare.

So that when I hear comments made by the three honourable Members on the other side, all I can consider that they are doing is having their cake and wanting to eat it too. In fact, what they are saying to us is that it was right for them to fool the people by way of providing work just before the election. They knew that they did not provide the kind of funds to carry it beyond the point that they had said, but they are coming at this point and at this time to make out a case not only for occasional work but for continued employment.

I am happy to be associated with a party and a Government that is considerate enough not just to look, and we make it abundantly clear that we are not the kind of people to support these short term measures, but we would look for employment opportunities that are much longer lasting.

3.35 p.m.

I am happy that the Honourable Minister has confirmed that this is part of the programme of his Ministry in terms of finding jobs and doing a worthwhile job in the beautification of the country.

I am supporting this Resolution, Sir, from the basis that if you take the needs of the people of a country, anything that enhances the opportunity to give them a better chance of life should be supported by those persons who have such an interest. But I could not allow it to pass without making some observations known as to the methods used by the honourable Members on the other side to get some of the cake that there is in terms....I know you have not begged for votes: But let me say this, Mr. Chairman.....

(*Aside:* Hon. E. E. GREAVES: St. Thomas will get some.)

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE:.....that I support very largely the concept of the Honourable Minister that he would approach the allocation of these jobs on a constituency basis because I think it is the most equitable way of doing it. I do not think that the honourable Members on the other side need have any fear of the allocation method because they all fall into areas that come from one DLP represented area into another DLP represented area. So they can get a little bit of the throw off anyhow. So they need not fear.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that as we started it is not necessary for us to prolong this debate because the substantive part of this debate deals with a very non-contentious aspect of funding, and therefore I just wanted to make my contribution in relation to what the honourable Members on the other side had said.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for the City.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I really have no intention of trying to prolong the debate on what is a very important Resolution anyhow. But there are one or two points that were raised by other honourable Members which I thought I should say a few words on.

One of the things I want to clear up first, and I would agree with the honourable Member for St. Michael North is that when the former Democratic Labour Party candidate for the City who was then the Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission gave people employment in that statutory corporation, it was along the vein that the Democratic Labour Party always goes and that is in creating long-term employment. But I continue to hear successive speakers talk about short-term jobs.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The honourable Member for Christ Church.....Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, the.....

(Aside: He is trying to put you off.)

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I know he is trying to do that. When it comes to the City, he cannot put me off. He cannot put me off when it comes to employment in the City because the last representative for the City has a very poor record as far as employment is concerned; as far as a lot of things are concerned for that matter.

Anyhow, as far as I am concerned, I can tell you that I know of many people in that constituency and in other constituencies which Mr. Carmichael did not run for who were employed by the Parks and Beaches Commission and remained employed until 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party Administration swiftly got rid of them.

So I do not know when I hear the honourable Member for St. Thomas talk about victimization, if he believes that that was something that was created.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Thomas is on his feet.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The honourable Member for St. Thomas never used the word, "victimization" or talked about, "victimization" today or in the recent past.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is out of order, Sir. I did not talk about "victimization". You remember my speech, Sir. It was to the point and punching and going home.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I think the honourable Member already made the point that he did not talk about victimization today.

(Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Or in the recent past.)

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I do not know what is the recent past, Sir. That is a relative term.

The other point that was made was that about drainage, and I can say that again, in a lot of the constituencies on the western side of St. Michael, we do have that problem and in particular in the City where, for instance, you had another quick fix situation in Murphy pasture just prior to the Election, I believe it was about a week or two, where some time around 4.00 o'clock in the morning, a bulldozer arrived — I do not want you to hold me to the time, it was close to 4.00 o'clock in the morning — and pushed.....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: It came from St. Peter?

Asides.

Laughter.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: No. I am talking about May, 1986.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: And I am talking about Chapman Lane. Do not get the Orleans and 1976 mixed up with 1986 and Chapman Lane. Okay? We are talking about May, 1986 and we are talking about Chapman Lane. To be specific, we are talking about the.....

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: On Election Day, the smoke was still coming out of the barbergreen.)

Laughter.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: We are talking about May, 1986, Mr. Chairman, and we are talking about the

southern side of the canal that passes through Murphy pasture, if you want me to be specific of the area.

But to be serious. What happened is that there was a lot of bush down there and there was not enough time to get in the debushing team, so they brought the bulldozer. And in that hurried way — because people were getting annoyed with this bush. It was a serious problem. As soon as you saw dusk time, there were what we commonly call in Barbados a lot of sour flies and mosquitoes around. And to try to alleviate that problem and to probably win a few votes, the bulldozer was brought in.

But what has happened now, is that as a result of doing that, they have lowered that area and now that we have got all of these rains, even although we have had some sunshine for the past few days, if you went there now, you would find that there is still water in that area and it is an area where there are houses.

But I can say now that the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands in doing a tour with me in the area recently has assured me that something is going to be done about resiting the houses so that we can try to build that area back up and create an environment that would suit persons living there.

Another point that was made about this beautification of the environment, all kinds of terms were used, landscaping was one. Again I recall — I do not know. I wonder sometimes if honourable Members of the Opposition understand or recognize some of the things that happened prior to May 28, because when they talked about beautification of the City before that time, what we got were a few plant pots along Baxters Road with of all things Bougainvillea in them. And if you know Bougainvillea it has prickles on it. They were placed along the sidewalk and that was the beautification. That was the beginning and the end....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER:.....of the beautification in the City.

So I was very pleased and gratified to hear that we would be looking at a much more lasting programme, a much more serious programme in terms of beautification. And I am really pleased to hear that we are going to be finally getting around to getting a city that we can be really proud of.

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: City and a country.)

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I am glad also that the honourable Member for St. Michael South East has taken

the lead in carrying out a community project, and I must say that I passed and I looked at it, the start of his park, and it looks like it is going to be something very nice. And I believe that it is an example that a lot of us can follow.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Do you mean the lake in Ealing Grove? Do you mean the lake in the middle of the road in Ealing Grove?

While we are at it and I am talking about drainage, and I would probably have to have words with the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works on this, a point that was probably not made was that during the periods particularly between 1976 and 1981, there were a number of wells that were sunk that as the honourable Member for St. Michael South East said they seemed not to have gone down to the point of being a suck. And we have a serious difficulty in the New Orleans area for some particular reason — I am not an engineer, I do not know why — we have a very, very serious problem of wells clogging up and overflowing in the New Orleans area.
3.45 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture informs me that there is a very high water table. I believe that he can be correct in that because if you observe the water in the well it seems to be moving while you are watching it.

So that this problem of drainage which has followed us around and which obviously was created by — I do not know if it was private contractors before. I heard the Honourable Minister say that private contractors were sinking the wells and I believe that obtained before May 28th. Maybe he may have to look at who the private contractors are and what kinds of wells they are sinking and if he has inherited private contractors when he went into office, he may have to examine what they are doing.

So Mr. Chairman, as I said, I did not want to prolong the debate. I just wanted to put in my few points and I want to support the Resolution for the North Shore University Hospital project, and I would like to join the other honourable Members in commending Dr. Richard Ismael. I happen to have the pleasure of knowing him. We were younger people together. I can say younger because the previous speaker to me said that he is a junior Member but I am one in more ways than one. I have known Dr. Richard Ismael for a long time and I am very pleased that we have persons like him, because I very vividly recall as a boy hearing of — I believe it could be called

a radio-throne now in the United States. I do not know what we call them here at the time where there were people on the radio all night trying to raise money to send a young lady by the name of Annette overseas to get an operation on her brain, and I always thought that I would like to see the day come that people who could not afford it, and that includes most of us, could still get that kind of medical attention that this programme is providing. So with those few words, I have no hesitation in supporting that Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful that I had the foresight to start this debate and give the Members of the Government an opportunity to talk and some to make their first speeches — very well done too of the lady, the honourable Member for St. Joseph.

When I started this morning and I made a plea for the Government to institute on a permanent basis a debushing and beautification programme, I had no prior knowledge that it was in Government's collective mind, and I am still not convinced from all I have heard particularly from the Honourable Minister of Housing and the Honourable Minister of Health that Government has really thought and decided about this programme prior to today. I am not questioning motives. I am not imputing motives. But I find it hard to believe, and I want to suggest that were it not for my intervention today we would not have heard anything for this reason, Sir.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, what are you all so hot about? All of you talked. My time is now. I waited. They had a big public meeting Sunday night. They are going to intervene in Broad Street and buy Harrison's and not a word was said to the public of this country Sunday night that Government not even by the honourable Minister responsible for jobs who was a last minute recruit to the team to speak; who was drafted at the last minute to speak, Sir, on Sunday morning

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not saying that he is a recruit. Sir, I am not saying anything offensive, Sir. A recruit is a human being too. He may be very junior but he is a person.

Sir, one would have thought having read Sunday's *Advocate* and the response of the gentleman I saw here recently — the door is closed now, I cannot see him now — who outlined in about ten paragraphs a number of good things which the Government has done from his

point of view, Douglas Leopold Phillips, on Sunday and was careful not to mention the Government's record on unemployment. One would have thought that the opportunity would have been taken Sunday morning in the newspaper or Sunday night at the meeting in the Esplanade to alert the country that at least some small relief was coming in the area of the provision of five hundred and forty jobs. Nothing so was told to the country. I had to beg for it today. I got it reluctantly and that is why I question the sincerity. That is for point No. 1, Sir.

The second reason why I look at the submission of the Government today with circumspection or indeed skepticism is that when the Honourable Minister of Health and the Honourable Minister of Housing spoke I am sure we all expected that a programme was in place with due longevity of more than a year with funding provided only to hear the Honourable Minister of Finance who makes the ultimate decision.....

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, the Parliamentary Secretary of Finance then. The Honourable Minister of Finance would have to say whether he can.....

Aside

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael South. You must give way, the honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. It is clear, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member for St. Thomas must be misleading the Honourable House and he must know that he is doing that. He was a Cabinet Minister and the Attorney General and he knows that no Minister of Finance or no Attorney General is the ultimate decision maker as far as policy is concerned. It is the Cabinet.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes Sir, the Honourable Leader of the House, a long time student of Constitutional matters and formalities, and technicalities, is correct that the Constitution, I believe it is Section 65, says that the Cabinet is the policy making body for the country. We accept that. But I do not care how much collectively the Cabinet decided to have that programme, if the Honourable Minister of Finance says that he cannot find the money to support that programme, it cannot come until the money is available. That is why I said the final decision and auditor is he, and he made it clear, Sir. The Honourable Minister of Finance today was very precise and very careful in the use of language.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no! I am going to talk about the jobs in St. Thomas now.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I was not in the Cabinet with Tom. You know that. You let me down now. You let me down!

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, there is a Standing Order which asks that when an honourable Member is speaking, Sir, the others should remain in silence. Ask the mischievous honourable Member for St. Lucy who is refreshingly childish at times to just keep quiet.

Aside

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thanks for reinforcing my authority Mr. honourable Member for St. Thomas

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Thank you, Sir. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point I am making is that the Honourable Minister of Finance today made a very timely intervention to say — and I precis what he said, Sir. He said as Minister of Finance I support the scheme but Government's finances certainly for the next two years.....

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He mentioned the year 1988.

By reason of the capital projects which the Government has inherited from the previous administration at the moment denies the Government the ability to engage in its own capital programme of the magnitude which the Government would wish to do. We understand that. That is what he said. I am not being unfair to him. What he has said is that even though he supports the proposal for the beautification and so on, he has to modulate — that means scale down, modify, graduate — the extent of the funding immediately. That is my interpretation.

Aside.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, we are not talking about the Capital Works programme. The Capital Works programme was given as the excuse or the reason for the Government's inability to, let us say, fund a big project now of debushing and so on for a period of time. This is what I understand. We are going to have Barbados looking like Mauritius, an island that is very much like Barbados, coral, cane and so on, and you see all along the cane

fields, the hedgerows, bougainvillaea and poinsettia, and in the middle of the highways and so on you may have seen them. Have you ever went to Mauritius? They have done a really good job. I saw it in 1976 and was very impressed and I thought that we could borrow it here. These are things that we could do. We could have the bougainvillaea and

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Don't knock the bougainvillaea. The honourable Member for the City was about to make sport at the fact that bougainvillaea was in Baxters Road. I understand the Honourable Minister of Housing. I am being very serious. What he is saying is we had in place some kind of programme, time now will allow the Government the opportunity to refine and develop the programme that we had left

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You cannot say we had no programme. All down Porey Spring and Spring Farm and Welches and the Whim and in the back of the Garrison School, Sir, Rudder Pasture, all there was cleaned up. You cannot say the BLP had no programme. The roundabouts and the planting of the roundabouts and so on, that is B.L.P. work. Halls Road, Trevor's Way.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No Government has the total knowledge that is required to advance the country. We have done something in our time, you have the opportunity now to do it. All I am saying is that we left, as the Leader of the Senate recently said in relation to education, a platform from which you can push off. The Honourable Minister of Housing is not familiar with argument by analogy, and he is intervening too precipitately.

Sir, the problem in the City in relation to the flooding in the Orleans, I have no doubt that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture is right, or certainly substantially right.

I remember that when I was Chairman of the Sports Council we had to look at putting a pavilion on Murphy pasture and that area is one that is prone to variations in the water table, so it affects Kensington wicket, so that when the tide is in you get a certain type of wicket. The Honourable Minister of Employment would be in his element now to talk about this.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Minister of Employment, Sir, I hit him for two fours and then he broke my shoulder with a beamer. A very wicked fellow in those days, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But I have no doubt, Sir, that part of the problem in the Orleans is contributed to by certain developments that took place in the Orleans in May 1976 immediately prior to the bye-election in the City in 1976. Dr. Caddle was then responsible for Communications and Works and they did certain road developments or cosmetic work to the roads in the Orleans in a hurried manner, and I have no doubt that the drainage was not looked at, but I want to throw out one word of advice to the Government, in relation to drainage.

The Honourable Minister of Transport and Works is not here, but I believe that he will find that there is a weakness in the Government in terms of the Civil Servants in the area of drainage experts. I do not believe that we have in the Service enough and competent drainage experts, and the island has been suffering from that lack of expertise for a long, long time. We will have to do something to try and attract them. We have Civil Engineers and so on, but I do not think we have too many, if any, who are expert in the area of drainage, and that is a need that is there, and I am sure the Government will attend to it in due course and try and attract somebody.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You can't do everything in ten years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has another two minutes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We could not do everything in ten years. They had fifteen years and it took them fifteen years plus ten in Opposition to learn that a crash programme is not the solution to the unemployment problems.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have not asked for it. The Honourable Minister of Finance has been too much out of this Honourable House today to know what everybody has been saying. If you paid more attention to debate and remained in your seat more you would know what we are talking about.

Sir, in 1961, again for cosmetic reasons, a crash programme was started, but the DLP was then new to Government, so you are forgiven. They are forgiven. It has now taken the fifteen years in Government plus ten in Opposition for them now to realise that that is not the best form of employment, and one must aim for long term productive employment. I do not hold it against the Government if they are waiting, evaluating and coming up with programmes that will have a continuity

that is far better for the person who is unemployed, than to give somebody something for six months and then have them on the unemployed market for nine months.

So I am glad that the Government has learned from the lessons taught by the Barbados Labour Party when in Government and when faced with unemployment figures of 22% in 1976 and now we were able to reduce them to 10% by 1981.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Time, Sir? That is a good place for me to stop.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I stand to make a very brief contribution to the debate on this Resolution. I have listened very attentively to the contributions made by the other honourable Members and the first matter I would like to draw attention to is the whole question of debushing.

I believe that everyone accepts that the question of debushing is a matter that has to be attended to, and even though the Honourable Minister of Health and the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands have set out their proposals, when we look at the contribution made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas we have to come to one conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that the programme in respect of debushing which was implemented by the Barbados Labour Party Government was a programme which took effect only at election time and which took effect only at a time when they wanted to appeal to the minds and to the feelings of the people of the country.

4.05 p.m.

If you compare that with the programme which is now proposed by this party and by our Government, you will see, Mr. Chairman, that our programme has come very early in this session, and it is a programme which is designed to improve and beautify the country and this island.

Mr. Chairman, I represent a constituency where there are varying shades of residents. You have a tourist area in Hometown. You have a business community. You have an agricultural area and then you have many residential areas which are occupied by the people and I believe, Mr. Chairman, that it would also go towards improving the tourism to this country if we can have the country beautified, and I would completely support the proposal as set out by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands.

There was some discussion, Mr. Chairman, about employing persons on a constituency basis. I can recall that the former representative for St. James North always used to talk about starving people and that sort of thing. I am very pleased to know that it is proposed to bring in people from all twenty-seven constituencies, and ensure that everybody gets an opportunity to participate in the debushing exercise.

I also view this programme, Mr. Chairman, as one which people who live in the various districts should be given the opportunity to participate in. I believe that we should not transport people from one part of the country to another part of the country. In some instances they have to travel considerable distances in order to take part in what they describe as this beautification programme. I think that people who live in the various districts can be allowed to participate in their district in the beautifying programme.

The other question which came up was the question of drainage. Only recently there was a very serious problem in many districts around the country but, in particular, we had a very serious problem in Hometown where the Magistrates Court at Hometown and the Police Station were out of use for some time. This is a problem in Hometown from which the residents have been suffering for some considerable time, and I believe that this whole question of drainage is one to which we will have to give some serious consideration.

The Hometown area is an area which needs considerable attention. Some years ago this Government had to resite many persons who occupied an area on the beach side of Hometown, and I think it will be necessary to take a serious look at the wells and the drains in that area to ensure that further loss is not suffered by the people who occupy that area of this island.

So, in supporting this Resolution, Mr. Chairman, which really deals with the heart to heart programme of the North Shore University Hospital in New York, I should briefly like to add those points and, in concluding, I think I should join with those previous speakers who paid tribute to Dr. Ishmael and Mr. Michael Clarke.

I happen myself to know Mr. Michael Clarke. He is a born St. James man. I was in the United States last year on a tour and I had an opportunity of spending a considerable amount of time with him, and last year I got the impression that he was regarded as the unofficial Consul General of New York and I would like to join with those previous speakers who paid their tributes to Mr. Michael Clarke and Dr. Ishmael, so in a very brief way, Mr. Chairman, I support this Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I think we have ranged wide and far enough that we can conclude this debate, and we went from North Shore to South, East and West. I think we are back at North Shore now. But, in responding, I just want to respond to one or two matters that were raised by honourable Members.

I will ignore the comments raised by the honourable Member for Christ Church West. He had me annoyed by speaking untruths, but I will forget about that.

As far as the mosquitoes are concerned, there is a programme under the Caribbean Corporation of Health for Barbados to eradicate the mosquito completely in four or five years and we are now getting together the framework to launch that programme.

The Medical Aids Scheme as was mentioned by the honourable Member for St. Peter, I just want to say that monies were collected for about five years and the National Health Service never got off the ground. We are now in the process of reviewing the Health Services in Barbados so that we can give the people in Barbados a proper Health Service.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: It is no fault of yours. I do not blame you.

I would like to respond to this question about this matter of a list going up to the Ministry of Health though only to say that I have had to call the Chief Personnel Officer on one occasion, and I think I was justified, because the Personnel Officer in the Ministry complained that there were people within Services Commission who still thought that the other Government was in office, and was trying to make sure that all their people got jobs and that in our Ministry there was a young lady who was working as a maid who had G.C.E.s and we felt that she, whenever the occasion arose, should be promoted to a clerk and when the name was submitted, somebody in Services Commission took it off the list and I had to telephone the Chief Personnel Officer and said that I will have none of that, that if a lady could work as a maid with G.C.E.s whenever the opportunity availed itself she should be promoted and if that is interference I am justified in doing so. I do not know who the lady is but I think she deserved a chance.

Sb, Mr. Chairman, I believe that is all I need to say and I want to thank honourable Members for supporting, although it took them four hours to do it, the grant or the contribution to the North Shore Hospital.

Thank you very much.

The question that Head 36 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Resolution in Committee of

Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
4.15 p.m.

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO ABANDON THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FAIRFIELD, BLACK ROCK

Order No. 3 was called – to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the publication of notice of abandonment of the acquisition of land situate at Fairfield, Black Rock, St. Michael.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is one of many that we will have to bring to this Honourable House to regularise situations which took place prior to this Administration taking office. This is just another example of the manner in which the former representative for St. Michael West Central used to operate. It appears to me that if this gentleman woke up and decided that such and such a thing should be done, he went ahead and did it regardless of what advice he might have had from other sources.

The Addendum to this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, states:

“Legislative approval for the compulsory acquisition from the Estate of Harold Gilkes, deceased, of a parcel of land situate at Fairfield, Black Rock, in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing 4913.3 square metres or thereabouts was given on the 11th day of February 1986, Concurred in by the Senate on the 19th day of February 1986 and Assented to on the 24th day of February 1986 and the said parcel of land was duly vested in the Crown in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 of the Laws of Barbados for Housing development as appears from Statutory Instrument No. 45 of 1986.

The approval of Parliament is therefore being sought for the publication of the Notice of Abandonment as required by Section 9(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 288.”

You would recall, Mr. Speaker that a couple of weeks ago I came to this Honourable House on a matter concerning Clarke's Gap, where the former member for St. Michael West Central went into people's land without any authorisation, without the tenantry being designated, put in roads and other things, and then discovered that that money could not be got back. This is a similar situation. What he did here money was not passed, it was not

paid for, but money was expended because they went into this property and dug a drain and what is more, the drain that they dug did not only pass through the land that they wanted to acquire, but it even went out into other people's land, and that is the situation.

If you read the file concerning this matter, you would see that there were objections to this acquisition from the time it started in February 1984. The Barbados Arts Council, the Barbados National Trust you name them, every one complained; but the honourable gentleman who had the privilege to represent St. Michael West Central, as I said, did things in his own way. It has now landed the Ministry of Housing and the Government of Barbados in a lot of taxpayers' money being wasted. I will tell you that when all of these acquisitions or encroachments which were done by that former representative for St. Michael West Central have been brought to Parliament and regularised, you will realise that it is over \$1 million of the Government's money that that gentleman wasted, and it cannot be got back. And I am only talking about the few files I have seen so far. I am not speaking yet about what he did when he was Minister of Transport, because every Ministry that he went into, that is the sort of situation that you encountered.

I have witnessed in the files where the Senior Administrative Officer told him that this property should not be acquired, but as I said, once that member decided that it was going to be taken up, it was going to be taken up. I do not want to spend a lot of time on him because, as I said, this is just one of many of these situations where Government money has been expended and cannot be got back that I will be bringing to this Honourable House to get regularised. I do not want to spend any more time on him. I believe other honourable Members will have a lot to say.

4.25 p.m.

The present representative for that area of St. Michael West Central had a lot to say about this in the Senate. He spoke at length about this acquisition and how people were being unfaired, and I have no doubt that this honourable Member, as the present representative for that area will have a lot more to say at this present time.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I just wish to make one

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second this Resolution and I reserve my right to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the Honourable Minister earlier, the Opposition is not opposing this Resolution nor do I intend to speak to it because I do not know about the background.

But I want to make one plea, Sir, in relation to the whole question of land and the sale of land in Barbados.

I wish to draw to this Honourable House attention and particularly, the Honourable Minister responsible for Lands and whoever has to do with real estate agents that there is a man operating out of the City of Bridgetown, using a firm's name..... On this occasion I am not going to call names, Sir, I am going to give the gentleman a chance to

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no, no. He is not a public servant or anything so.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is certainly not Mr. DeLisle Bradshaw, he operates from Mapp Hill, not the City.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to hear the honourable Member for St. Thomas in quietness.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Thank you, Sir. I think that this is a very serious matter, Sir, ...

(*Aside:* Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Is he a bald head man?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: where a person purporting to be a real estate agent and offering land to the public for sale is in fact — and I do not modulate this word, Sir — perpetrating fraud on a number of persons in this country.

I am glad the Honourable Minister of Transport has designated him a crook. I could not put it any better, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Sir. I do not know of whom the honourable Member for St. Thomas is speaking, and therefore I cannot designate a person of whom I do not know a crook.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, ...

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to advise the honourable Member to speak on the abandonment not the sale of land.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. What has happened is that this gentleman has put up a number of properties for sale and the sales have had to be abandoned, Sir, ...

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: because it has been discovered that after he has received substantial monies on the basis of pointing out land to persons, he had no authority to sell.

And let me say this: My researches have thrown up that this man tells all of the potential purchasers about a lot of land in Jackson or in Cane Garden, two lots. One in Jackson and one in Cane Garden.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He has gone inland now.

Sir, I think some of us in the legal profession know. It is a very serious matter, Sir, and I am craving your indulgence because there are at least thirty cases that I know of where lawyers are involved and cannot get any redress for their clients. The man has a long string of judgements in the courts. Every other Tuesday on Chambers morning he is in there, and they are getting judgements against him.

When I came back to practice I had two matters referred to me by two persons from St. Thomas from whom he took \$7 000 each. I threatened him in one case and got the money for that person. In the second case, I did what I have advised all lawyers to do and they are not doing it, I brought a private prosecution against him for obtaining by false pretences, got a warrant from the magistrate to issue and when he was going to be picked up, representations were made by his brother. He came to see me, Sir. I put the facts to him and \$7 400 and my costs turned up.

He will only react to the threat of locking up. But I raise it because lawyers in town have asked me to try and expose him. And I am giving the gentleman — he knows, he will know if he reads the debates who we are talking about — a chance to pull back from the type of conduct which he is presently pursuing.

A man from England saved all of his money and brought \$32 000 and gave it to a lawyer, took back the money from the lawyer and said that he would deal with him privately. He went and dealt with him and up to now the man has not got back his \$32 000.

It is not good enough, Sir. And I am giving this advice to all honourable Members in here to warn their

constituents not to deal with this man or his firm. I will tell honourable Members privately after who the person is to beware of.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, after listening to the honourable Member for St. Thomas, I should like to say that there is also a man in St. Michael West Central that the constituents know that they should not deal with too.

Laughter.

Hon. W. W. HALL: And, Sir, I should like to begin by saying that I rise to support this Resolution. I must declare an interest, Sir. I live in the constituency. I have lived near Fairfield for many years, and happen to have the privilege of representing the area, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: It is alright. I should like to say, Sir, that this Resolution should not have been brought before the Honourable House last year: it should not have gone before the Honourable Senate and it would have saved us the trouble of doing what we have to do here today.

I say so because, Sir, even though it looks rather innocent on the Order Paper, no doubt purporting to have an urban housing development in the area of Fairfield and was portrayed as getting rid of a dilapidated house; a big, ugly, offensive looking house. That is how it was portrayed, Sir. So there was no big thing about getting rid of it and putting housing.

The Members of the Lower House perhaps were not aware of the fact that only a few months before in Parkinson Road, a radius of a mile, the same thing had happened. Some land had been compulsorily acquired.

The quarrel I had at that time was that people who were going to rent the land seemed to be handpicked. And I said so in the other Chamber.

But with this land, Sir, I am aware of the fact that the Cabinet Ministers and the Members of the then Administration could not have known about this. Had they known about it, I am sure they could not be so wicked, Sir, because this is a diabolical act.

Let me explain. This property was owned by the Gilkes' family for fifty years. It was owned at a time

when they had to put in the roads in Fairfield, the lights in Fairfield, all the utilities. It was a factory, Sir. When Fairfield factory was there, there were very few houses. Fairfield village sprung up around the factory. Indeed, Sir, the steam mill that was in Fairfield factory is still working and is in Nicholas Abbey today.

So, Sir, we have a situation where in 1980, after a discussion with the Minister, the owners were advised to approach the Government to sell the land. They asked the Government if they were interested in buying the land and the asking price was \$270 000.

In 1981, November 23, the Government replied, and they said that they were not interested in buying the property; not interested in the property at all. Having been told this, the owners of the land decided that they would enter into business, the ceramic business and they did so with great alacrity, Sir. They went into it, Sir, with a lot of purpose. Do you know, Sir, that some two years and nine months after having said that they were not interested in the land, the Government then wrote them a letter on September 3, 1984. In fact, the letter was from the Crown Counsel writing on behalf of the Solicitor General which said that he was instructed to open up negotiations for the compulsory acquisition of this land for Fairfield Plantation House and the other buildings. I want to explain, Sir, that September 11, eight days later the owners, that is the Gilkes family, decided that they will explain that they had been living for fifty years in the spot, and that since the Government decided they would not acquire the land, they had embarked on a business proposition in the ceramic field and that they felt that the Government's offer of \$50,300 for 1.27 hectares or 50,000 square feet of land was shameful and beyond reason.
4.35 p.m.

Sir, I am just giving you chapter and verse because at the end of this all honourable gentlemen and ladies determine what manner of man was he.

Laughter.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, on the 20th of May, 1985 there was a Government Notice in the paper that they would compulsorily acquire the land which meant that the people had gone into business and with all the improvements that they were thinking about no right thinking bank manager would give them a loan when there was an acquisition notice pinned outside the walls. It is quite obvious, Sir.

On January 17 this year Mr. V. Greaves, the Assistant Manager of the Handicraft Department of the IDC, wrote a letter telling the Government that it was of a vital importance to the ceramic industry because the red clay products were the sole supplier of refined clay, and

it meant that school children, the IDC, and the five leading manufacturers will not be able to get refined clay implying that it would cause the demise in the ceramic industry. They were not opposed, Sir, to the Government Development Plan for housing. They could not tell the Government what to do but at the same time they thought it prudent that they would advise the Government that there would be a collapse in the ceramic industry.

I say so, Sir, because I really do not believe that the Government at that time understood that there was a factory there. I am serious about this, Sir — a factory with 4000 square feet of factory space fully utilized and they did not know that the factory was there. Yes, the representative knew. Mr. Greaves advised the Government to look into the possibility of relocating the Gilkes or Belle family in St. Andrew in the Chalky Mount area where they thought it would be the best place for the factory if they had to be relocated.

And so, Sir, you find that this family was really in trouble. The Government had decided they would acquire the land. They had spent a lot of their earnings in trying to upgrade the factory and lo and behold it was to no avail. The Government just came and suddenly refused to talk to them. Nobody actually talked to the people. They were just told that they will just have to go. Where to, they did not know. But Sir, this is in a long line of acquisitions in that area.

Let us consider the case of Mrs. Gibbs whom I am sure the Honourable Minister of Housing will soon bring to this House, a poor lady with a bit of land in Fairfield Main Road a rectangular piece of land, Sir, with the house on the main road, and do you know that they tried to compulsorily acquire that land? Not only the land that the lady was renting but, Sir, the land where she lived and the old house she has there, Sir, that had to go. And I wonder and I shutter to think what on earth the representative of that area believed that she would do, where would she go? She had absolutely no place to go, Sir, but it did not bother him. Perhaps to the almshouse and, Sir, we have this serious situation where if you are not giving them political patronage then even your house and land that you have slaved for so many years to acquire had to just go through the eddoes. That is how it was with him, Sir.

Let me just say to you, Sir, that I explained this at length in the Upper Chamber. I was at pains to let the Honourable Senators know exactly what was the situation. I am convinced, Sir, that at the end of my speech that they were aware that there was a mistake. They were sure. Then do you know what happened, Sir? The Leader of the House demused as he was, rushed out of that Chamber, Sir; went to the telephone; called the IDC, and

came back and said that he was told, and he told all the honourable Senators that he.....

Aside

Hon. W. W. HALL: Yes, he abused me indicating that I had told untruths when the vindictive lies were told by him, and he then said, Sir, that the IDC and Mr. Belle had gone into an agreement where there will be relocation in Chalky Mount. Thereupon the Honourable Senators decided that well if that is the situation then we will pass the Bill.

I know, Sir, it was a trick. I knew that could never have been true. I know, Sir, that the honourable gentleman felt that he had pulled a fast one. He did indeed because all of the Senators who were supposed to oppose the Resolution just decided — well, we will go with the Government and so they went, Sir.

We now see exactly why, Sir, this sort of thing, why the time of day is always 24 minutes to 3. Sir, I am telling you if we look at it this way the people.....

Aside

Hon. W. W. HALL: That is alright. No problem.

Mr. Belle who is the son-in-law of Mr. Gilkes and his daughter were very well trained in Staffordshire, the cradle of the ceramic industry, Sir. There is no doubt in my mind about that, Sir, and we have to understand what happens when clay comes from the Chalky Mount area. It comes in a crude form. It is a rather loamy or sandy substance, Sir, and it has to be milled. There is such a mill at Fairfield. When that is done the refined clay is sold to all of the ceramic artisans in Barbados, all the schools where the ceramic industry is practised, all of the IDC outlets, and in short, Sir, if this Resolution had gone through or when it went through, Sir, it would cause a virtual collapse in the ceramic industry. You have to have a happy marriage of the loamy substance and the stony one so that when it goes into the kiln, Sir, you will find that the finished product is a beautiful glossy substance rather than one with stones all over the place. So this refined clay, Sir, sold in bags to the ceramic people is exactly what causes them to make a decent living. I will tell you why. If this was not done, they would have to refine the clay themselves and it would be time consuming. And so you see, Sir, we have a situation where the ceramic industry was at a virtual collapse.

I want to also point out that the two spots of land at the front abounding and abutting this land owned by the Gilkes family, that one was sold at \$3.00 a square foot and the other one is in the process of being sold. When the Government dug the canal that the Honourable

Minister of Transport and Works alluded to, it was a very serious thing because ever since then the canal has been contaminated, Sir.

4.45 p.m.

The truth about it, Sir, it is infested with ring-worms, and I feel that the Ministry of Transport and Works must now try and negotiate with the owners to see whether we can alleviate this problem. Not only that has happened, Sir, in the next lot of land, what has happened, Sir, is that it cause a virtual collapse of the people's guard wall, and further down the line, the gentleman named Mr. Rochester and Mrs. Velda Bushell, Beckles Land, they have thrown all of the debris into the people's property and nothing has happened since.

I am saying that the constituents of St. Michael West Central should not be treated in that way, and it is a very terrible thing when these things have to happen. I also want to say that this factory produces trinkets, it also produces salad bowls that are sold. If you go to Sandy Lane Hotel you will see them, Sir. Let me talk about it, because the previous Government were clients, because when Her Majesty the Queen was in Barbados the previous Administration bought trinkets, and they were made presents to Her Majesty the Queen, and therefore they must have known about the existence of the factory, and yet they allowed these goodly people to be harassed and to feel that no one was paying attention to their plight.

I also want to say, Sir, that so great was the expertise of Mr. Belle and his daughter, having been trained in Staffordshire, that the white Barbadian clay that the experts from England said could never make salad bowls, these two technocrats proved the experts wrong and today we see that they have been able to produce not only salad bowls but in Barbados they are now producing flower pots of such great quality and in such numbers that lately a distributor has been hired and throughout the length and breadth of Barbados the beautiful flower pots are being sold.

I say this, Sir, because I want to say to you that during the time that they were in trouble and were harassed they could not employ anyone outside the family, but today, now that they know that their future is secured, they have been able to expand to the extent that three other people have been employed. Such is the nature of this situation, Sir.

I want to say that the kiln which cost \$35 000 and they could not afford to go ahead with it, because obviously with the acquisition order hanging over their heads, having spent \$10 000 in the first place, you found that they can now go and get a bank loan and finish the kiln which will be connected to the old chimney which has been there for over forty years.

I say this to let you know exactly what the situation is, and therefore we cannot look at this very lightly. We have to see this in the light, Sir, where I believe that the past Cabinet, the past Administration — I give them the benefit of the doubt, because I believe that they probably did not know. I cannot believe that they knew, because if I believe that they knew about it I would not sit in here with them. True! I would not have to devalue them to value myself. I would not sit with them, Sir, so I believe that there was a dereliction of duty on the part of the representative of the people who should have informed his Cabinet colleagues of the plight of his people and not decide that because he did not think that they were politically inclined to favour him that he should just run them out of the country like he is in Dallas or in Wyoming or something like that I think this is ridiculous.

Everybody in Fairfield, every living soul in Fairfield knows about this. To follow up this what they did, they went around Fairfield telling everybody that Wes Hall wanted a big, dirty factory polluting the atmosphere in Fairfield. I am saying that is not true.

I feel that the health authorities are there to tell Mr. Belle and his family exactly how far they can go, and I do believe also, Sir, that the people of Fairfield are not really opposed to the Belle family creating jobs in Fairfield. They are not opposed to the factory being there, and as far as the dilapidated house is concerned, I want to point out that the National Trust got into the act, and they then came up to Fairfield in large numbers and they decided that this house was of historical content and therefore this old dilapidated house should be one that we in Barbados should treasure.

I want to say this, Sir, that since the Belle family now realise that they can go happily along and plan their future, they recognise that they can now renovate the house and restoration processes are in order.

I think it is very important that we understand that this is not a simple Resolution just out of the blue. A lot of thought has gone into this, and indeed I believe that there might be a court action, so I am not going to say much more about that. All I want to say is that it is my fervent hope that the canal which right now offends everybody both in sight and in smell, I believe that we should do something to make sure that that is removed from the environs.

I would also like to say that we are not against urban development, we are not against housing development; but how come in a place like Fairfield and the surrounding area that you can have the Mormons coming into prized land on Black Rock Main Road and there is land lying idle for many years and no effort was made to get a housing complex there, and it would have been

great land, but just here in Fairfield where I believe that a park of some kind for the old people of the area and the children to play, because of the density of the housing situation, if that was done surely I would support that.

I would like to say that as far as I am concerned I want it to be very clear that the owners of the land are very thankful for this Resolution, the people of St. Michael West Central are very thankful; because old Mrs. Gibbs and all of those whose land would have been taken away from them suddenly like that, they feel that the Democratic Labour Party will make sure that their plight is well looked after.

Sir, I do not want to blow my own trumpet and say "and Wes Hall". I think it is a party situation. We stand for social justice, social development, Sir, so really it is not only Wes Hall. If I die tomorrow the Democratic Labour Party will still go on in the same vein. I am saying this, Sir, not that I am going to die, there is no point about it.

What I am saying, Sir, the mal-practices of the former Administration will die. That is what will die, and therefore I think that the former Attorney General and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition cannot get up in this Honourable Chamber and condone this type of behaviour. He probably does not know anything about it and that is why before he speaks I have given him the benefit of the doubt.

And so let me say to you, Sir, I am very happy that the Honourable Minister of Lands has come with this Resolution. I believe that when we look carefully at the situation we will have to come to this Honourable Chamber many times with similar Resolutions. I also want to say that even though it looks rather innocent we do not wish to believe that the former Administration's woes and the things that they have done will go unnoticed. I would rather say, in closing, Sir, that any time that this Administration finds that there was mal-administration, or we find that the people of this country were unfaired, or we feel that those in peril were denied, we will make sure that the Honourable Ministers of this Government will come to their aid, and as a consequence, Sir, I have no difficulty whatsoever in supporting this Resolution, and we will come back later in the year with about ten more.

Applause.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear the applause which has been given to the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central. At least he has been consistent in opposing the acquisition of this plot of land. I wish, however, that the mighty words which he has spoken about maladministration, social justice and what not had shown up in the consistency with which

other colleagues of his have dealt with this matter when it came before certainly the Lower House. The honourable Member had the support of the present honourable Member for St. Lucy in the Senate, and with respect they were the only two members of the Democratic Labour Party that had any objection to this acquisition when it took place.

4.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Debate of the Members in this House. The Debate took place on this Resolution on February 11, 1986 and I am reading from the House of Assembly Debates for the Second Session 1981-1986 for Tuesday February 11, 1986. The debate was opened by the then Minister of Housing, Honourable L. B. Brathwaite who gave a very brief introduction to the debate. It was then seconded by the Hon. H. B. St. John and the then hon. Member for St. Michael West Central, the now defeated honourable Member, made his speech as he was expected to do in welcoming the acquisition and stating that the purpose for which the land was being acquired was really to improve a sites and services programme, so it seems as though the intention of the Government then was to use the land for sites and services, and that that was the public interest in the matter.

Apparently, from what I can gather from the debate at page 3358, there had been an approach to the Government some time in 1981 to purchase this land and, apparently, the Government then had not made up its mind about the purchase but, certainly, a little later on as the honourable Member says in 1984 the matter was re-opened and hence the Resolution came before Parliament.

The first significant point about the debate is that the Member who spoke on behalf of the Opposition on this Resolution was the honourable Member for St. Michael West then and is the honourable Member for St. Michael West now. He is not in his place today and I do not like really to say any comments about honourable Members although my comments will not be derogatory but I think it is significant that honourable Members should be reminded of the stand then taken by the Democratic Labour Party on this issue in this House.

He says:—

"Mr. Speaker, I am not going to oppose the acquisition of this land although I regret very much that it is going to be used for sites and services. I agree with what the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central has said about the dilapidated state of the buildings on this piece of land and what remains of it. But the main part of this plantation, which is the area that is being acquired, and the immediately surrounding area, has been allowed to

develop in a rather spasmodic and unacceptable way. I think that many of the houses which were sold by the plantation right in the back of the plantation are on plots that were put together in a haphazard manner in the usual way that tenancies grew up. In fact, the whole area was a tenantry for some considerable time, and while it is true that on the main parts of Fairfield the houses are traditional houses and are reflective of an upward mobility, as the honourable Member said, the area in the back of the dilapidated houses is very crowded and in many ways undesirable in the way in which the spread occurred. Even the roadways leading to some of these houses, in fact, emanated from what is a natural drainage."

The honourable Member then went on to welcome the drainage works which were carried out. What he disagreed with was using the whole area for sites and services. It was his view that part of the area should be left as an open area as a park, but he had no objection to the acquisition for the similar reasons stated then by the honourable Member for West Central.

Now, he went on to say this, Sir, and I think it is significant. I quote from page 3360:—

"I agree that we should acquire this, because it has become an eyesore, and once agreement can be reached on the price and all that, I am inviting the Minister without prejudice to re-examine the use to which it is intended to put this relatively small piece of land and to see if an adjustment of the existing house spots and the house arrangements would not be more compatible with the vision which all of us have for the type of neighbourhoods we want to see in Barbados."

Now, the Debates reflect that that Resolution passed this House in this manner — "The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division."

Now, Sir, it is timely to reflect on these matters because this Opposition is going to support the Government if on a second thought it now wishes to abandon the acquisition, but one has sometimes to put these matters in perspective. At least five Members of the present Cabinet have sat down and approved of the Resolution. If you go through the Debates you will see that the honourable Member for St. Philip North was present; I believe the honourable Member for St. Philip South, certainly, the honourable Member for St. Michael North was present; the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central. If you look at the Debates of the 11th, they were all present in the Honourable House so this is not the first time the matter has come before the Honourable House.

The honourable Member in making a few points, coming in as a batsman at No. 11..... he is not bowling today; he is really batting.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: No. 3, Sir? He said he is coming in at No. 3 and obviously, today he is really not speaking as a Minister. He really is speaking as the Member representing the constituency and he feels.....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Nothing at all wrong with it, but let us put the debate in its true perspective. He feels he has to do two things. One, he has to put the case of Mr. Belle and the Belle family very strongly. Secondly, he has.....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I hear the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central say *sotto voce*: "Wait, wait, that is not part of it." I would like him to come in here and do not put a case for a member from Bannister's Land and see if he would be in here next time, Sir. I will put it for my representative.

Sir, he is putting the case obviously for his constituents, the Belle family, and he is putting the case as he sees it for the current thinking in the area. Those are not considerations that should not be given a lot of thought to. He is quite entitled to do that, but also what he has to do in order to give the debate its true perspective is to recognize that when it came to the Honourable House it went through without objection from the Lower House, this Honourable House, of the then Opposition and without a division, and with, indeed, the only spokesman for the Opposition welcoming the acquisition, and, of course, agreeing with the acquisition on the basis that they needed that type of development in an area which was an eyesore.

Now, Sir, you see sometimes the right hand and the left hand do not always clap.

What happened is when the matter — I do not know whether the Democratic Labour Party had their usual pre-debate Monday night meeting on this matter, but they probably did not — got to the Senate, local consideration — the consideration of the honourable Member's constituency became predominant, and led by the then Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, the honourable Member for St. Lucy, the local interests became the predominant interests as against what was conceived to be the public's interest.

5.05 p.m.

Now, Sir, I want to make it quite clear that my statement on this matter does not mean that we are not supporting the abandonment of this area if the Honourable House feels and indeed if the Government now feels that it does not need a sites and services programme there, and that it wishes instead in weighing the considerations, to come down in favour of the continuation of the development which the Belle family has on that land, particularly in circumstances where the Belle family have obviously gone ahead and are expending money on it.

But I would not like the debate to go away with a consideration that this Honourable House when it met before, not only the then honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, but that all honourable Members in the Honourable House did not take into account certain considerations; those were the considerations before the Honourable House.

If this present Government has changed its mind in its collective wisdom now with some hindsight when all of the matters are now before them, so let it be; but it must be recorded that that Resolution had the support of the present Government when they were in Opposition. That is the point I want to have recorded.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member said he was not apprised of the facts. Well if he was not apprised of the facts in the Honourable House, he must criticise the other honourable Members who were part of the parliamentary arm of the then Opposition! Sir, the honourable Member wants it both ways. In one breath the Honourable Minister of Housing is going to tell me that he was not apprised of the facts.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let me have my piece. There are only three of us. He said the clock stopped at 24 to 3, and the three of us are whipping the twenty-four of you; so listen to the debate, don't be so anxious. Mr. Speaker, I know you are listening to the debate. I do not mind whatever you reply.

The point is that you find yourself today in a situation where in the Lower House — and I am not talking about the two Members in the Senate — your Members and your principal spokesman, the present Honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Information got up and supported the Resolution.

I am told *sotto voce* that the Opposition was not fully aware of the facts and they had not been explained to them at the time of the debate. It is quite possible, but then don't blame us in these circumstances. These

facts were not the facts to which the honourable Member spoke.

Certainly the Belles' position was probably not articulated in the councils of the DLP in time.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That was not brought in at the last minute. I know the Honourable Attorney General would throw in something like that, but the Honourable Attorney General can read the Debate as well.

Anyhow, let me end up this part of it because we really must get these things straight. One has to throw some political punches, and obviously the honourable Member has thrown some political punches at his former political rival. I am not telling him whether he will be his political rival on the next occasion.

Asides.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I know the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is still campaigning. I understand last Sunday night he even ended up his speech by asking people to vote for the Dems. I was not aware that an election was around the corner so soon. Obviously in these matters you get a lot of political excitement.

Now what are the considerations on a Resolution such as this? The point is that one honourable Member saw it as a matter of the public's interest to have sites and services, and I have no doubt that he saw it then in his interest as appealing to his local constituents. The present honourable Member disagreed with that then and he disagrees with it now. He feels that it is in the public interest to maintain the ceramic industry on that spot and at the same time to allow the family to continue. I think if the debate is put in its true perspective you will find that there is this genuine disagreement.

Let me finally say a word about the Belles because the honourable Member must know that some of us support the arts very strongly, not only in encouraging them with words, but also in purchasing works of art. Certainly for the last twenty to thirty years, if I may speak of myself for a brief while, I have been one of those who have given the staunchest support to the arts and particularly to the visual arts. Mr. Belle and his daughter are perhaps two of the most talented people that we have in this field in Barbados. They are joined with people like Goldie Speiler and with Courtenay

Devonish and of course with John Grace from my own constituency, and there are several other people. In fact, one is heartened by the upsurge that there has been in artistic development, and that is one of the reasons why I said that we can have no difficulty in supporting the Resolution once we are very satisfied in our minds that the Belle family wishes to continue this activity in this area, and indeed have taken steps to organise the financing of it.

I would like to think that if Fairfield is going to become a sub-centre of Chalky Mount which it is for this purpose, that the Government will give not only their support in supporting this matter by moving for the abandonment of the acquisition, but see this as a very vital part of cottage industries and see it as an area in which we can push the arts in Barbados.

So let me say that I entered the debate on the basis of recognising the contribution which people like Mr. Belle and his daughter are making not only to employment but to artistic talent in Barbados, and I am sure that there was no personal vendetta between that family and the past Government or indeed this Government, Sir; but I would not like the debate to go ahead simply on the basis that the past Administration was doing all sorts of nonsense and not giving proper consideration to the matters which have arisen in this Resolution. So the honourable Member has our support to that extent.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You see, Sir, the Honourable Minister of Housing continues to stress *sotto voce* as he has a right to wind up that it was, but I like, in making these debates, to listen to the record. The record is there. No honourable Member can get up and say that I have misrepresented the record.

The honourable Member for St. Lucy will read his solo act; in fact it was not a solo, it was a duet that took place in the Honourable Senate as against the septuplet act that took place here in the House of Assembly. So that if we erred we then erred with the Opposition. The Opposition without the other two erred at that time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I just wish to make a very brief intervention in this debate, and I would just briefly respond to some of the major points made by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the honourable Member for Christ Church West.
5.15 p.m.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What major points?)

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The first major point that he made was..... Are you saying that he cannot make a major point?

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: that during this debate he was whipping the Government on this particular occasion, that the three out there are whipping the Government. This is the first time I have heard about whipping when he is in fact agreeing with the Resolution brought by the Government to abandon the acquisition. And he is agreeing and there is agreement on that side. It is made quite clear. So how does the whipping come in? You are agreeing with the Resolution that has been introduced and you are further saying that there is no quarrel between your side and the owners of this property, the Gilkes family. So you are in fact agreeing with the position being set out now by the present Government.

But one thing comes out very clearly, and this brings us to the main point in this debate and it is that when this Resolution was introduced, the Government of the day, that is, the Barbados Labour Party Government had a responsibility, they had an obligation to spell out the implications, the full implications of the purchase or the acquisition of this particular property.

(Aside: Tell the truth.)

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: And I just had the benefit of re-reading the Debate and nowhere at all by the Honourable Minister who introduced it or by the honourable Member who was representing that particular constituency at the time was there any reference at all to the major reasons why the acquisition is being abandoned at this time. In other words, there was no reference at all to any commercial or industrial activities or to the fact that there might have been cultural and other factors involved why the particular property should not be proceeded with.

So I am saying that when the facts were put before the Honourable House, those were only a partial statement of the situation relating to the acquisition. And the case put by the Barbados Labour Party Government at that time was that it was for sites and services, improvement in the housing stock and the development of

housing and then some drainage improvement. Now who would not agree with that kind of improvement?

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Because it is fundamental in this country that we should set out to improve the housing stock and housing conditions and the housing amenities in this country.

But how can we have a Resolution, a major Resolution in which the Government Ministers dealing with the matter withheld all information relating to the situation, and then now say that we did not object?

The Government had a bounden duty to put the case, and they only put part of the case. They withheld the information. And now that we have discovered the full ambit of the particular problem and the situation, we have taken the decision not to proceed, and we have taken into account the representations made not only by the family, but by other interested bodies as well and found those objections valid and a basis on which to proceed and that is the basis on which we have brought this Resolution.

Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Shakespeare in Julius Caesar, at the death of Julius Caesar, Mark Anthony speaks and he says; "And so are they all honourable men." All people who come into this Honourable Chamber are honourable men. And Anthony was including Brutus when he said: "they are all honourable men."

I make that point because as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition read from the documents of the House, it was absolutely clear in my mind that either: 1. The representative of the area did not know his area and was therefore about to acquire and develop an area of which he knew nothing, which should never be the case as a representative. Or 2. He knew the circumstances and was therefore misleading the House wilfully.

If you follow that Debate, there is no reason why anybody in this Honourable Chamber at the time had any reason whatsoever to disagree with the Resolution.

But I will say this. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition should never stand up in this Honourable Chamber and try to make a case for that Honourable Minister because even when the Debate went to the

Senate and the facts were brought out they had the opportunity to withdraw it or to let it die a peaceful death. But as we heard from the Honourable Minister of Community Development, they brought in bogus information to mislead the Honourable Senate and on that basis, that acquisition became a part of the Laws of Barbados.

But we must see this in a broader light. This is not an isolated case. The former Administration have come to this Honourable Chamber with several pieces of iniquitous legislation that was designed to take advantage of poor people in this country.

(Aside: That is right.)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: And one such piece of legislation is the Emergency Powers Bill.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Of course.)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: And I want the people of Barbados never to forget that the then Leader of the Opposition spoke for a whole night and helped to kill it.

We must not look at these things in isolation. They are not isolated cases. And I want the people in this Honourable Chamber as these Bills come up before the Honourable House time and time again to understand that there has been a systematic development in which laws have been aimed against the poor people in this country.

If you read today's newspaper, the protagonists of the Barbados Labour Party are trying to throw cold water on a very serious piece of social adjustment that has taken place in this country over the past week or so. And I am talking about the opening of the mall in Swan Street because we seem to forget that those youngsters who are selling or who wanted to sell or were denied the right to sell are our own children. This is a fact that we in Barbados have to come to grips with.

It is no mere accident that the Belles were treated like that. I well recall that when the clay factory in St. Andrew was closed down, who bought it out? The Government did not intervene and make sure that local Barbadians owned it. Somebody came from "over and away" as the old people would say and took it over. That factory that has refined clay which is totally important to the functioning of the whole clay industry in Barbados should have been saved.

When the facts were revealed in the Honourable Senate, I am saying that if the Honourable Leader of the Senate and the then Cabinet and the then Government

of the time were interested in the development of Barbados, there was ample time for them to intervene.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation, Sir. The honourable Member really must try and recall the facts. The clay factory closed down twice, once when it was run by Mackie Simmons and his crew, it was locally owned then, and then it was bought out by Lafaray. Lafaray closed the clay factory and the then Barbados Labour Party Government supported efforts by the Barbados Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank and re-financed the operation. We even tried to get the International Finance Corporation interested.

What happened was that the principal shareholders ran it very badly and they lost about \$2 million or \$3 million and it is in those circumstances that it went into receivership. These are the facts if the honourable Member wants to know. So there had been Government's effort to assist them.
5.25 p.m.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I referred to the clay factory in St. Andrew only as an example of the total philosophy of the past Administration whereas they would allow

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I am not saying that they could have saved it or they could not have. What I am saying is that whereas there was encouragement given to foreign people to buy it, we had a local situation where the people of Barbados, Barbadians, have a prize mining project, prize land and the attempt of the Government was to destroy that local industry. And the point is that they went into the Honourable Senate and the facts were all revealed in the Honourable Senate. Despite the fact that the facts were hidden in the House of Assembly in this Honourable Chamber. When it got to the Senate, all the facts were laid there on the table and that was time to rethink the whole thing.

I find it difficult — and I would like the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to tell me if having known the facts as he knows them now because he mentioned the present Minister of Tourism of having agreed with the project at the time. I want him to tell me if the facts as we know them today if he knew them then would he have gotten up and agreed with the acquisition of that land for the building of houses? The point I am making is this. The facts as we know them now were not put forward then, and, therefore, there is no reason to bring a case that the then Opposition agreed with it because the facts were either deliberately misput or the person who brought the Resolution, the Honourable Minister at the time did not know the real

facts. So to make a case that the Democratic Labour Party at the time agreed with it is a no case, because you can only agree to the facts that were given at the time.

And I am saying my fundamental point is this that that piece of acquisition along with other acquisitions in the Fairfield area, the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central will tell you that the Rogers Quarry issue is another issue within that constituency. I do not belong to that constituency but I have heard the representative for the area speak about it. So it is not an isolated case and the Members of the Opposition in trying to get up and put a case that it was an oversight and that it was just an isolated case is not so.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let me correct the honourable Member, Sir. The honourable Member is always.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On a point of.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir, and explanation. He is always pitching his battles and fighting them and does not look to see where exactly the enemy is if indeed there is an enemy.

What I have said, Sir, is that the Honourable House at the time given the issues before the Honourable House judged that it was in the public's interest to acquire it for sites and services. Whether you acquire it for sites and services or continue it for a quarry for the purpose of a ceramic industry is not an absolute either way. The honourable Member may feel very strongly about it but they are not absolutes. We can disagree as to which was the better course to follow. But they are both good courses, if I may put it that way, Sir.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, that is precisely the point I am making because I would like to know from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition if having known all of the facts that he knows now, if he would agree that the former Government was correct in taking over our sole industry in Barbados for housing development?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of elucidation, Sir, if you will permit me, Sir. The honourable Member has given way, Sir. On a point of elucidation, if that question was posed to me I would answer that it would be a better decision than the decision to buy the North Point.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please, order please!

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for his reply. Those of us who

follow American football know that when you do not know what to do you punt, you kick the ball. That is what he just did. You get rid of it. Because his answer is absolutely clear that they have made a mistake, they are sorry and, of course, they will not be in a position to ever do it again.

But the fundamental point that I am making, Mr. Speaker — and I will be coming back to this time and time again in this Honourable Chamber — is that action which was taken is part of an overall philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, let me first say and confess that up to now I do not know the area which the debate is about. I however listened to the.....

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Having had the opportunity to listen to the then Senator Hall making representation in the Upper House on this particular matter was forced by the arguments which were advanced then to support him.

The fact of the matter is, Sir, that the Resolution which was introduced in the Lower House and which passed the Lower House without division and indeed I would say that the Resolution also passed the Upper House without division, was a Resolution which was introduced by the then representative for the constituency in which this property is. It is very clear, Sir, that on that occasion the facts which were used to justify the particular action taken by the Government, that all of the facts were not laid on the table. So much so, Sir, that even the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who this evening is agreeing with the Government on abandoning the acquisition of the land for the purposes that they acquired it for in February of this year. He was present and he agreed to that, and is now agreeing with this administration for abandoning it. Now it is clear, Sir, that the then representative not only misled his party colleagues but he also misled the Honourable House and even misled himself. He misled the entire country.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition in his feeble attempt to justify the actions of the Government of the day made reference to the question of the public interest. That seemed to be the theme which was running through his presentation here this afternoon. But yet he indicated that the now representative for the constituency seemed to have been able to take into consideration when

he was in the Honourable Senate and now of local interest.

What I am saying, Sir, is what public interest could there be in a matter like this apart from the local interest? Because what the property was being acquired for by the Barbados Labour Party Administration was essentially to satisfy a local interest.

The fact of the matter is that the then Senator Hall now the representative for the constituency recognized how the people of the area felt about that particular matter and when he made representation he was not making the representation only about the Belles, as the Opposition is trying to say, but he was also representing the interest of the people of the area.
5.35 p.m.

Reference was made to the fact that the present Honourable Minister of Tourism and Industry supported the Resolution and that the then Opposition said nothing against the Resolution in the Lower House. This may very well be as a result of the information which was withheld on that occasion, and I dare say that when the matter reached the Honourable Senate, as a result of the keen interest which Senator Hall and of course his knowledge which he had of that particular area, was able to expose the Government in this particular issue.

I can recall in the Senate the abuse which was heaped on the then Senator Hall. He was accused of wasting the Senate's time, he was accused of representing the Belles, he was accused by Senator Barrow and the Leader of the Senate at that time, Senator Griffith, of trying to negotiate on the floor of the Senate a better price for the Belles. This is what they were saying in the debate.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Of course! Let me read it. Improper motives were imputed to Senator Hall and they were not stopped by the President of the Senate. As a matter of fact, at page 1071 of the Senate Debate of February 19, 1986.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Since the honourable Member is kind of insinuating and inveighing against the former President of the Senate,.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He said he was not stopped. He implied that bad motives were imputed to the Honourable Senator at the time and the then Chair allowed him to continue. I want to know if the Honourable Minister can find where he intervened in that Debate on a point of order to protect his friends, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member for St. Thomas knows, the then President of the Senate knew the rules very well, and one would have to assume that he knew the rules.

(*Aside:* Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And we assume that no motives were imputed then, Sir.)

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Let me read from the Debate. Senator the Honourable C. A. Griffith at page 1071 of the Senate Debate of Wednesday, February 19, 1986, in the second column, first paragraph had this to say:

"We are all agreed that if we are going to displace industry, we have to find some place else for the operation. We are all agreed on that, and those steps have been taken by the Government with the concurrence and approval of Mr. Bell....."

which was a lie. He misled the Senate on that occasion and this is the point that has been made, so that there is no issue at all. As a matter of fact, he went on to say:

"I have been sitting down here for almost an hour trying to find out what Senator Hall was saying, and all I can glean from the hour is that Senator Hall was trying to get a better price for the owners of the property."

As Senator Griffith went on, no interruption from anybody. Anyhow, we are not getting into that, but the fact of the matter is that Senator Hall was accused of attempting to get a better price for the owners of the property when in truth and in fact Senator Hall was (a) attempting to represent the interest of.....

Aside

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: He was not even aware that they would have been his constituents so soon, because we did not realise that election was round the corner. The fact of the matter is that he looked at this matter and it is very clear when one reads the Debate that Senator Hall was very much aware of the problems surrounding this particular acquisition and pointed out these problems.

The Honourable Senate was misled, as I said. I cannot speak for the House of Assembly. I believe that what happened in the House of Assembly was that information was withheld, which is just as bad, but there were Senators from the Government side who got up and told deliberate lies about this acquisition in order to try to diminish the contribution of Senator Hall and myself on this particular matter.

I am happy today, Sir, to see that this Government has taken the decision to abandon this acquisition, not only from the point of view of preserving an industry which is part and parcel of the handicraft industry, which

both Administrations have been promoting for a number of years, but also from the point of view of ensuring that when it comes to the question of development in any particular area, that the development must be of maximum benefit to people in the particular area.

I know that Senator Hall also made reference when he defended this position about the non-acquisition of this property to the National Trust and how they felt about this particular matter, but all of these things were ignored.

It is very instructive that today we find the Opposition, which was then in Government and which at that time would have been apprised of all the information and the fact surrounding this issue and therefore supported the acquisition, now having an about face and coming and supporting the abandonment. This is not on the same kind of all fours, as it were, as far as the position of the Government is concerned, because at the time when this matter was debated in the Lower House, as I said before and as has been made very clear, the information which we had in the Honourable Senate and which is now before this Honourable Chamber was not placed before the Lower House on that occasion, so one could understand, and in a way it is difficult to really understand the position of the Government then in this particular matter.

I think that this whole matter of the acquisition of land has been ventilated from time to time and the present Honourable Minister of Housing has given us a recital of the misdeeds which have been committed by the former representative for St. Michael West Central before he went out of office — I am referring to the former Minister of Transport and Works — and the way in which he went about these acquisitions. So that when one comes to look at these matters I think that the matter has to be put very clearly in proper perspective, and I am really glad, as I said, that I have been able to be present here today after having gone through that Debate in the Senate and after hearing the kind of misrepresentation which was made

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: This is still 1986, you know. In February of this year, recognising the position which we put then in that month and now today getting a completely different picture of that in the Lower House.
5.45 p.m.

I am happy that I have been part of the struggle to turn back the acquisition which was planned by the former Administration.

There is no doubt that this Government is committed to handicraft and to the arts, and I think that the abandonment of this acquisition is a clear indication of this.

It is also a clear indication that this Administration does not plan to run rough shod over the people and their properties as the former Administration has done, and one would hope not to see that day come again. As a matter of fact, if you were to check the contribution which I made on that occasion, you will find that I said on page 1068:—

“I think too often one finds that the authority of Government is used in such a way as to put decisions of this country at a tremendous disadvantage.”

I continued:—

“I do not believe, Sir, when I see the way in which acquisitions are made and the arrogant way in which matters are dealt with that the interest of the citizens of this country are taken into consideration.”

I went on to say:

“Today, it may be the Gilkes of Fairfield in Black Rock, tomorrow it may be the Greaves of Pie Corner, or it may be the Barrows of Frere Pilgrim”.

I was referring to — you will understand. I was talking about Nigel Barrow — Frere Pilgrim. He owns property at Frere Pilgrim.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Address the Chair.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The point I was making is the manner in which the Government of the day was proceeding in acquiring properties of citizens of this country, riding rough shod over them; repressive.

Now, Sir, I want to say that we definitely understand the position in this particular matter, and I certainly am happy to support this particular abandonment.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I think that congratulations are in order for the Honourable Minister of Employment for the very elegant and feeling way in which he presented his case this afternoon. He has already won what he set out to do, because if I understand the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, he has now completely somersaulted in his position on this acquisition. Therefore, I do not think we need to support the Honourable Minister very much more in what he has done.

We have heard a lot of discussion on the methods used by the former Administration in going about the

whole question of acquisitions, but, I think, that although that came through as the major thrust of our discussion this afternoon, I think there were two serious sub-themes going through the Honourable Minister's presentation, and one sub-theme was that we have to give consideration when we are planning to build roads or sites and services and to introduce new programmes which would lead to changes in the physical structure of various areas, that we need to be very careful in analysing what we are planning to do.

He also introduced in this sub-theme the whole concept that what we see on the surface might not be the reality because going through the descriptions of the property was always this question that the thing looked dilapidated, but I am sure that if anyone of us here had to come across gold in its pure form, we would not know very well what we were seeing because we would not be able to see the value of the gold in its pure form. It might appear to us to be a piece of mud or something like that.

In other words, the layman looking at a building in Fairfield that appears to be a dilapidated building might very well be dealing with a part of our history and part of our culture that if destroyed, cannot be replaced so that when in order to facilitate the building of a road we pushed down a number of slave huts, we have done incalculable damage and harm to the culture of our country and, therefore, the sub-theme that was coming over from the Honourable Minister to me was that you cannot look at things if you are on the outside and you do not know what is going on, especially if you are a politician, as the former member for St. Michael West Central was, who had no real appreciation or value of things cultural, he would have considered that this was just another building to be destroyed in the name of sites and services and I think what the Honourable Minister was saying is that you have to be very careful in evaluating property, not just to look at it and make a determination.

The second sub-theme I thought he was very careful to represent, and this is the positive side of the debate, Sir, is that this action is going to ensure that an industry is going to be given life in Barbados again. This is the importance of what we are doing on this side.

Now, the ceramic industry has a great deal of potential in Barbados. We are not a country that easily encourages or nourishes the growth of industries. We have had very few industries in this country and there are some people who tend to think that perhaps ceramic is an undertaking that is more allied to the arts than to industry itself, but the Honourable Minister was at pains to indicate that these persons had been trained in Staffordshire and those of us who remember the importance of areas like Staffordshire, Sheffield and so on would know that at one time our tables at home used to be colonised almost by those two particular areas in

England because Staffordshire provided the plates and so on and Sheffield provided our knives and forks etcetera.

There were two basic areas coming out of 18th Century development in England when the Industrial Revolution took off. In fact, you have to understand what the ceramic industry is in the life of a country that is going into industrial development. It is a very important industry.

As a matter of fact, I was surprised recently to notice, just coincidentally that nowadays when you are looking for a knife and fork, it is no longer made in Sheffield. They are made in Japan. One of the most surprising things to me is that Japan has now taken over anything to do with steel and so on, cutlery, etc. and that is because they understand the importance of domestic industry.

As long as you have people who are what we consider civilized, you are going to have knives, you are going to have forks and plates, different kinds of dishes, cups, saucers, etc.; so when you are talking about an industry in Barbados that has the potential to develop these household implements, along with what we call monkeys and ornamental things for decorating the house, it has a potential market, a significant market, and once we get into accentuating what is ours, what is local and what is natural that market will grow even more. So what we are saying is that we have to put this in its true perspective.

What we are doing is saving an industry. Right now it might appear to be a very small industry but it has the potential for development. Not only that each one of us in our homes might decide that we are going to be buying from that particular local industry but we can then tie it into the tourist market and that is where the potential is.

5.55 p.m.

Those of us who have knocked around in the arts know the quality of the clay that comes from that area. When you are trying to bake it, when you put it in your kiln it does not have the same amount of bubbles, it does not have the kind of weakness where you get holes coming into it, and it also takes the colouring very well. If you have to glaze it, it takes proper colouring and so on. So I would again in closing and in supporting the abandonment of this acquisition like to compliment the Honourable Minister because of the sub-themes, those two very important sub-themes which I think went through his presentation, and for the able way in which he has put his case.

Thank you very much.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution which has to do with the abandonment of certain lands at Fairfield has evoked a lot of comments regarding Government's purposes in acquiring lands and the various policies that alternative Governments may from time to time find it necessary to adopt in relation to the same parcel of land. While I therefore, Sir, will not necessarily want to speak in relation to the detailed parcel of land concerned, I really want to speak to the sub-themes that the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central has dealt with.

The Members of the Government has spoken, as he said, eloquently and feelingly about the need for members of the local community to be consulted when a matter pertaining to their immediate environment is affected by Government acquisition and when Government would seem to be prepared to utilise lands in their immediate environs for a purpose alternative to that that the land had traditionally been associated with. I agree with that principle, the need for consultation, the need for the local interests to be put on the front burner, to raise questions pertaining to Government's intentions in relation to Six Mens, on a matter on which I have already spoken, if not eloquently, certainly feelingly during the last session of the Honourable House, because Six Mens is an area that has for many years been a settled community in St. Peter. It is an area where people live and work and it has a defined sense of community in its own right. The people of Six Mens want to live at Six Mens. They believe that they are members of a community and they also feel that anything that Government, whether the BLP Government or the DLP Government does, should reflect the fact that Six Mens is a community and should remain as a community.

For this reason, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party Government re-established Six Mens as a tenantry for the purposes of the Act, and we also acquired, if the Honourable House would recall, land at Six Mens for the purpose of low income housing development on the grounds that Six Mens was ideally located for that purpose. It has a sense of community to begin with, it is located near to a major town, it is located near to schools, churches and things of that kind.

I raise this question, Mr. Speaker, because I am aware that since 1974 there has been a certain group headed by a Mr. Broomes who has been trying

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: We are talking on the sub-themes, the need for the views of communities to be taken into account in dealing with matters pertaining to their particular environment. This is the issue that this Resolution evokes.

There has been a certain group from 1974 which has been trying to push the idea at potentially an expense to the Government of Barbados to do something with lands at Six Mens alternative to what the local community would wish, and I am prompted to raise this issue at this point in time because the Honourable Minister of Housing has recently spoken about the fact that his Ministry will soon be proceeding with the World Bank low income housing project.

I recall that in the planning of that low income housing project, Six Mens was isolated as one of the priority areas on which World Bank funds would have been spent, and that there would have been a low income housing project at Six Mens in conjunction with efforts by Government to resite persons on the seaside who were adversely affected by the fact of their location. I have noticed that the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands no longer speaks of Six Mens within the context of the initial intentions that we had for the land when we brought the Resolution to the Honourable House — and I am not going to get into a debate on the value of whether it should be whatever cents..... that is a matter for negotiations.

We brought a Resolution to the Honourable House to try to put the people at Six Mens present status and their future on a secure basis, and I want merely to enquire of the Honourable Minister of Housing since we are now speaking on the need for the sentiments of local communities to be taken into account when you go about acquisitions and using lands for alternative uses. I want to enquire of the Honourable Minister of Housing what is the present Government's position in relation to the acquisition of the land at Six Mens. Is the Government going to continue to earmark Six Mens as a site for low income housing. Are the twenty-seven or twenty-nine acres of land acquired by the previous Administration to be retained in their intended use, or is the Government proposing to allow the American group — and I want the honourable Member for St. Michael South East to hear this point — intending to allow the American group to go ahead with their project in defiance of the wishes of the members of Six Mens as to what should happen in their particular constituency?

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the honourable Member think that the relevant Standing Order will give him permission to put a question to the Honourable Minister in respect of that?

Does any other honourable Member wish to speak on this Resolution?

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, there is just one brief point in principle that I should like to address. We have here a situation where were it not for this rescue operation by the present Government, an important productive enterprise might well have been sacrificed in the matter embarked on by the previous Administration.

I want to say this because I am becoming increasingly and more acutely aware of the need for proper planning in terms of the development programmes of this country, because one of the things that I have discovered is that in terms of execution of certain projects a considerable amount of money is spent destroying useful capital, and then more money is spent replacing that capital, and that is a very serious matter.

If your were to look, Sir, at the two major development projects going on at the moment, today we have a major problem with our housing stock in Barbados. The amount of money that would be spent to either destroy houses or in the alternate resite houses whilst the quantum of the housing stock remains the same is absolutely phenomenal. On top of that, and I would like to support the point made by the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, we now find ourselves in a situation where as part of that capital destruction we have now destroyed two historic landmarks in that process.

I hope, Sir, that the lesson of this Resolution on a miniscule scale compared to what is happening in relation to these major projects should inform us that we cannot improve on the capital stock of this country by embarking on programmes that have inherent in them significant capital destruction. That is one very brief point I wish to make. And my current assessment is that the amount of capital destruction in dollar terms would probably be somewhere in the region of \$30 million.....
6.05 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....between the major projects. About \$30 million in capital destruction.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Resolution. I do not intend to be.....

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER:.....very long in what I have to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. R. P. BYER: I just want to make two very brief points, and I intend to speak to the Resolution in a very general way.

Now at the outset, I should like to record that sanctity of the property is one of the cornerstones of our western value system and it is second only to the other great value which is sanctity of the person.

So that when a Government, in my opinion, Sir, attempts to ride roughshod over the rights of citizens, I get very angry. And the reason why I get angry is because I wonder when my turn will come.

All too often I have witnessed, I have seen, heard of attempts by Governments in various political systems to ride roughshod over the rights of people, and the Barbados Labour Party Administration was no exception in this regard.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: When I first heard about the matter that we are presently discussing, when it was raised in the press.....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. R. P. BYER:.....I for one was appalled at the potential destruction that would result were this pottery, this treasury as it were, be destroyed. And I am very glad that this Resolution abandoning the acquisition of that land has been brought before the Honourable House.

Now I will not pursue this matter any further because I believe that the opportunity will arise when one will have a better opportunity to debate the matter of fundamental rights and freedoms and so on at some later stage.

But I also have a concern, Sir, about our land resources and their use. This is why I thought it prudent to bring a question to this Honourable House today dealing with the acquisition of lands by aliens. I know that a matter of this nature would cause some concern among some sections of the population, some sections who do not even consider themselves to be aliens but I do not care about that.

I have to be honest in the way I see things and as far as possible, give an honest representation of things as I see them. I am very worried that our limited land resources are not managed with the care and consideration that I think they ought to be managed with.

My view is that Government has a responsibility to prevent scarce land resources from falling into the wrong hands: to prevent scarce land resources from being depleted by passing into the hands of people I would consider aliens. I do not exclude totally, aliens from owning any property in Barbados. I believe that when the question is properly addressed that they might be given permission to own certain classes and certain types of property. They may have leasehold interests or other types of ownership. But certainly, if they are allowed to own any properties at all, they might be allowed to own things like condominium dwellings and also any time sharing arrangements.

But I do not think that the question of alien land-holding ought to be addressed in any superficial manner, but I think the time has come in Barbados when the question must be addressed. And I might very well be tempted to bring a Resolution to this Honourable House to have the matter debated, because I think the time has come when it ought to be debated with some seriousness.

I am concerned that certain sections of our population from time to time, at every auction you see them acquiring every property in Barbados and that a time will come when they may not be anything to buy. I am very, very concerned about that

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: because very often you see the way that banks proceed in their lending policies. They are very selective in their lending policy so that certain sections of the population are not allowed to get the kind of funding they need to acquire property.

And I believe that any Government that is serious about social reform must address this question and address it fearlessly whatever the — I would not say whatever the consequences, but it must be a question that has to be addressed fairly and fearlessly.

I make bold to say that I will always remember the example of Mauritius and anybody who knows about the example of Mauritius will know what I am talking about. And I do not want to be swamped in the future. I will say no more about it at this time.

But I question mark the acquisition or the purchase of commercial properties by aliens, and this is why I welcomed on Sunday night, the statement by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister that the masses of Barbados must have a stake on Broad Street and that any move to acquire any property — I hope I am not misrepresenting you, Sir — on Broad Street by anyone, that the Government will come and acquire that property for the benefit of the masses.

The same way that certain types of property, we may call caves property, caves and parks and so on, are kept for the broad masses of people to enjoy, I believe that the same approach must be made in relation to other classes and types of property. It is important that we keep them for the majority of the population. So I welcome that statement.

So that even though I accept that the Town and Country Planning Department is doing a very good job in terms of regulating land use and so on, they may be very slow about it but I think overall that they are doing a good job. There might be one or two areas where there is no equality, or no equity but I believe that overall we can say that they are doing a good job.

But because of the demographic changes in Barbados over the last couple of years or the increase in certain sections of our population, my own view is that it is important that we rethink our land use policies.

And with that, Sir, I support this Resolution for what it is attempting to do, that is, recover for private use some property that Government thought of acquiring some time previously.

Thank you.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: No. I just want to..... Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what are you rising now? You have spoken already.

The honourable Member for St. Philip South.

(Aside: He can wind up.)

(Aside: Wes can wind up.)

6.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, when I sat in the Opposition, I would listen to the honourable Member for Christ Church West because his speeches, although they were usually the same speech on each occasion at least the speeches had in something of substance in them. Since he has become Leader of the Opposition, I venture to say that his speeches have become empty, trite, banal; any word that means nonsense.

I am saying this, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Christ Church West seems to believe that

he has to defend everything that was done by the past Administration. He believes that his job is to defend even wrong doing. After all, Mr. Speaker, he does not have to do this because for the past five years he was not a Member of the Cabinet so he could always plead innocence, and this is about the 3rd or 4th occasion in here that he has decided that he is going to defend wrong doing. Even when one of his other colleagues came out and said that he is against what was done, the honourable Member for Christ Church West felt that he should defend the wrong doing.

He started off by going down the line of reading a speech from one of our Members when we were in the Opposition, trying to give the impression that this present Administration has changed its tune on this acquisition. Nothing could be further from the truth. The honourable Member well knows that when you are in Opposition letters that go to the Government complaining of what the Government is doing never reach the Opposition. Letters that are sent to Government Ministers like those letters that were sent by the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation; letters that were sent by Barbados Arts Council; letters that were sent by the Barbados National Trust never came to the Opposition.

In fact, the honourable Member who represented St. Michael West Central deliberately refused to make those facts known in his speech in the House of Assembly. When you come to the House of Assembly with a Resolution for the acquisition of property, you get the Order Paper stating which land you are going to acquire and an Addendum. In most cases the Opposition looks at the matter and what happens is that you probably talk all around the whole idea of acquiring land but very seldom you get to the main point of what you are doing because your knowledge about the actual acquisition is limited. The honourable Member knows that.

What has happened in this case is this: The past Cabinet decided to acquire this property on July 5, 1984. The Section 3 Notice was published on the 20th May, 1985. They were authorized to go into that gentleman's land on June 12, 1985. The Resolution to acquire the land was only brought to the House on February 11, 1986 this year. All between that time the Government was receiving complaints from all the influential people who had connections with the ceramic industry that it was wrong to do what they were doing. That sort of information was not available to the Opposition at that time, and the honourable Member knows that. So to say that because one of our Members spoke and he did not criticise the Resolution does not mean that the Opposition is changing its tune. The honourable Member has to understand that we in this Administration stand for fair play and we are against what the past Administration was doing. You all were running and riding rough-

shod over people's rights in this country and it is time people in Barbados understand this. You have taken it upon yourselves over the past five years to acquire people's property; to move into people's property without even so much as talking to them. That is what you have done. You have moved into people's property; put roads into people's property without even discussing it with them only to discover after that the money has gone down the drain, that the people already had permission to develop the land. We cannot operate in the manner you all are operating.

Everytime we see or observe in these files where the past Administration went wrong, we are going to come to this House of Assembly and correct what we consider was done wrong. And that is why I am saying that in cases of this sort we will be coming to this House of Assembly with many cases of this sort. This is not the only one. There are a lot more. The Glebe in St. George and Walkers. I can mention many that this sort of thing was done and there is no sense in you, the honourable Member for Christ Church West, getting up trying to justify wrong doing and it is as simple as that. If it was wrong, it was wrong. You do not have to justify everything to give the impression that you are a good Opposition leader. You do not have to do that. If it is wrong, it is wrong. And that is what I want to say here this afternoon.

I would like to congratulate the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central on what I consider was a magnificent speech. After he had finished speaking, I intended just to get up and say, "Let the Resolution pass" because I felt that he dealt with the subject in a very intelligent manner. He taught me something today about the ceramic industry that I did not know, and I did not see the reason why honourable Members should be getting up trying to justify what had gone on before when they knew within themselves that it was wrong, and he proved that it was wrong because he willingly, voluntarily, and quickly got up and said that he is going to support the Resolution. That is how I know that he knew that it was wrong.

So Mr. Speaker with those few words, I move that this Resolution do now pass. Thank you.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the next Order should be Question Time and that Question Time be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that Question Time should now be taken. If there are no objections, let Question Time be now taken. Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 10. The hon. Member for the City.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Parliamentary question No. 10 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications; 1. Is the Minister aware that there are many areas along Baxters Road, Bridgetown where the drains are uncovered and there are no sidewalks and that this constitutes a hazard to pedestrians? 2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister indicate when repairs will be done and sidewalks constructed? 3. If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister investigate the matter so that there can be a resolution of the problem?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Reply to Question No. 10 asked by the honourable Member for the City is as follows:

"Yes Sir.

Repairs will be undertaken as soon as resources are available for that purpose."

Mr. SPEAKER: Are they any supplementaries?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Can the Honourable Member give any indication on how soon the resources will be available?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I think that you have to put that as a substantive question.

Laughter.

6.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for the City, No. 11.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 11 reads as follows:

"To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that the East-West Road of Dunlow Lane is in a state of disrepair and has been in that state for over a year? 2. Is the Minister also aware that the slipper drains on Dunlow Lane need repair? 3. If the answers are in the affirmative, will the Minister please indicate when repairs will be effected? 4. If the answers are in the negative, will the Minister please investigate?"

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 11 asked by the same honourable Member, that is, the honourable Member for the City, is as follows:

- "1. Yes.
2. The repairs to Dunlow Lane Road will be undertaken during the current financial year and the repairs to the slipper drains will be undertaken as soon as possible within the context of available resource."

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 27, the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 27 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that driving on to the Spooners Hill and Codrington Hill Roads is very hazardous from roads such as Bow Road, Paradise Road, Butlers Avenue, Accommodation Road, Promenade Road, Long Gap, Thompson Gap, Cnr. Whitehall and Mahaica Road? 2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister cause some measure of improvement to this situation to be effected? 3. Would the Honourable Minister consider the use of (a) widened corners, and (b) traffic mirrors?"

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question No. 27 asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East is as follows:

"Yes.

Road improvements for the area have been prepared by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications for the area of Spooners Hill between Cave Hill and Long Gap and will shortly be submitted to the Central Planning Committee for its approval. Mirrors and other traffic improvements, including one-way systems will be investigated."

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 28, the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Question no. 28 reads as follows:

"To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that a road and ancillary services promised by Government some fifteen years ago for Exchange/3, have not been established? 2. Will the Minister state what is the possibility of immediate relief for residents of that area in these matters?"

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question No. 28 asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East is as follows:

"Yes, Sir.

It is proposed that this work be undertaken during the fiscal year 1987-88 subject to the availability of funds."

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 32, the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 32 reads as follows:

"To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware of the rapidly worsening conditions of the roads in the Piedmont Park Housing Area? 2. Will the Honourable Minister undertake that Government will give its earliest attention to remedying this serious concern of the residents and users of this area?"

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question No. 32 asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East is as follows:

"Yes.

Consideration will be given to the inclusion of Piedmont Park Housing Area in the list of proposed works for the fiscal year 1987-88 since there are no available funds for resurfacing in this year's Estimates. The repair of pot holes will be undertaken in this financial year."

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 12 asked by the honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 12 reads as following:

"To ask the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs: 1. Is the Attorney General aware that in the interest of justice there is a need for the improved functioning of the Magistrates Courts? 2. If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Attorney General give the House an undertaking that firm and positive action will be taken to introduce measures to speed up the functioning of the said courts?"

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 12 which was asked by the honourable Member for St. George South is as follows:

"Yes, Sir.

Urgent consideration is being given to ways in which the work of the Magistrates Courts can be speeded up."

Mr. R. P. BYER: Will the Honourable Minister state at what stage these considerations are? How advanced are they?

Hon. M. A. KING: It is a little difficult to answer a question at what stage. They are actively in the consideration of the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Meetings between the officials of the Ministry of Legal Affairs are taking place and requests have gone out to the Registrar and to Magistrates and to the Bar Association inviting comments on aspects of the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 15 by the same honourable Member.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 15 reads as follows:

"To ask the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs: Will the Minister state whether the Corporate Affairs section currently administered by the Registration Office is a department of the Ministry of Trade and Commerce or a department of his Ministry?"

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 15 which was asked by the honourable Member for St. George South is as follows:

"The Corporate Affairs and Industrial Property Office is a section of the Registration Department which falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Legal Affairs."

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Does the Honourable Minister have any plans to separate the Corporate Affairs Ministry in pursuance of the recommendations of Mr. Justice Williams in the Company Law Report?

Hon. M. A. KING: This matter is now being actively considered, and I believe that the Corporate Affairs Section will be separate from the main Registration Office.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 24, the honourable Member for the City.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Question No. 24 reads as follows, Sir:

"To ask the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs: 1. Is the Minister aware that the

police are harassing wayside hawkers and vendors working in the streets of Bridgetown? 2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister please indicate whether the legislation could be changed to stop this harassment? 3. Will the Minister examine all relevant legislation to ensure that these citizens are allowed to continue to make an honest living?"

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 24 which was asked by the honourable Member for the City is as follows:

"No, Sir.

The legislation is being examined and every effort is being made to arrive at a solution that would afford the vendors an opportunity legally to ply their trade."

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask if the Honourable Minister accepts that there has been harassment by the police.

Hon. M. A. KING: The answer to that was no.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: I am sorry. I did not hear it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 38 by the honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker Question No. 38 reads as follows:

"To ask the Minister of Education and Culture: 1. Is the Minister aware that, (a) the grounds and public environs of St. Christopher Girls School are in urgent need of debushing, (b) the floors of that school are falling in and the roof leaks persistently, (c) the said school is infested with rodents and other vermin, (d), a garbage dump is being created at the front of the school, and (e) school meals are prepared at St. Christopher Girls School for all schools in the constituency of Christ Church East? 2. Will the Minister urgently give his attention to the eradication of the problems identified at the said school?"

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 38 is as follows:

"Yes, Sir.

No, Sir.

An inspection of the building by the Buildings Officer of the Ministry of Education and Culture

revealed that the floors and the roof are generally sound.

No, Sir.

Yes, Sir.

Arrangements will be made for the siting of a proper receptacle at the School Meals Centre for the collection of card boxes, empty tins and other containers, pending the removal of the refuse by the Sanitation Services Authority.

Yes, Sir.

Action is being taken to eradicate the problems which exist at the school."

6.35 p.m.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Do you think, Sir, that the inspectors should not go to the school again and have a look at the roof because it still leaks? I will take them back to the classroom and show them where it leaks.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, to reply to that Supplementary Question, I wish to point out that I did say in reply to the main question that the floors and roof are generally sound. So that permits of some exception and that there may be a leak or more than one leak in the roof.

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In fact, the inspection did reveal that there was a spot over a window in the east elevation where leaks occur at a window head and we are proposing to correct that particular problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no more Questions.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, that brings us to the end of our business for today, and if I may make one observation it is that we must find a mechanism for dealing more effectively with the asking and answering of questions so that what we do in here can be more intelligible both to ourselves and to the public, and I hope that we can find a mechanism for that.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to move, Sir, that this Honourable House do now adjourn until Tuesday, December 2, 1986 at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday December 2, 1986, at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.38 p.m.

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