THE

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 3, 1987.

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)
Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs)
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, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications)
Hon. E. E. Greaves, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade and Commerce)
Hon. M. A. King, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)
Hon. W. 0. 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 or Housing and Lands)
Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M.
Mr. 0. S. Arthur, M.Sc., (Econ.)
Mrs. M. Barker-Welch, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)
Mr. C. V. Walker, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)
Mr. L. L. Brathwaite, J.P.
Mr. E. Bourne
Dr. E. A. Simmons
Hon. W. W. Hall, (Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)
Mr. C. A. Neblett, B.A.
Mr. C. L. Trotman, 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. MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, January 27, 1987.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of the meeting of the House of Assembly for January 27, 1987 have been circulated.

I beg to move that these be taken as having been read, and that they be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings of the House on that day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations or corrections, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS

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

The 17th Annual Report of the Barbados Development Bank for the year 1985-86.

The Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1987.

The Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1987.

The Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1987.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1987.

A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1987.

A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1987.

A Resolution to approve the increase of wages of the Public and Casual Employees of Government with effect from 1/4/86.

A Bill to amend the Fire Service Act.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREA VES, the following Bill was read a first time: A Bill to amend the Fire Service Act.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Housing and Lands, I beg to state that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 50, asked by the honourable Member for St. George South, 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, Members should take note that an amended Order Paper relating to Government Business, has been circulated. It should be substituted for the one originally circulated. The one originally circulated contained a couple of items which have been disposed of already. So Members should take note of the amended Paper that has been circulated.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

The question that those Standing Orders, as identified by the Leader of the House, be suspended for the day's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Order No. 1 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 this Island.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREA VES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, *t *Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.*

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee of Supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986-87
No. 21 - $157 000

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS - $107 000

Hon. E. E. GREAVES (St. Lucy): Mr. Chairman, this is a rather simple matter. As the addendum to this Resolution indicates, the sum of $107 000 is required to pay arrears in current wages to casual employees of the IDC consequent on the reclassification of casual posts, * effective April 1, 1984. 12.25 p.m.

By circular letter dated March 3, 1986, the Prime Minister advised the IDC that the Central Government had agreed to and undertaken a reclassification of certain posts in the Public Service. Following the established system, employees of statutory boards were also affected, in that their posts were reclassified. As a result of that reclassification, the Government is now seeking to have the amount of money which is required to cover the arrears and, of course, ensure that there will be enough money to pay them to the end of the financial year.

My information is that there are 54 casual em ployees who are on the staff of the IDC and would benefit from this reclassification. .

I, therefore, move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I second that, Sir.

The question that Head 40 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 83 - MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT - $ 50 000

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, this particular supplement for the sum of $50 000, as the Addendum states, is in relation to certain payments which have to be made and for which funds are not available.

The background is that the Clarence Johnson Construction Company (Barbados) Limited is in receivership. It had been engaged to undertake certain works in con-

nection with the expansion of the Port of Bridgetown. However, certain deficiencies were discovered in the works, and the Crown withheld a sum of US $25 000 pending the correction of those deficiencies. The rectifications have now been made and it has been mutually agreed that the sum of US $25 000 is now to be paid. The House is being asked, therefore, to approve this payment in order that its commitments and undertakings may be honoured.

I beg to move, Sir, that the sum of $50 000 as a supplement for Head 83 Subhead 3 stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I second that, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, before the measure is put to the Committee to the vote, I must declare my interest. This matter arises out of a series of interlocking actions, one of which involves one of my clients. I wish to declare that and to ask that my not voting on this Resolution be noted.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I too have an interest to declare in this matter, having represented one of the parties involved in this. I would also ask that my interest be noted so that I cannot vote on this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could the honourable Member for St. Thomas repeat what he just said and speak into the microphone. The notetaker is not receiving anything.

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

Together with R.G. Mandeville and Company, Sir, 1 had represented Clarence Johnson Construction Company, one of the parties involved in this Resolution and it would be improper for me to take part in the debate or even vote on the Resolution. I wish that that be recorded.

The question that Head 83 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

AMENDMENT TO EXPLANATORY NOTE TO HEAD 82, SUBHEAD 1 - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Order No. 1, Item (b) was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to amend the Explanatory Note to Head 82, Subhead 1 - Industrial Development Corporation.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES (St. Lucy): Mr. Chairman, this is another simple matter. This matter seeks to amend the Explanatory Note to Head 82, Subhead 1. The original Explanatory Note reads as follows:

> "Provision is made for the cost of factory construction and infrastructural development of Industrial Parks as well as for connections to the Bridgetown Sewerage System".

Under that Note, it was recognized when the Estimates 1986-87 were approved that the Note ought to have covered a provision for refurbishment and renovation of the Industrial Parks, particularly when one takes into consideration the fact that a decision was made to have a moratorium on the construction of new industrial parks. But the Ministry of Finance could not release the money because the Explanatory Note did not make provision for renovations and refurbishment.

There is an urgent need to renovate and refurbish a number of the industrial estates around Barbados, and the Ministry is seeking to have the Note amended so as to ensure that any work which is done as far as renovation and refurbishment is concerned will be done within the context of the amended Note.

I, therefore, beg to move that Head 82, Subhead 1 do now stand part.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS (St. Michel South East): Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some comments with respect to the Industrial Development Corporation. To me, it represents a mirror image, with its decay, as to what has happened to Barbados within the last ten years. One of the things that bothers me is that in the Addendum it says, "as well as for connections to the Bridgetown Sewerage System".

I wonder if we are being confronted with a situation where Government has put up a building and while pressuring poor people to hook up to the sewerage system, they had not hooked up to the sewerage system. J wonder if that is the situation which we find ourselves and which we are now coming to correct.

We all are aware of the policies of the IDC. In the Annual Report for 1984—85 — I am not quite sure whether this is a document of the House, but I will make it a document of the House if it is not already a document of the House — I think that on page 4 of that document the report sums up quite well what has happened to the Industrial Development Corporation probably within the last ten years. It says this under " Small Business Association":

> "It was decided that the Corporation's financial assistance to the Small Business Association would be suspended pending reactivation of the Association which became dormant during the final quarter of the year 1981." 12.35p.m.

In its report of 1984—85, the Industrial Development Corporation spelt out quite clearly their role with respect to the Small Business Association of this country. They suspended all money for the Small Business Association. I think that that is a sad thing, because if we look back at the history of the Industrial Development Corporation, we will know that it was the small businessmen — the tailor, etc. — who really came to the fore under that organisation, and garment factories were set up under the Industrial Development Corporation. So the small man in Barbados, who thought that his position in Barbados was in a tailor shop in a corner, ended up finding himself as a true businessman. Within the last ten years we have seen small business people relegated to the spot where they were before the 1960s.

So what has happened to the Industrial Development Corporation? You have the massive decay of buildings, and while that is going on, the rents for these dilapidated buildings have been going up. In the last ten years the Industrial Development Corporation went overseas and borrowed a lot of money, and while they were borrowing money, they have been laying off staff. I am going to give you an example of what has happened to the construction staff of the Industrial Development Corporation over the past few years.

Prior to 1985, the Industrial Development Corporation had a staff of 111 men with three supervisors. They had 11 foremen, 30 masons, 30 carpenters, 40 labourers and three supervisors. In 1985 there was a massive layoff. Instead of having 11 foremen, they had five; instead of having 30 masons, they had eight; instead of having 30 carpenters, they had ten, and instead of having 40 labourers, they had 11. But the interesting point is that whereas they had three supervisors to supervise 111 men, they maintained the same three supervisors to supervise 34 people. So where they had a ratio before the layoff of one supervisor to 37 people, you now have three supervisors supervising less than the amount of people that one supervisor supervised before. I think it is correct to say that the situation still exists.

While the Industrial Development Corporation, as its policy as set out in this document said, was laying off the masons and the carpenters, they were maintaining the people at the top, becoming top heavy. This is precisely what has been happening to a lot of the corporations in Barbados — while the small people are being laid off, the structures at the top remain top heavy — because it has been the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party — and I keep saying it — while hurting the small man, to make sure that the big people had money in their pockets. That is why we have been finding ourselves in such terrible situations.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: You can talk all you like about Shipping and Trading, that is a fact. I am going to document it in this House from time to time, and I am going to come back to it later today. It is a deliberate policy, it is no accident.

I would like to see a policy implemented where some of the space that has now become available be put at the disposal of the young craftsmen in Barbados. I want to make it abundantly clear that Barbados has a rich heritage of good crafts people. Barbados has been the hub of carpenters, masons and tailors, and we exported those people throughout the Caribbean. Those of us who go to church, and in every parish of Barbados there are at least two or three churches, when we go to church on Sundays we look up at the architecture of the churches, especially the Anglican churches, that was done by the local craftsmen, our great grandfathers or our great, great grandfathers. They did not go to any college for anybody to teach them. Look at the work in the roof of this building that was done by our foreparents. They did not go to any school for anybody to teach them.

It is from .our African heritage. Those of you who have been fortunate enough as I have been, to travel to Africa, or if you have not gone to Africa, but have gone as far afield as Haiti, would know that the black man is by nature an artist. He does not have to go to college to learn to carve. If you go to Africa and you see the work in ebony and ivory done by youngsters with their own hands, with their still primitive tools, you will understand that we come from a rich heritage of arts and crafts.

Within the last few years, with the emergence of the Rastafarian cult, Barbados has seen a resurgence of true arts and crafts. It must therefore be the policy of our Government to capture the innate qualities of our young people, to give them space in these industrial parks.

There is another thing we must do. We have stores — the honourable Member keeps talking about Shipping and Trading. We go into town and we see a lot of nonsense trinkets coming from Taiwan and Japan. No tourist coming to Barbados wants to go into the store and buy nonsense from Taiwan and Japan because he comes from where he can get it for a quarter of the price. It is time that we capture our own indigenous art, promote it within our own stores and make space available for the young people of this country to produce. When tourists come here they should be able to buy hand-made stuff made by our own people, and we should embark on a policy where we ban the importation of that nonsense that comes from these countries, because it kills the economy of our country, sends out foreign exchange and it kills our local art.

We in this party must certainly take a serious look at our Industrial Development Corporation and the development of our industry and our young people. Here is a chance for us to incorporate the native art and give it a chance. Probably at Crop Over there should be some sort of industrial park set up where youngsters can exhibit their leather craft and their paintings, and this should be a focal point of our exhibits for our Crop Over. It should also be made known to the tourists that we in Barbados have developed such a park for local artists to display their works where the works can be bought.

I hope that in the future we will see the Industrial Development Corporation not being able to say that the Small Business Association is not functioning, because if we kill it, it cannot function. We should make sure that it is functioning, and we should be putting all the support behind the small businessmen of Barbados. When I say "small businessmen" I do not only mean the garment industry. I am talking about the youngster who stands on Bridge Road and paints the bridge, or the youngster who is painting the churches. We should be promoting these people as small business people. We should also be supporting the youngsters who are now in Swan Street, because, as I said before in this Honourable Chamber, whether we want to accept it or not, the young black businessmen in Barbados will come from those people who have to fight out there against all odds to develop good business acumen.

I would like to see the Industrial Development Corporation getting involved in the grass roots of Barbados and developing Barbados for Barbadians. The spin off can benefit the economy and visitors to this country.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas); Mr. Chairman, when the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons) began his speech, he quoted from the IDC Annual Report of 1981, I think it was and lamented the fact that the subvention given to the Small Business Association in 1981 was. discontinued. I distinctly heard him say or quote from the report that it was discontinued because the Small Business Association was dormant. Do you throw money into an organisation which is not functioning? That is foolishness! That is nothing to lament. If a company is in liquidation, are you still going to put money into it? 12.45 p.m.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He read those words from the thing itself. It said the SBA was "dormant," sleeping, not functioning. And you are still quarrelling!

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They said so. Whether it was so or not, I am not in a position to dispute it. I am dealing with what the document said, and there has been nothing said in this debate yet to suggest that the document was lying.

I regret that the Minister with responsibility for the IDC is not in his place today, because I believe that we all recognize how important industrial development is to Barbados in these hard economic times, particularly in the area of creation of employment opportunities. No one in his right mind can quarrel or criticize the job that has been done by the IDC since its inception, I believe, in the middle 50s, as the Barbados Development Board. Over a period of time it has been able to attract to this country businesses of good quality, many of which have remained, helped in the development of industrial skills among our people, provided the necessary employment, and, of course, contributed to the earning of foreign exchange by this country.

That we have fallen upon difficult times in the last few years is a matter of regret. We all know that there lias been an international recession which has affected all countries, developed and developing, big and small. The experience of CARICOM is there for anyone to recognize the difficulties under which all of the countries in the Caribbean have had to operate. In addition to that, Barbados has, of course, moved towards a level of wage that has made it unattractive, if not uncompetitive, with other countries in the region and certainly uncompetitive as far as the competition from the Far East is concerned. These are the realities of contemporary existence.

I am glad to see that the Chairman of the IDC recently said that ten new businesses are expected this year. I would like to know from the Minister what these businesses are, if he has the information — if not, he can wait until another time — and what impact these businesses will have on the severe unemployment problem which the Minister of Trade referred to as "chronic" yesterday, if the newspaper was correct. I am aware that a company called "Molex Incorporated", which was to start functioning this year, has decided not to pursue their interest in Barbados anymore. I do not know how soon that decision will be effective, but it is my information that Molex is not continuing any further.

It is all well and good for the honourable Member for St. Michael South East to speak emotionally about the need to help black businesses and small businesses and so on. We all agree with that. But, the emotional angle apart, one has to grapple with the reality of what is happening in the industrial estates, the greatest problem facing IDC today is the problem of rents.

When the Minister responsible for the *IDC* was in Opposition, during the Estimates last year he said, "Abolish rents! Let everybody operate free. Abolish them!"

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We will remind him in the Estimates this year.

Before the last Administration went out of office, it took steps and reduced the rents by 20%. Shortly after the Minister was appointed, he promised a further reduction in rents, which has not yet come. That promise by the Minister responsible for Industry and Tourism created a climate of happy expectation among manufacturers. But they have been disappointed for the last eight months, because the promise has not been fulfilled.

The IDC made two presentations about the reduction in rents. They were submitted over five months ago. But it was pointed out in both cases, the one on the 20% reduction and the one on the 25% reduction, that he would need a supplementary to make up the shortfall. He would have to go to the Ministry of Finance to get that. So far, I am not aware of any money Resolution coming to make up the shortfall and subsidize the rents.

I have not heard what is going to happen with the delinquents. The basic problem with IDC and the rents is that there is a hard core of delinquent tenants who, from the very first day they became tenants, have refused to pay, and are still continuing not to pay the rents. Some of them have achieved honours for that kind of behaviour. But, in the meantime, having regard to the promise that was made by the Minister to ease the burden, or what he conceived as a burden, of rents, a number of tenants have just stopped paying rents. So you have the problem of long standing delinquency and you have the more recent problem of a simple refusal to pay rents.

That has a consequence for the IDC. It is my understanding that when rents are received, they go into a revolving fund and those rents help to do simple things, like refurbishment of the estates. So if the rents are not coming in, the renovation and refurbishing process is thereby hampered, or held back.

I remember a little of the history of the IDC. The IDC owns approximately $60 million of factory space, roughly 1 700 000 square feet in buildings. It has always made that factory space available to tenants on very concessional terms. As the years have passed, of course, the cost of construction has increased. The cost of maintenance has increased. Insurance premiums on these buildings have skyrocketed. So the cost to the IDC has appreciated substantially over the years. Notwithstanding that, the tenants, well knowing these basic facts, have still maintained a high level of delinquency in terms of their tent payments. 12.55 p.m.

In October 1983, in response to a number of concerns, the IDC Board held down rents at the existing levels for the balance of that financial year, which ended, I think, March 31, 1984, and in the meantime conducted an overall review of the rental policy, because the IDC is the only agency providing factory space for rental in Barbados. There might be one or two other small operations, but IDC is the largest and more substantial.

Mr. CHAIRMAN; The honourable Member has three minutes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The IDC has also done a number of studies looking at rents charged in similar enterprises within the Caribbean, in America, in Europe and even in the Far East, where the rate, for example, is US $1.25 to US $4.00. It has been found that, despite what the manufacturers would say, on the basis of the study carried out by IDC ranging far and wide, the rates in Barbados are competitive with anything overseas. But Barbadians have got into a syndrome where they want everything free, and there has to be a level of responsibility instilled in persons who use space provided by a Government that that space has a cost to Government, has a cost to the people, ultimately the taxpayers. It happens in the NHC and it is happening in the IDC. The National Housing Corporation has a problem with rents, and the IDC has a problem with rents.

One of the things I would suggest we need to look at is the creation of a separate collection agency for the IDC. Do not let the people deal with the IDC, where, if they go in early and pay, they get a ten per cent discount and all of that. But they feel they are paying Government and Government is a milch cow. It is the same thing with NHC. Set up a separate collection agency to manager the collection of arrears for the National Housing Corporation and IDC and try and have it as independent of the day-to-day running of these organisations as possible. Perhaps you might get some response at that level.

I have exhausted my time, Sir. I will come back, because I want to go on to something else.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): I do not believe that we could speak to this Resolution without addressing certain problems that the IDC has now. I agree with my colleague, the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons) in all of what he said, and I believe that I can even speak with more authority than he did.

As far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, the IDC seems to have lost its focus. In times past, certainly

beyond the last decade, it would appear to all and sundry that part of IDC's focus would have been to attract industry from abroad, some of our brothers in CARICOM or extra-regionally, and to assist in building what little local industry we did have at the time. I must say that in times past they did seem to have done a reasonably good job in that direction. The local companies that come to mind would be places like Mapps Industries and Husbands Wrought Iron, and some of the ones that we did attract, which in the end became some fairly sizeable employers, are ones like Cavalier and Juman and so on in Grazettes.

We also saw that over the last fifteen or so years, the indigenous Barbadian manufacturer was starting to come into his own. Certainly people with enough foresight formed an association, over twenty years ago, and the Barbadian manufacturers became very well organised. But, like any other sphere of human endeavour, there were teething problems. People have to learn to creep and then to walk, and sometimes, Sir, we need assistance in doing this, and one would have expected that like the Barbados Development Bank and the Export Promotion Corporation, the IDC would be one of those organisations that should be helping the local manufacturers or industrialists to develop.

But what did we see? Over the last ten years or so we have come to find that the IDC's role seems to be one of continuing to attract some industries from abroad. We have seen some fairly sizeable enclave operations, like Intel. I do not think that any of us in this Chamber would not agree that we do not want to see our people employed — I believe that at another time, we may want to debate the wisdom of having operations the size of some of the electronic operations that we have had here, including the one that was just closed — but what I cannot support as far as the IDC is concerned, is the fact that while they were expending energy and other resources in attracting and developing these enclave industries, at that same time they seemed to have been almost totally ignoring the needs of the indigenous manufacturers. We have seen where manufacturers have made repeated calls to the Industrial Development Corporation for assistance, even to the level of replacing windows in buildings or fixing a leaky roof. You got the feeling, even after you have written letters to the level of the General Manager, that they were an uncaring set of people in the administration. And as the honourable Member for St. Michael South East said, the IDC apparently became extremely top heavy - certainly those of us who have to go there will observe that there seems to be a large number of officers in administration — but while this has been happening, we find that the service being given to the manufacturers by the IDC has not improved. So there is obviously something very wrong there.

I also support the honourable Member for St. Michael South East when he said that it seemed to be part of the policy of the last Administration to adopt this attitude to industry, particularly industry owned by Barbadians, because I recall a Minister in the last Administration saying to me that he had serious difficulty in getting the late Prime Minister to pay any attention to anything he brought to him regarding the local manufacturers. And we all know that the late Prime Minister seemed to believe that the Manufacturers^ Association belonged to the Democratic Labour Party. This attitude went right through the Barbados Labour Party's Administration. It is a fact. The Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) smiles. 1.05 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Would you prefer me to say that you smirked?

There are many of us Barbadians in the manufacturing sector who have difficulties on Fridays to pay their wages. That is nothing to smile about. Many of us are on a three-day week. It is all good to get up and talk about people not paying rents, but you cannot look at things in a vacuum, I speak with a certain amount of authority here, because I happen to represent a company which is a tenant of the IDC.

There was talk about the IDC not assisting the Small Business Association. I believe the Member for St. Michael South East read that the IDC was not giving them any more financial assistance. The Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) was very quick to jump up and point out that you cannot give them financial assistance if it is a dead organization, or words to that effect. But who said they were dormant? The IDC document of 1984-85 says that the Small Business Association was dormant, and in that same time period, the same IDC is saying to the Barbados Manufacturers Association that they would allow the SBA to have space in that IDC building on Prescod Boulevard, I think it is called, down the Harbour Road, as we call it.

(Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is your constituency.)

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Down by the sugar terminal, near the Foam detergent plant. I think you can find that after all of that.

(Aside: **Mr. D.** A. **C. SIMMONS:** You know where it

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Part of the criteria that the IDC set out to allow the BMA to rent office space in that building was that it allowed the Small Business Association to have an office in there. The same IDC that was saying in the report that the SBA was dormant or dead, or whatever word they want to use, still insisted to the BMA that the SBA must have an office space. Why does a dormant association need office space?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation, Sir: I believe that I was careful to say that I understood the honourable Member for St. Michael South East to say that the IDC document was referring to the year 1981. Is it 1984-85? Well, I apologize to the House, Sir. I made a note, "1981." I seemed to have heard him wrong, Sir.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Labour Party Administration at that time would have had difficulties with anything named Small Business, because, as you would probably recall, the then Minister of Trade had a Parliamentary Secretary who looked after small business, but the then Prime Minister was not too interested in it. So the Small Business Association was just given a lot of lip service. Let us face it.

The Manufacturers Association tried to nourish the Small Business Association along. I do not know if it was because the name was "small" that they did not seem to believe that they were powerful, but, for some reason, they were always seen as an orphan child, or as some attachment to the Barbados Manufacturers Association. But sufficient to say that it is misleading, even to put it in a document, for the IDC to give the impression that the Small Business Association was dormant, or dead, or whatever the term was, when, in fact, the same IDC was insisting at that same time to the BMA that they give the Small Business Association some office space. I find that very confusing.

There was a lot of talk about the IDC rents. I believe there will always be talk about the IDC rents, because, let us face it, in every barrel of apples, you will find a bad one or two. There were some manufacturers who believed that because their Administration might have been in, they did not have to pay rents. If the IDC have a difficulty with them in collecting the rents, there are ways of collecting those rents.

(Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Between '61 and '76. I could call four now.)

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: You could call four. Well call them.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Thomas went on to say that rent reduction was brought by the last Administration. Let him also go on to say that it was after long agitation by the tenants, and after bankruptcies and closures were the order of the day. Only then! You were closing the door when the horse had already gone. In fact, if you really examine it carefully, you really did not have a rent reduction, because they carried up the rent and brought it down to just above what it was before.

I remember that the last Minister of Trade, during the same period of 1984-85 .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Another three minutes.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER; ..... when I, on a delegation, enquired why we had to pay these increases in rent — because at that time it was increased, there was no reduction — said it was World Bank money that they built the buildings with, and part of the stipulations to get the money was that you had to do what they say, more or less. The World Bank was stating what rents you should charge. But what was interesting, Sir was that there were people who were in building^ that were not built with World Bank money and they got an increase in rent, too.

So we always had this problem: I believe it first came when, to my mind, it seemed like politics got mixed up in it, to the extent that a Member of Parliament became chairman. From there on, IDC has been more a hindrance, I should say, to the manufacturers, particularly local manufacturers, than a help. I am not saying that this cannot be corrected. I am not saying that the IDC cannot go back and play the role that it should be playing. I am not saying that the IDC cannot once again regain its focus.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I will have to support this Resolution, because, in fact, because of numerous reasons the industrial estates are in a dilapidated state. As I said earlier, I am at the receiving end of the IDC, good or bad.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): I enter the debate with a little bit of reluctance since I believe that the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) has done, in his rather short speech so far, justice to the points which he wanted to make on behalf of the Opposition.

Let me begin by saying that I do not believe that any honourable Member will not support a Resolution which will upkeep buildings that are quasi-public property, and if I understood the Honourable Minister who introduced this Resolution correctly, it had been en- A-visaged that there would have been money provided in the Estimates for renovating and refurbishing the buildings of the Industrial Development Corporation.

I think every right-thinking Barbadian is interested in promoting industry in this island, within the limits and the constraints which surround us, in an effort to increase employment opportunities and certainly to improve our own self-reliance and industry. I do not believe it is correct to think that that task is a task of the Government only, and sometimes we are in danger in Barbados, when the two major political parties are subjected to pressure from pressure groups, to come to the mistaken view that the Government Treasury is an unending source of revenue at all times. Very often there has to be a blunt statement given to people that self-reliance is an important quality for individuals as it is for our country. In speaking about the manufacturers in this country, I often try to remind them that they are in business for profit first and foremost, not that they need any reminder. But many of them sometimes give the impression, particularly at this time, that they are in the business only for the common good and not for their own good. That is really not so. 1.15 p.m.

I want to make a case in this speech for the consumers. The cost of manufacturing today in Barbados is done at the expense of the large mass of our population. The reason why we are prepared to do it is because we have to provide employment opportunities. Make no, mistake about it, manufacturers in the CARICOM region, including Barbados, are given unusual incentives because we want to provide employment opportunities, but those incentives are at the cost of the consumers of the region. One sometimes has to balance the consumers' interest against that of the manufacturers. It is not always an easy role for Government to perform, but it has to be done.

I am speaking against the background of one who helped with the formation of the Manufacturers Association some 21 years or more ago. I believe that the Articles of the Association were drafted by Peter Johnson of Yearwood and Boyce, and I. I would want the honourable Member for the City (Mr. P. J. M. Miller) to remember that in those days when Mr. K. R. Hunte, Mr. Darby Hutchinson and a few others started out to form an association, they did it against the background of other people who were agitating then for greater emphasis on buying local. If the honourable Member has any fear, he will notice that the minutes of his association will reflect that '••>• I,,! our in assisting in the formation of the association ua-, given gratis. So I do have a genuine interest in iiu association and in placing emphasis on what is done lor manufacturing.

Having said that, at the height of politics some of these associations tend to believe that they are more political than the political masters, and, therefore, as you will hear from the honourable Member, do not always bring an objective analysis of what is happening to manufacturing. I am saying that it is not true to characterize the period of the last ten years as one in which nothing was done for the manufacturing sector in Barbados. If I take the small business sector, over the last five years, between March 1981 and March 1986, some $24 million in loans were approved for the small business sector by the Barbados Development Bank alone. In addition, the Government set about establishing, through the Central Bank of Barbados, a Credit Guarantee Scheme which has been beneficial to all manufacturers, including the small manufacturers. In terms of factory space, between 1981 and 1986 an additional 143 374 square feet of factory space was made available and added at the Pine, Grantley Adams and at Spring Garden.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I may interrupt, I believe the honourable Member would want to quote the sources.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am speaking from notes, but I will make it a document of the House, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I saw you looking at the document in your hand.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, it would be < pleasure for me to give him the benefit of my research, uas and otherwise.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, I am just trying to observe the Rules of the House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The 143 374 square feet of factory space was made available for small businesses and other resources. Work was also carried out at Pelican.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would wish the honourable Member to quote the source of his information. I think that will be in keeping with the Rules of the House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the source of my information is my head. I can tell you that 143 000 square feet was made available.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe the honourable Member is reading.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, in due course I will make the document in my hand a document of the House, if you want me to make the document in my hand a document of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not what I want. 1 understand that is what the Rules say should happen in these circumstances.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will make it a document of the House. You must also take my assurance that I will make it a document of the House. If I do not, then, Sir, there are Rules that you can use to make sure I do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not doubt that you will make it a document.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: So I will be making it a document of the House, Sir. I give the House that assurance.

The position is that work was carried out as well on the industrial estates by the IDC, contrary to what the honourable Members have said. There was a two-prong policy being pursued by the Government, and this two-prong policy was enunciated in this House in a debate that took place, as the honourable Members will recall, on the Budget, in which it was made quite clear that Government was going to give incentives to the private sector in order to involve the private sector in building factory space, and such incentive has been given.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member *sotto voce* makes a comment. He only has to look in the constituency of the honourable Member for St. Thomas, at Cane Garden, to find a development of factory space in that area which is for the private sector, and he will be aware of the fact that part of Government's policy for industrial development, on the advice of the very people who are now available to the Government, was to involve the private sector as well in providing its own factory space. That is a fact.

The honourable Member says nothing else was done for the small businessmen. The Government also provided a system of training, and improved the training opportunities available at BIMAP and at several other levels for the small business sector.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member *sotto voce* says "lip service."

There were also major training schemes and money was made available through the National Training Board, as the honourable Member knows, as well as at the polytechnic. I need not mention, Sir, finally because this is a very limited debate of 15 minutes, although I will come back to it, the assistance given with the formation and the development of the Export Promotion Corporation. This corporation has proved beneficial to assisting businessmen at all levels, including some small businessmen, in penetrating markets in CARICOM and elsewhere, and along with the credit facilities made available through the Central Bank, they have benefitted to a large extent from Government's efforts.

Sir, I really cannot accept the honourable Member's thesis that nothing has been done for the manufacturers.

What concerns me however, is the fact that in running their own affairs private sector organizations must to some extent be able to stand on their own feet. In another forum, the Right Honourable Prime Minister once said that if you cannot pay the subscriptions, do not join the club. He was then referring to a speech which he made in answer to Mr. Dean Rusk, who he said offered to pay Barbados' entrance fee to the World Bank. To some extent, this point must be made to some private sector organisations. I do not think the private sector does justice to themselves when — not in the area of policy so far as assisting them in promoting their products is concerned — in respect of running the day-to-day affairs of their organisations they must run cap-in-hand to a Government or to any other institution. I do not believe that it does justice to themselves, and whereas many of us are anxious to help the private sector, I think that in some regard they must become self-reliant. 1.25 p.m.

Sir, having said that, I am pleased at the development which has taken place in the manufacturing sector in Barbados. One is today seeing a larger degree of sophistication in most of the products being produced in this island. One is seeing a wider range of products being made available, both in the full industrial and the agro-industrial sectors, and one would hope that, with this experience, we are now in a position where Government, manufacturers and the consumers can jointly push manufacturing much further in our island.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: There is no doubt, Sir, that the balance of the 20th century will be a very testing time for the ingenuity not only of policy makers, but those people who are in the marketplace and have to do the manufacturing. There is no doubt that we are not going to be able to maintain within CARICOM a dominance of Barbadian manufacturing, as we have been reasonably dominant in the Eastern Caribbean, at the present level that we have been able to maintain it in the past. We will have to do all to increase or improve the standard of our product and our competitiveness to meet competition beyond our borders. I think that both political parties have recognised this, and that an export-led manufacturing sector must be the goal on which we would focus.

I think it is true to say, in fairness to the IDC, under successive chairmen, that quite a bit of emphasis has been placed on this. Whatever the honourable Member might think, I believe that the IDC has had very hard working and dedicated officers. That has been my experience of them.

They have tried, given the world economic and other situations, to assist in the promotion of Barbados' manufacturing sector overseas, and wherever an opportunity has brought its head at home, I believe that they have assisted in this regard.

The honourable Member spoke of the handicraft industry. If you will look at the figures, the figures showed the tremendous increase in volume, both in money terms and in products, produced in the handicraft industry. You will also see the emphasis which the IDC along with Government lias paced on this industry, whether it be obtaining financial assistance from IDE resources and starting a new handicraft organisation, or whether it be getting technical assistance from even as far afield as China. Every effort has been made to assist this industry. The industry has been assisted, too, with the marketing of its products. Understandably, more can be done, and I understand the plea of the honourable Member for St. Michael South East to bring into the pool of assistance, if they are not assisted already, the very skilled craftsmen whom we have all over our island.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, if I may just finish the sentence, I think it will be incorrect to say that nothing has so far been done for this sector-.

Sir, I undertook to make a document a document of the House, and I now so do. It is called "The Promises We Make … WE PERFORM!" It is by the Barbados Labour Party, a very valuable document.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to rebut-some of the comments made by the honourable Member for Christ Church West. He just introduced the concept that somebody on this side was trying to say that the officers of the Industrial Development Corporation were not hard working. I listened very carefully to this debate and I never heard anybody on this side accuse the staff of the Industrial Development Corporation of not being hard working.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir: The Member for the City said "uncaring."

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I am referring to one of the last comments made by the honourable Member for Christ Church West.

The point we are making is that someone can work very, very hard doing nothing if your programme is an ill-directed programme. Hard work does not necessarily mean production, so because someone is hard-working, it does not mean that at the end of the line they are producing something. If you have a misguided policy, you can work very hard and get nothing out of it.

I want to get to two other points. The honourable Member for Christ Church West mentioned the Buy Local Programme and that Barbadians would have to produce at a monetary disadvantage because the wages in Barbados are very high. If you go to the United States, if you go to England, the phenomenon that you find in Barbados where people want to buy things that are made in a foreign market obtains. If you go to 5th Avenue you will find all the goods from England, because the people on 5th Avenue, Madison Avenue, want to buy English goods. So that problem is not a problem that is peculiar to Barbados, it seems to be an innate quality of man himself. But what we have got to do as Barbadians is to educate people and make them understand that we have the capability and young people with the ability to produce goods that must be equal to any place else.

The other point you made was that people have got to learn to pay their own bills. We have got to understand that when we are bringing industries from overseas, these industries are not fledgling industries, they are not companies that are just starting. They are companies that have been on the world market who are looking for places that are cheaper to produce their products as compared to our young people who are now starting out in business. If we can grant concessions to people who have been in business for 40 and 50 years, and some over 100 years, to come into our country to create jobs, we must create incentives for our young people who are now starting up a business, because it is not their arts and crafts — they now have to learn management skills.

It is a sad day when you can read in a document in Barbados in 1984-85 that the Industrial Development Corporation suspended, did not give, small business people in Barbados any money because their association was dormant. It is the function of Government to make sure that the Small Businessman Association in a country is not dormant. When you make that statement, you are basically saying that you have sat back and allowed it to be dormant and, therefore, you are not giving anything to it. It is a function of Government to make sure that the small businesses thrive, because once small businesses are not thriving in a country, the country is dying. The small businessman comes from among us, and it is our responsibility to make sure that the small businessman is active. No one in this Honourable Chamber can dispute that we have craftsmen in this country who are very industrious and have good business acumen. If the SBA is dormant, it is a reflection of the powers that be, so when statements like that are thrown out, we, too, have to accept the responsibility. 1.35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, this debate seemed to have focussed considerably on handicraft and

handicraft development. I want to emphasize that the Government, through the Minister of Tourism and Industry, has indicated very clearly that this Administration will be focussing on the development of handicraft as an area of development in this country. It is recognized that that can play a considerable role in providing employment and providing outlets to the creative talents which exist in Barbados, and certainly there is a market in Barbados and beyond for the kinds of craft that can be practised here and can be developed. So I believe that it is very clear that handicraft development is an intention of the Government.

I do not think that anybody would deny the fact that the present Minister of Tourism and Industry can be considered as the pioneer in the thinking in this particular area, particularly since in the former Administration, the 1971—1976 Democratic Labour Party Administration, when he held the portfolio of Industry, he did a lot to establish the Handicraft Division of the IDC. He, of course, is continuing in this particular vein.

Relative to the point made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) relating to the number of industries or new businesses which are on stream, in response to a statement which was made by the Chairman of the IDC, the figures which have been passed to me indicate that there are, if I can give you an idea of the kind of capacity or size of the operation, we are expecting in this year, in the size 1 000 to 2 000 sq. ft. range, four new businesses, and there is one which will be expanding. In the 2 001 to 3 000 range, there are two new ones and two expanding; in the 3 000 to 4 000 range, there are two new ones and four expanding; in the 4 001 to 5 000, one; 5 001 to 6 000, one; 6 001 to 8 000, four; 8 001 to 10 001, an expansion of one; 10 000 to 15 000, an expansion of two and three new ones; and more than 15 000, three new ones.

I would like to impress upon this Committee that the substantive Minister is now on a visit to the United States of America to woo additional investors to Barbados to assist in rebuilding industry in this country.

On the question of rents, I am sure that the Minister and the Ministry are paying this matter some attention. I think that, in the not too distant future, there would be some position on this. I am sure that one would recognize we have the Estimates coming up shortly and all these matters and more will be dealt with during the presentation from the substantive Minister.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SAND/FORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one money Resolution, and a Resolution to amend the explanatory Note to Head 82, to His Honour the Speaker, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREA VES, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ABANDONMENT OF THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT OISTINS, CHRIST CHURCH

Order No. 4 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the publication of the notice of abandonment of the acquisition of land at Oistins, Christ Church.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, this is another example of this Administration finding it necessary to correct what we consider wrongdoing on the part of the pas-t Administration. This is about the fourth or fifth acquisition since this Administration took office that we have had to come to this Honourable House to abandon. 1.45 p.m.

To give you a short background of this case, Mr. Speaker, the property in question comprises 535.2 square metres of land, and a concrete block building with its external walls up to ringbeam level was under construction on this land at the time the Government acquired the land. Apparently the owner of the land had requested permission to carry on a sort of laundry in an old building that was situated just above the Brethren Church, I think, which is in Oistins. He asked for permission, and was granted permission, but what was said was that the applicant had stated that he was going to carry out minor renovations and things like that, and then this is what was stated: "he went ahead and knocked down the old building and built a new one."

Mr. Speaker, there are some revealing things about this acquisition, and I am dealing only with the acquisition. The advice of the senior people in the Ministry of Housing and in Town Planning was that permission should have been granted for the gentleman to carry on his building and to carry out his work. There is a lot of correspondence here on behalf of the owner. I do not intend to read any of it, but what I intend to do is to go to the first file. In this file, Mr. Speaker, the Chief Town Planner stated:

> "In the circumstances consideration could be given for the financial implication to the developer who has already made significant outlay on the project and was apparently in genuine ignorance of the implications of the demolition carried out."

So the Chief Town Planner was saying that the chap was not breaking any law or anything; give him a chance, let him go ahead and do what he was doing.

Another senior person in the Ministry of Housing said the same thing:

> "In the applicant's favour are factors of compatibility with the redeveloped centre at Oistins, the financial implications and hardship which would probably occur by a refusal being granted and the genuine ignorance of the implication of the demolition ˙of the previous building."

So this senior person wanted to give the fellow permission as well.

They then referred it to the Ministry of Finance, and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance said that he endorsed the views expressed above to let the gentleman go ahead and do what he was doing.

The then late Prime Minister, not wanting to seem to be involved, minuted this to the big McGuffy at Oistins, who was the Deputy Prime Minister at the time, and the late Prime Minister said: "Your views, please."

I will tell you where this thing was situated. It was situated directly opposite Southern Plaza on the side of the sea, so you know where I am coming from.

The Deputy Prime Minister at the time, the former honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, now goes down the line, and he says:

> "1,2 and 3 illustrate the slackness that goes on in planning in Barbados. The first application should have been refused, as this land is situated on the seaside of the road and, for the last 20 years at least, the Governments in power have been acquiring land on the seaside to open up the area and extend the busy highway."

That is untrue. I will read from the Town and Country Planning's answer to that afterwards. Part of it is untrue. That is stretching the truth.

> "Indeed there are only nine -or ten houses left on the seaside between "Cashel" in Welches and Oistins town centre. Further, it appears strange that the original application never went to MTW at all when it ought to be obvious that by allowing a commercial use, more traffic would have to enter on the busy highway."

Not true!

> "I also know that the house on the land side directly opposite to this property, when its owner wanted to lease it for a guesthouse, the Town Planning Office demanded that the owner close the front gate and prohibited entry and exit on to the main road. What is the reason for the inconsistent treatment?"

> "It is obvious that either permission has to be given or the Government acquire this property and pay full compensation to the owners."

I will have a few words to say about that full compensation as well.

> "In my opinion this development is inconsistent with the long term planning of the Oistins and Maxwell area. I would also hope that a full enquiry would be held into the handling of this application so as to prevent a recurrence of this type of thing. All the officers who gave their approval should have their suitability examined to remain in Town Planning."

That is that former Member.

The Prime Minister then wrote the Chief Town Planner: "Your comments on the foregoing, please." And the comments of the Chief Town Planner are:

> "The reasons for approving the first application are stated at (1) above."

He is responding now to some of the comments made by the former honourable Member for Christ Chuch East Central.

> "This office is not aware of any general policy for the acquisition of seaside land for road widening or for any other purpose."

There was never any directive or anything.

> "The normal procedure, which is set out in the Town and Country Development Order, is to provide for a road reserve and building line. Where there are infringements by existing structures, these are required by conditions to be cleared. Any additional lands for road improvements are usually defined on a road improvement plan by the Ministry of Transport and Works and negotiated by the appropriate authority. The circumstances under which the Ministry of Transport and Works should be consulted on applications are set out in the Town and Country Development Planning Order. This was not a clearcut case. Even though the first application was not sent, the present one was."

> "The Deputy Prime Minister's proposals for the long term planning of the Oistins and Maxwell area are not known to this department."

If it is his personal view, it would never be known to the Town and Country Development, and he is not a town planner!

> "This office granted permission on the first application after balancing the circumstances presented therein. If it is considered that the compassionate grounds advanced do not justify the grant of permission in the new circumstances, then this application should be refused."

This last sentence is very important.

> "I can see absolutely no reason why the Government should acquire this property."

That is the Chief Town Planner speaking.

I see here where that former Member said that the owner would have to be paid in full, and I see an honourable Member pushing up his mouth. He gets involved in everything once you are attacking the Barbados Labour Party, because he feels that he is to defend everything the Barbados Labour Party does, whether it is wrong or right. He knows who I am speaking about. 1.55 p.m.

This is a letter from that same gentleman:

> "The offer of compensation of $75 000 to my client is totally unacceptable to my client. The offer is less than the purchase price of the $155 000 which my client paid for the tend."

There were offering him $75 000. So when you are a lawyer you operate differently from when you are in the House of Assembly? I see. I am not surprised. The point is that they were offering the gentleman $75 000 for his land when he had paid $155 000.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Let me get to the point. Do you know what the situation is, Mr. Speaker? I did not want to say it, but let me say it. The gentleman who bought this property was renting from the Member who represented Christ Church East Central at that time, and the point was that he should not be moving out of that building and paying rent to go on his own. He did not want the man to go on his own. That was the main reason.

It is not only that. There are certain people who believe that certain parts of Barbados are exclusively theirs. It is a simple matter. There are certain people who believe that if they own Oistins Town or Southern Plaza, nobody is to own any land around there at all. You have to understand where we are coming from here. You have to understand that it is not just a simple matter of refusing permission to some person. It goes deeper than that.

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If it was a simple matter of refusing permission, the departments to refuse permission to any application would be the Town and Country Planning Department or the Ministry of Housing. When the Town and Country Planning Department finds difficulty with an application, the application is sent to the Minister of Housing to make a decision one way or the other. This one was different. It went to the Prime Minister and from the Prime Minister, it went to the Deputy Prime Minister, the representative for the area. That is not what we know about Government in this country.

When you heed Town and Country Planning permis sion, it is done by the Town and Country Planning Department, and if they find 'difficulty, there are rules laid down that the matter is referred to the Minister of Housing for his decision. A

(Aside: The Minister responsible for Town Planning)

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: So the Minister responsible for Town Planning, who should have made the decision, decided to pass the buck to someone who knew the situation.

A sides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Consult?

Mr. SPEAKER: Address the Chair. v"

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Is that consulting?

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) were ordered by Mr. Speaker to be expunged from the record.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, you will remember that I said before that every Tuesday some person over there will be stupid. Today is his turn.

Mr. SPEAKER: I advise the honourable Member to address the Chair and ignore the asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: When an application comes in to Town and Country Planning and Town and "* Country Planning finds it difficult to make a decision, the Minister responsible for Town and Country Planning - it is

now the Minister of Housing, it used to be the Prime

Minister — is asked to make a decision. Are you telling me that if a matter comes in to Town and Country Planning now, and they find it difficult to make a decision and they send it to me, I am to pass the case to another member because of his relationship with the applicant or his clout in the constituency? Is this the way that a Government should be run?

What we do in the Ministry of Housing today when it comes to Town and Country Planning permission is visit the site ourselves. We go and look at the place with the senior people in Housing and in Town and Country Planning, and we decide what should be done if the matter is difficult. We do not ask a representative from the area for his opinion, because any representative from any area must be biassed. He must be, as long as you are a human being!

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Are you denying that as well'' Oh you are denying that!

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Especially when you have an interest in it.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the point is that we believe that to have acquired this gentleman's property was wrong, it was a bad decision and it was not made according to the ground rules laid down for governing or good Government. We believe that it was another acquisition done in high-handed manner by the former Administration and we are now coming here to abandon that acquisition.

Thank you.

Applause.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that Resolution and I reserve my right to speak.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is now five minutes after 2.00 o'clock. The members of the Opposition have been critical of how the honourable Member for St. Philip South introduces Resolutions — with brevity.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you making a speech?

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, Sir. I am moving the suspension of the Honourable House.

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Members have definitely heard now how the Member is capable of introducing these Resolutions.

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to move, Sir, that this sitting be now suspended until 3.05 p.m. today.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES^ I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 3.05 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.05 p.m

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the Chair was dealing with Order No. 4 and I recognized that the honourable Member for Christ Church West had indicated that he wanted to speak.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, it has always been in my practice in this House that wherever I have an interest which must be declared in a matter, I do so, and I now declare my interest, as I have done in relation to acquisitions in the Oistins area. The last time I declared my interest in relation to an acquisition in the Oistins area, it was when land belonging to the estate of my late mother, of which I was the executor, was being acquired. I think the debates for that period.will clearly record that such an interest was declared. As I was the executor, I thought it but right that the House should have been aware of that interest, and I asked the House's permission then not to vote on the Resolution.

In this case, however, my interest is of a different nature. Certainly the owner of this land has been a very close and personal friend of mine for several years. In addition, I have from time to time, other than when I was on the Government benches, been his legal adviser. In this particular case, I am his legal adviser still, and if the Honourable Minister had taken the opportunity to read the files, he would see that his Ministry still owes responses to some of the correspondence that I have written to him. He says that he has read them. If he had taken the opportunity to reply to them, or see that his Ministry replies to them, he will see that obviously there

are still various outstanding matters to be settled in this instance.

Sir, the honourable Member, as he is entitled to do, will obviously use this Resolution for as much political capital as he chooses to make out of it. That is not my function in this debate whatsoever. My function first is to declare an interest, and, within the propriety of what is allowed to me, to express my views, as I have expressed them in the letters that have been sent to the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

My view in relation to the acquisition of the property is that I did not agree that all of the properties between the Southern District Council and the "Cashel" area were in need of acquisition. I believe the honourable Minister will find that well recorded in letters that I wrote. But I was not in the Government, I was not in the Cabinet, the policy-making body. I was making representations in a personal and legal capacity in this matter. I am aware of the view held by the then Government that they ought to acquire all properties in order to have an open window to the sea.

When it came to the question of compensation, I held, and still do hold, very strong views which are contrary to the views in all of the Ministry's submissions that were made on this matter. As I recall it, Mr. Thompson bought the property for about $155 000, and I have his authority to say this in this debate. His mortgage existing was something like $90 000 on the property. He had acquired planning permission to demolish part of the property and to rebuild for the purposes of establishing a laundry. A stop notice was placed on him. Prior to the stop notice when he sought legal advice, I told him that his rights were to continue to build once he had valid planning permission, which he had. But a stop notice was placed, and I advised him that he had to comply with the stop notice. Without prejudice to his rights as to the first approval, he put in a second application, as the files will reveal, which was denied to him. Thereafter, a compulsory acquisition notice came before this House. That is the history of that one, Sir.

As far as I am aware, we are still arguing with the Ministry over the amount of compensation which will be due to him. The only explanation I have ever had from the Ministry is that the amount of compensation offered was based on the site value of the land at the time of the acquisition. While that may have been one consideration, in my view, having regard to the Compulsory Acquisition Act of Barbados, it was not, and still is not, the only consideration because there would have been the disruption costs and the various severance costs arising, none of which was, or up to now has been addressed in the Ministry's correspondence with me. I have never had a response to those particular matters, although in the meantime various reports were being obtained from valuers who disagreed, if the honourable Minister wants to know, with the experts that Government has put 4. forward in this area. So that is the position. My last correspondence with the Ministry predates May 28, 1986, as far as I can recall.

As legal adviser, and I have declared this to Mr. Thompson, I disagreed with the amount of compensation offered. Obviously if Government was not going to abandon this acquisition, we would pursue the Government to the hilt in order to make sure that, within the provisions of the Laws of Barbados, Mr. Thompson was paid adequate compensation for an acquisition, which if I was a policymaker, I would have disagreed with.

The Honourable Minister obviously does not understand that, because in his address to this House he sought to talk about persons who are always jumping up and disagreeing, and showing on their faces various things. The Honourable Minister must understand that there are cer- -*> tain proprieties in debate that are accepted as conventions. If he does not understand them, I will let him know one. One is that if anybody has an interest, whether it be a direct interest or whether it be a legal interest, is in duty bound to declare it in this House. I have said so not only in this debate, but I have said it when it has been for and against the Barbados Labour Party. That is the first point. I do not think that the honourable Member, unless he caught me through an error, would ever find that I have ever misled the House.

So he must not seek to debate the matter on a per sonal level. I believe that on a personal level I have more feeling on this matter than the Honourable Minister has, because of my association with Mr. Thompson and his family for several years on a personal level. That cannot be in doubt.

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I have told the Minister that as a person, I would have had no difficulty in thinking that it was not a necessary acquisition. But I do admit that people can *bona fide* differ on their approach on matters such as this. You can come in here and give an impression, and whether you are talking for the benefit of the House or for the Press, it is a matter for you. But certainly on matters such as this, I would expect the Minister to bring a different approach.

The Minister can be assured that when I have a disagreement on policy with the Minister, he will be told it is a disagreement on the basis of policy, and on some of his policy decisions I have disagreed and will continue to disagree. So he cannot believe that he is coming in here thinking differently. Both in Government and outside of Government some of us can have policy differences. If '"* the differences happen to be strong enough to merit it, you resign from the Cabinet or you tell the Cabinet how far they can push you. The honourable Member has the

example in his own Government of the late Sir Erskine Ward and one of his predecessors in St. Philip, Mr. Wynter Crawford, disagreeing in some instances, and on the floor of the House I have expressed my disagreement with the past Prime Minister, who is now deceased, and with the present Prime Minister, although I never belonged to his party.

So the honourable Member cannot come in here and make light of these matters, thinking he is making something uncomfortable for anybody. My view still remains, and it is my personal view. I was not in the Cabinet. If I had been in the Cabinet, I would have made my representations felt and if that meant enough to me in terms of overall policy, unless the policy was properly put to me, I would have made them felt publicly, too. But my views remain what they were then, that although it is an admirable thing to work towards an open window to the sea as much as possible, we have to accept in Barbados today that you cannot have windows to the sea indiscriminately all along the south or the west coast, no matter whose desire or interest it happens to be. In this case, in my view, there are about 11 houses in this area, and it did seem to me that the compulsory acquisition of each of those houses would cost in excess of $2 million or $3 million. 3.15 p.m.

For the benefit of the honourable Member, my family also owned a house to the immediate south-east of this plot of land. We sold it just ahead of the acquisition. I was also one of the objects of acquisition in the Oistins area. Part of our land was taken a little further up for the purposes of establishing the fishing village. That is not the only area. I have had to declare an interest in this Committee where part of my land was taken by the Government, of which I was then a member, and acquired for the purpose of the Speightstown By-pass Road to the benefit of my colleague, the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur).

(Aside: Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: An extensive land owner!).

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member for St. Michael South says I am an extensive land owner, Sir. Like him, I only belong to the small land owning class, not the big land owning class. When I say "my land," I should characterise it as land owned by my late adopted mother. That piece of land has been in the family since 1848, and on that land I had strong disagreement with the Government on the amount of compensation paid, to the extent that I retained the services of Hutchinson and Banfield to work on the matter. So the honourable Member must realise that there can be genuine disagreements in instances such as this and that the disagreements are based on matters of principle.

(Aside: Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: You have not touched anything I have said).

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member obviously did not listen, Sir. He said *sotto voce* I have not touched anything that he said, so let me respond to him.

I said to the honourable Member when I began that my view was that the acquisition was unnecessary. The honourable Member knows that. So what is he saying? Why does the honourable Member not listen? I said this was my view. He has not heard it? I will repeat it for him. What the honourable Member cannot get in his head is that you can disagree on principle, without having to be obnoxious about it or presuming that somebody is acting in bad faith. That is what he does not get in his head.

I also said that I disagreed very strongly on the Ministry's offer of compensation, and I told the House already that the offer, so far as I was legal adviser - and I was not only being legal adviser to Mr. Thompson, I was being also his friend — I considered the offer did not advert to the other matters concerned, and my advice, which the honourable Member, I believe, now accepts as perhaps the right advice, was that he would have been entitled to more considerable compensation for this matter.

What I expect the Minister to do now is not only abandon this, but the Minister will have to pay the gentleman all of the disruption costs. The Minister has these problems. The honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin), as a professional in this field, and I have no problems. We are on different sides of the political fence, but we have never found any difficulty on matters of , this nature. I have used him extensively in giving valuation advice both within Barbados and in St. Lucia. The Honourable Minister has to really understand these matters, that you can approach a matter professionally without coming with the narrow political angle on which the Honourable Minister tried to bring me into the debate. If I had not been brought into the debate by the Honourable Minister, I can assure him that I would have got up and have declared an interest, as I did earlier, and as the honourable Member for St. Thomas did earlier in a matter.

My views on this matter remain as expressed in my letters, part of which the Minister has read, and they remain not only as a legal adviser, but as my views as a friend and as a citizen, and Mr. Thompson is fully aware.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, when I look back to the debate of Tuesday, July 16, 1985 when the Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of this piece of land at Oistins, Christ Church was

introduced, I note, first of all, that the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) was not in the House on that day, when he would have been able to say that he differed with the past Prime Minister, now deceased, as well as the last Prime Minister, still alive, because the speech that he made today is clearly in difference with the late Prime Minister or the last Prime Minister. The honourable Members for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) and St. Peter (Mr. 0. S. Arthur) cannot claim the excuse that they were not in the House on that day, because they were there when this matter was raised.

What surprises me is that after the lengthy introduction from the Honourable Minister of Housing, who set very clearly the parameters of the debate, was to look at what transpired on that day, when the then Honourable L. B. Brathwaite introduced the Resolution in two paragraphs. What he said basically was that allowing a laundry to be established in Oistins would not have been good for environmental purposes. What I would want us to do is to put that against what we heard today from the Honourable Minister of Housing. One cannot help but feel that there was a certain degree of duplicity, a certain degree of unwillingness, to bring the facts to the House of Assembly so that Members of this House could be guided by the true situation.

But what makes it even worse is that this record states that the Honourable H. B. St. John was sitting in the House when this Resolution came up for discussion. It was introduced in the two paragraphs by L. B. Brathwaite and seconded by L. L. Sisnett. Nobody else spoke on this Resolution. With the kind of information that Mr. St. John would have had on this business, I am surprised that he did not enjoin himself in this debate. I think he owed it to Mr. Thompson, since he was his representative at the time — he was the person who represented the constituency in which the acquisition was being made — and he owed it to the people to make a very clear statement on what was going on. I think to that extent he did not perform in the way I would expect a politician who wants to inform policy by the best principles to behave. I believe that in something as important as acquiring land from an individual, it is very important that full discussions are held.

The honourable Member for Christ Church West just spoke about land that was in his family from 1848, and we know the kind of emotional attachment that Barbadians have to land. There is not that much land in Barbados, so when you have it, you have to be tied to it. There are few who can have an attachment that goes back to 1848 in this country, but whether you acquired your land in 1848, 1948 or 1986, that land is very precious to you, and, therefore, anybody who seeks to acquire it should have nothing but the best reasons to do so. The best reasons in this case in Oistins would have to be reasons attaching to the public well-being. The debate has not shown to us that there is anything that would have been against the interest of the public if Mr. Thompson were allowed, at that time, to retain control of his land and to use the land for the purposes for which he intended. 3.25 p.m.

I pass through Oistins almost daily now and I enjoy the window to the sea. There is a massive window to the sea. As a matter of fact, there are doors now to the sea in that area, beautiful sites overlooking Welches, Cashel and those places. But I do not think that the one building, and I agree with the honourable Member for Christ Church West, or a number of buildings, would have, in any way, prevented the public from enjoying that window to the sea.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes one has to look at things in an historical perspective. I am sure that those of us who remember the reformed Parliament of 1832 know its importance in terms of British history, when you got rid of a whole lot of rotten boroughs- and pocket boroughs. The old landowning class had to be moved in order that new persons, with new perceptions, would come in and control the destinies of Britain. Britain started to move forward and to benefit from the results of the Industrial Revolution, but you had, first of all, to cleanse the Augean stables. You had to get rid of certain people with certain perceptions.

I would not want to draw a parallel to what happened on May 28, 1986 in Barbados. There might well be that parallel, but there are clear parallels in my thinking, because, unfortunately, I think the Honourable Minister of Housing referred to the fact that some persons believe that because they have substantial landowning interests in parti cular areas, they have acceded to some barony. So the per son who might consider himself to be the baron of Malvern and the baron of Enterprise .....

(Aside: Earl.)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: An earldom. We can go even higher, but he could have said duchy, or he could have said principality. He could have gone up there, but he chose earldom. That is all right.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I said barony, which would encompass the knighthood, but he wants to go up to the earl, because it is really in keeping with how the particular person might be thinking, the person who felt that they had an earldom and expanded from Enterprise into Scarborough, down Ashby Land, into Welches and right away down.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am just using him as a type of person. You may belong to that type, too. I am putting my remarks to the honourable Member for Christ Church West, the landowning class.

Mr. SPEAKER: But, then, you could not call him "you".

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Sir, my apologies. The Member for Christ Church West may well belong to that class, by his own admissions in this speech.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member can be well assured that I have no ambition to earldom or knighthood, Sir, neither the Earl of Lemon Grove nor any such thing. Like the honourable Member, I happen to have very decided views on these matters.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am sure the honourable Member is aware that you can have the substance of an earldom without having the title, the substance which he enjoys, I understand he has added to that by his residence, I believe ownership, too, in St. John. He is spreading far and wide - Christ Church, St. Peter, St. John, wherever.

But there is a particular class of landowners which have a particular perception of how small people should be treated, because it seems to me that a person who had substantial ownership of Southern Plaza could not have taken a position of principle against a small person who wanted to start a laundry in Oistins. We have two laundries in Oistins. There is, as far as I know, the Oistins Laundermat, and the Pink Pelican, which is quite near to the one where, I believe, Mr. Thompson would have put up his business. I do not believe that there was any just cause why Mr. Thompson could not have been allowed to retain his land and to develop it for the purposes which he intended. I think this has been clearly brought out by the Minister's speech and the information that came from the Town and Country Planning Department.

I think it is a sad thing in a way that we have to be undoing that particular bit of wrong-doing, and I applaud the Member for Christ Church West for saying that he stood against it. I am very sorry, however, that he did not have the chance in the House of Assembly to say so, that he could not have been in here on that particular day. We know, of course, that there are all sorts of reasons why you cannot be in the House at a particular time, but it would have been useful if you were here in order to make your point on that particular issue.

1 think that this is another indication of the attitude of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of justice for veryone, and I hope that it is put within that context.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: If you agree that injustice was done and we are righting that, are you saying now that I should behave myself when I say that it is a matter of justice? It is pretty inconsistent to me. All I am saying is that we are righting a wrong, and you agreed with me that wrong was done. The business side between you and the Minister in terms of ironing out the money so that you can get your fees, can be done, whether here in the House or not.

The principle is that the land will not go back to Mr. Thompson. The business end is that the attorney representing Mr. Thompson and Government will talk compensation, but what we are concerned with primarily here is justice, that the land should not have been taken away and that the land will be returned.

I, therefore, have no difficulty whatsoever in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE (St. Michael North East): Mr. Speaker, once again we have seen the reason why small people must have a very uncomfortable feeling when they look at some of the dealings of some of the people in the political arena. The part of the political arena to which I refer is very well identified by the number of abandonments which the present Minister of Housing, with justification and good cause, has to come from time to time to debate in this Chamber. It seems to me that sometimes personal interest, against a person or for a person, takes prominence when these decisions are taken.

The file as read by the Honourable Minister does indicate to me that there was no need for the people of Barbados and certainly not for the Government of Barbados to acquire this area of land, although it may have produced what I would consider an unimpeded view of a development on the opposite side of the road presently at phase 1, and, as I understand it, the development of phase 2. I believe that there is some justification for the call for compensation for the loss of use, or lack of use, of this particular bit of land. This concerns me, because as has been made out by both sides of the House, it did not seem necessary to have this acquisition gone into, and if we have to consider compensation for an action that was unnecessary, we are putting an unnecessary financial strain and burden on the taxpayers of this country I hope that in the Honourable Minister's perusal of past acquisitions of land he does not find many more that will fall into this category. 3.35 p.m.

Whenever it comes to considering the need of a portion of land or a property for the improvement of the people of the country, there will always be some uncomfortable feeling that it is not necessary for the acquisition to be made, and as has been happening for a very long period now, many of the people from whom these acquisitions were made have yet to be duly compensated for the portions of land and properties that have been taken from them. I agree with the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central that there is a very long

and a very lasting relationship between people who have acquired properties and brought them to the stage where they become a part of them. If you ask them to give up their properties for any reason, and the reasons are not justifiable ones, it is almost unforgiveable.

While I am on this matter, Sir, I want to make reference to a number of problems which have come to my notice in the Ministry of Housing and Lands, especially as they relate to the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are dealing with an abandonment at Oistins.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: That is true, Sir, and I will leave that for another occasion.

I would like, Sir, the Minister to speed up the compensation for those persons who, in many instances, over a period of five years have not yet been compensated for acquisitions that were made by the Barbados Labour Party Government. I would like the Minister to ensure that when advice is given relating to intended acquisitions, the same situation does not occur where people for selfish reasons may be asking the Ministry or the Government to acquire lands, so that we have this kind of situation coming back. Finally, if there are any acquisitions which have been made which could put the taxpayers of this country in the uneasy situation of having to find money to pay people compensation for the inequitable acquisition of these lands, I would ask the Minister to speed them up so that such compensation would be greatly reduced.

I thank you, Sir.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS (St. Michael South East): Mr. Speaker, we have been coming to this Honourable Chamber almost weekly to give back lands to people that we consider to have been wrongly taken away. But in abandoning these acquisitions, we are only telling part of the story. One can therefore understand why Barbados, which used to hold the prestigious position as one of the freest countries in the world, lost that position to regain it only after May 28. It was because of the actions taken by the last Government.

I want to deal with a couple of such acquisitions. One happens to be in that same area of Oistins where the Redman family, — and it has to do with this same problem — two elderly people, had a property that was compulsorily acquired. Mrs. Redman happens to be an elderly lady who was hospitalised. The house was rented, and part of that rent went to pay her hospitalisation. The Barbados Labour Party Government compulsorily acquired that property, installed an airconditioning unit in it and made it their site office for over two years. After they used the office for two years, they bulldozed the house. In order to get proper compensation for their home, the old folk had to seek the services of a lawyer, I think a Member of this Chamber who, therefore, would not want to say anything about it. Here are two elderly people whose property was compulsorily acquired, whose children had to pick up the expenses, and while the Government was using that house as a headquarters for their work, no compensation was paid to the family!

Likewise, in the north of the island we have a situation where from a Mr. Whitehead in Speightstown 13^{1}/! acres were compulsory acquired.

Mr. SPEAKER: We cannot get from Oistins to Speightstown.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am talking about compulsory acquisition. -

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Christ Church West had land from 1884 in Speightstown.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation: The honourable Member never gets it right. To correct the record, I said that the family of my deceased mother, by whom I was adopted, has owned property in Bovell Lane, to be exact, since 1848.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Golden Mile is coming up, so I will get to Speightstown.

The problem is that the Government of the day compulsorily acquired land which we have to give back to people. There are some properties which we cannot give back to people because their houses have been demolished. Some of these people have not yet been compensated, at great expense to their families, and I contend that it has been a deliberate policy of the Government to carry on these kinds of activities without any care and respect for people.

I want to support this Resolution, and I can assure you that whenever in this Chamber the Honourable Minister of Housing brings such abandonment of acquisitions, I will support it. 3.45 p.m.

My time will come to talk about St. Peter when we get to Golden Mile.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would first like the honourable Member for Christ Church West

to understand that I do not wish to know his friends nor do I wish to know his clients. That is of no concern to me. I make decisions according to what appears before me in the files.

I took office on June 4, and a letter came to me on July 2. I read this letter twice, and this letter hurt me so much. I operate differently from other people, I do not only operate because people are friends of mine. After reading this letter twice, I wrote at the bottom of the letter:

"P.S., this is very serious. Do you know of this matter? Will like to have the file soonest." I sent for the file immediately!

Let me tell you some things that I saw in this letter.

The first thing is that the past Minister of Housing gave as his reason in the Honourable House of Assembly that permission was not granted to the gentleman to carry on his business because he believed that waste water from the laundry containing detergents might interfere with marine life.

The letter I received said:

> "Technical experts from the Ministry of Health and the Environment visited the site and carried out tests to ascertain what damage, if any at all, would be done to marine life if a laundry was put there. They found that the surrounding soil would absorb the waste water so that marine life cannot be affected at all."

When the Honourable Minister was making that statement, he knew about this, because it was after this test was carried out that the Ministry of Health gave the gentleman permission to do what he intended to do.

I operate on what comes to me. I do not operate because of friends or family. Those things do not matter me.

The same letter stated:

"I understand, Sir," The gentleman was calling me, "Sir":

> "that the matter was discussed at Cabinet level some three times and it was because of one particular Minister who was adamant that I was not to be permitted to site a laundry at that spot."

I am dealing with a file. I do not care how many times the honourable Member for Christ Church West gets up in here. He is not going to deter me from what I have to do. It is a simple matter.

This was going on for about two years — two years - to and fro when the Minister responsible for Town and Country Planning found it difficult to make a decision and he, they said, asked for suggestions from the former Deputy Prime Minister. Two years this thing was going on! At that time that it was going to and fro, five months passed without a single correspondence between the Ministry or the gentleman concerned.

This letter went ahead and said:

"I have to pay my mortgage repayments of. ....." such and such a thing:

> "".....per calendar month every month. I am still paying the annual land taxes."

For two years, the Government put a hold on this gentleman who had to continue to pay a lot of mortgage repayments and a lot of annual land taxes. And you then get some person in here saying that the gentleman is his friend and therefore his views are this and his views are the next. Why could he not have made his views known to the members of the past Cabinet? He was not a Cabinet member, but he was a member of the Government.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member should listen.

(Aside: Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I do not ever listen.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member is so enamoured of shouting that he obviously does not listen. He says he does not ever listen to me, therefore it is difficult to talk to him.

I got up and declared an interest by saying that Mr. Thompson is my friend and I was his legal adviser, and therefore that is an interest. If he does not understand, he should understand now.

The second point that I have said quite clearly in this debate is that I expressed my views very clearly, in writing and otherwise, to persons about how I felt on the matter.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central has referred to the Debate in July. I was not present in the House because I was outside of the island at the time.

(Aside: Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: If you were, you would not have said anything).

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: My views were expressed. He must not presume bad faith. The honourable Member must not believe that he is a latter day Don Quixote who is coming riding with some new armour. He must understand other people have decency, too.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, do you want to know why I do not listen to the honourable Member for Christ Church West?

Certain remarks made at this stage by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the Record.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: The point is that when the Town and Country Planning Department makes a decision, whether it be for Kentruth Taxi Services or not, and tell them they cannot put anything any place, no person has any right going and prevailing on other Cabinet Ministers and on Town and Country Planning telling them that they have to allow the people to remain there. I do not listen to certain people, and I will never listen to them. Then Town and Country Planning went further to enforce the Order that they should be moved. People then decided that they are going to manoeuvre in and out to get the people to go in another building next to the same building, on a sort of compromise. That came to me recently. Town and Country Planning were adamant that they should move. There were people complaining in Barbados that the construction that was done was unsightly. I noted on the file that it has to be knocked down. I make decisions according to what I see in the file, not because of any friends or anything.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Do you want more? The truth will always come out.

The letter went on, Mr. Speaker. This is the gentleman writing to me. He said:

> "If you would read the file, Mr. Minister, and investigate the matter and inform me as to whether your Administration intends to acquire the pro perty at a fair price or alternatively whether I can have permission to carry out my plans....."

The gentleman was only appealing to me: make a decision — it is two years I am paying taxes, two years I am paying mortgage, and I cannot do anything. Make a decision — either you are going to give me back the property or you are going to pay me. That is the decision that this Administration has taken, and it does not fall good from people's lips to try to minimize, what this Administration is doing.

The honourable Member for Christ Church West in one of his correspondence told the Government, "the use of state power should never be oppressive." He told them! He admitted that the Government was using state power to be oppressive. We are changing all of that. 3.55 p.m.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GOLDEN MILE RESORTS LTD. SITUATED AT SPEIGHTSTOWN, ST. PETER

Order No. 3 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Golden Mile Resorts Ltd. situate at Speightstown, St. Peter to facilitate a Housing Sites and Services Programme.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 1986 the Cabinet of this Administration agreed that an earlier decision to acquire lands at Speightstown, St. Peter, for housing development should be proceeded with. The areas are as follows; 5.524 hectares being acquired from Golden Mile Resorts Limited, 3 896 square metres being acquired from Golden Mile Resorts Limited, 13 364 square metres being acquired from Golden Mile Resorts Limited, 8 773 square metres being acquired from Golden Mile Resorts Limited, 256.7 square metres being acquired from the estate of Bellamy, deceased, and 10.3 square metres being acquired from a S. Yearwood.

The land is recommended for residential use in the Speightstown Development Plan. Services such as public transport, schools, shopping, postal services, police, hospital and other health services are established very close and nearby.

The Barbados Water Authority has advised that the land may be serviced with water from existing mains in the area and that there will be no restrictions to the development of the land for housing, as the area is located in Zone 5 of the water protection zone.

There is a growing demand for house spots in the Speightstown area of St. Peter, and in view of the fact that the situation was exacerbated by the October 1984 floods, it is considered that it would be prudent for the Government to acquire these lands. The acquisition of the lands will not only afford Government the opportunity of providing a greater number of house spots, but it would allow for a more comprehensive and practical development of the area, taking into account the tenantry in existence in the nearby Church Street Gardens. Part of this land could also be used to facilitate the resiting of houses in Speightstown which have been affected, or are likely to be dislocated, as a consequence of the implementation of major Government projects in that area.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that two of the lots that I just mentioned, the 13 354 square metres and the 8 773 square metres, are in a tenantry. These lands had been leased to the National Housing Corporation from Golden Mile Limited since 1962 for the nominal sum of $1.00 per annum for a period of 25 years. The lease expires this year, and it is considered that steps should be taken to acquire the lands and an arrangement made for the sale of the individual lots to the present legal tenants. The National Housing Corporation has given an assurance that the compulsory acquisition of these lands would not adversely affect the terms and conditions of the existing lease agreement, bearing in mind that the rental rate is a nominal $1.00 per annum.

All the infrastructural development of the land at Golden Mile for the sites and services project has already been completed. The Resolution now seeks Parliamentary approval of the acquisition of the six parcels of land, as mentioned before, so that the compulsory acquisition proceedings in respect of these lands may be finalized and the owners compensated.

I move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. 0. FRANKLIN: I second it, Mr. Speaker, and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution, since, of course, this is an initiative that was started by the Barbados Labour Party and it concerns a piece of land on which activity by the Government has, in fact, even taken place in advance of the matter coming to the House for us to formalize all arrangements pertaining to the acquisition itself.

There is a history to this matter. It has to do, broadly speaking, with the plans of Government for the rational development of Speightstown. It also has to do with the need to resite those persons who were affected by the flood. Indeed, the urgency with which this matter has been pursued is an urgency which derived from the commitment given that persons affected by the flood of 1984 would have been resited at Speightstown, at Golden Mile. For that reason, I trust that there will be no contention on the matter that activities have been proceeded on the site in advance of all matters pertaining to the payment of the land being regularized. I make that point because I want to underscore the fact that we regarded that problem arising from the flooding as sufficiently urgent as to get work flowing at Golden Mile at the earliest opportunity.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: No, you better not talk about that.

The fact of the matter where Golden Mile is concerned is that the project has been brought to the stage where all the planning work has been done. Indeed, one of the reasons why the project was not completed before the middle of last year is that, as the Minister knows, it had to go to Town Planning twice. The initial plan raised certain problems for the Water Authority and an entirely new plan had to be prepared for the Golden Mile Development. One had to go through that process because, despite the urgency attaching to the particular matter from a policy point of view, we encountered problems at the technical level. I will not be uncharitable and say that no work has taken place on the project since May 28. I am advised that the holdup is not in relation to policy, but the National Housing Corporation has asked the Light and Power to undertake a survey for electrification purposes. That is my information on that.

I am not opposing the acquisition, but I would want, Sir, to go into the uses for which this land will be put, particularly in view of a comment that ascribed to the Minister, which he has not denied, that the lands at Golden Mile will be used for a housing development in accordance with the West Terrace development. The Minister read from a Cabinet Paper to the effect that Golden Mile was inspired, as a project by the need to relieve the tremendous congestion which presents itself in the general Speightstown area, and I am here referring to Central Speightstown, the alleys off Queen Street. We all campaigned in Speightstown and we know that there is a lot of congestion in Bovell Lane, Porters Lane, Archers Lane, Mango Lane, Burma Road, Farm Road, and I am also including Round-The-Town and even Road View as part of the general Speightstown area.

We had conceived Golden Mile as a place where we would resite the flood victims as well as a place where we would provide house spots to persons in that general Speightstown area, to relieve the tremendous congestion which now resides in that district. The congestion is of a character as to itself lend to flooding when there are heavy rains in the district, and I shudder to think of what might happen in that district if there was a fire, particularly in the Queen Street area. I say all that to say that if the Minister of Housing and Lands wants to proceed with a West Terrace-type housing development, it would seem to me that the Ministry is pre-empting the use of the land for distribution by way of housing spots to the persons living in those particular districts, who now live in a situation of congestion, and we might well end up with a situation where we bypass the problems of the people who live in the general Speightstown area in preference to a West Terrace development type project. 4.05 p.m.

If it is, as announced in the Press, Government's intention to proceed with a West Terrace-type develop-

ment at Golden Mile, I really want to urge upon the Minister of Housing that, having regard to the problems which he has referred to, by reference to the Cabinet Paper, that there is tremendous demand for house spots in that area, he should review that decision. There would be no advantage, as far as I can see, for us to go to Golden Mile, ignore the problems of the people who live in the general area, and put in a development that does not address the needs of the people who live in congestion.

Therefore, Sir, while supporting this Resolution to acquire the land, I want formally, on behalf of the people in that district, to urge the Minister to review what he has, in fact, given as a commitment, to depart from the initial policy of having those house spots, because you have 90 house spots left for distribution after the flood victims are accommodated. The Democratic Labour Party made a lot of the notion that nothing had been done for the people of Speightstown for 40 years. Now that we are attempting to do something serious for the people of Speightstown, it would look rather sad that the Minister of Housing would want to come and reverse that decision.

I must stress the point in the light of an earlier decision of the Minister to abandon the housing development at Six Men's. As I understood him, there would be a further claim ....

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you are not reflecting, on a vote.

Mr. 0. S. ARTHUR: I am not reflecting, Sir, I am just tying two related things together.

The Minister had previously given the House the benefit of a decision on the part of his Ministry to resite persons now affected by the sea at Six Men's at Golden Mile. It would seem to me that if you abandon the land at Six Men's and carry the people of Six Men's to the Golden Mile Development, you are entirely pre-empting the possibility in the immediate future for the needs of the people in the central Speightstown district to be addressed. This is the point of issue that I really want to stand on this afternoon. I am all in favour of the lands at Golden Mile being used in the way in which the lands were originally conceived to be used, as a sites and services development, to cater predominantly to the people in the general Speightstown area, and I could not this evening, therefore, ignore the previous statement by the Minister of Housing and Lands that it will be used for a West Terrace type of development.

I know that there were certain views within the Ministry of Housing which held that you should not have low income housing too close to Heywoods. But we are as we are as a country, Sir, a stable country, precisely because we have not yet started to adopt nor conform to principles of segregation where housing is concerned. I do not believe that a sites and services development at Golden Mile would in any way depreciate the value of the property that we have established at Heywoods. The fact of the matter is that Golden Mile will be abutting and bounding a low income housing development that people must drive to in order to get to Heywoods — they see it all the while. It will not extend far beyond the existing boundaries which confine low income housing, and the manner in which the project has been planned by the past Ministry of Housing was such as to pay tremendous attention to the aesthetics of the development. The Minister would note that hedges were to go in and it was to be a development that conformed to the best principles of aesthetics and town planning.

The town planning aspect, of course, is that we want really to have Speightstown expand at the north and the south. We already see what the Speightstown bus stand is doing to bring business up Church Street. We need to have urban renewal in Speightstown to redress the problems of the inner city, and it was our thought that in the same way that the bus stand and Golden Mile would improve Speightstown to the north, the fishing complex and the attendant and ancillary development that would surround it would improve Speightstown to the south, taking all of the pressure from the inner city. I am sure that the Member for the City (Mr. P. J. M. Miller) understands the type of problems I am talking about when one speaks about representing a constituency which has inner city blues.

I, therefore, Sir, am not in a mood this evening to argue against this acquisition. But I really want to urge the Minister that all things considered, particularly the interest and needs of the residents of the central Speightstown area, despite this Government's love for reviewing projects and despite what I glean to be an attitude which says that everything that was thought of before was wrong, if he could find it in his heart of hearts to depart from his commitment to put a West Terrace development at Golden Mile and let the people of the general Speightstown area have access to the house spots as planned, he would be doing something which would advance the lot of the people in that part of my constituency.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN; Mr. Speaker, I can understand the concern of the representative for St. Peter. He is of the view, no doubt — although certain persons will say that I am reading him wrong — that a West Terrace-type project may bring in people from St. Michael, St. James, St. Philip and the City, and therefore his hold on the constituency may be a bit weakened.

I share his view, but I would like to say that the idea about a West Terrace-type project was a suggestion put out by us. The matter has not been discussed by Cabinet. When we looked at the area, we thought that it would be nice to have a buffer between Heywoods and the houses at the back, and therefore we would put a different type of housing project to the front.

He has just said that he does not believe that the siting of persons there, the Speightstown houses and that sort of thing, would detract from the value of the property on the other side. He is of that view, we might be of a different view, but I am just going to assure the representative that the suggestion of a West Terrace project was a suggestion made when we were on site. It has not gone to Cabinet or anything like that, and we will give what you said a little thought.

I agree that there are quite a few houses in Speightstown that need resiting, but what we have to look at is if the representative believes that there are that many houses in Speightstown that need resiting. The point I am getting at is that if you have 112 lots and you use 16 for the seaside people at Six Men's, you are left with 96. Although I can see the need for resiting some of the houses in Speightstown, I do not believe that there are that many houses that need resiting at the moment, but it will be looked at. 4.15 p.m.

The honourable Member did not come up with anything controversial, so there is no need for me to go down the line.

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 Question Time be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Time. The reply to Parliamentary Question No. 50.

The honourable Member for St. George South.

QUESTION re REGULATION OF AMOUNT OF LAND WHICH COULD BE ACQUIRED BY ALIENS

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 50.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Parliamentary Question No. 50, asked by the representative for St. George South, is as follows:

> "It is not the intention of Government to introduce such legislation at this time but the matter will be kept under constant review."

Mr. SPEAKER: Any supplementaries? Mr. R.

P. BYER: No supplementaries, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Private Members' Business.

RESOLUTION URGING THE ERECTION OF A STATUE IN MEMORY OF LATE DR. CHARLES DUNCAN O'NEAL

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 2.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 is in the name of the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris). On that occasion, the honourable Member was the only person to have spoken.

The honourable Member for the City had seconded the Resolution and reserved his right to speak.

The honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, both as Leader of the Opposition and in my own personal capacity, I second, for a second time, this Resolution.

A Resolution, in not identical but in similar terms, was moved in this House on November 27, I think it was, 1979 by the then honourable Member for the constituency of Christ Church East, Dr. Richard Cheltenham. At that time, it received the full support of the House. My only regret is that the House did not see fit to have the necessary machinery in place to have implemented the Resolution. I trust that when this House passes this particular Resolution, there will be sufficient machinery in place to give substance to the House's wishes.

The late Dr. O'Neal made an outstanding contribution to the development of Barbados, and other territories in the Caribbean, in particular, to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and, of course, Dominica.

He was born at a very difficult time in this island for people of colour. He was fortunate in that he was able to proceed to the University, I believe, of Edinburgh, where he read Medicine. But he was not one of those persons who concentrated only on his own upliftment and aggrandisement, for even when he was at the university, he found time to participate in the active politics of the country in which he resided, and, from an early time, he showed an interest in the principles of democratic socialism.

He returned to the Caribbean, I believe, it was some time in 1910, and he proceeded to pursue his practice, and implement some of the ideas which he had. In some respects, the Barbados in those days was not yet ready for a Duncan O'Neal. It took another 20 or more years before one could see some of the ideas which were

obviously his, and which he had learned very well, being implemented.

In Barbados, he threw his lot into the working class movement and befriended the poor. This House would recall that in those days it was not popular or fashionable for professionals, whether they were of the upper class, whether they were people who had come from the working class and had moved through the ranks by means of education, whether they were white or whether they were men of colour, or black, to side with the working class movement. Indeed, one of the contributions which Dr. O'Neal has made to the history of this island is to show that people of learning and people who have had the privilege, as he had, of higher education, have a duty to side with the less fortunate in this community to promote social cohesion and development, and for the upliftment of the poorer classes in general. This, Dr. O'Neal did with great courage and fortitude.

But he did it not only in Barbados. He left and went to Trinidad, where his contribution in the medical field is outstanding, and where he also joined again there in the working class movement before returning to Barbados and carrying on the battle of fighting for the working class people. He was definitely among those who pioneered the development of the political party system and political organisation as we know it today in Barbados, and, along with others such as Chrissy Brathwaite, he fought very hard indeed to establish the Democratic League and the election to Parliament of men who had ideas such as his.

I said that this matter has been debated previously in Parliament. I endorse the words spoken then by the honourable Members who spoke in that debate. I believe that the Hansard for the period would reflect that the Resolution met with the support of both sides of the House. It is well known that Dr. O'Neal was a distinguished relative of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, and that this family has made an outstanding contribution to the development of Barbados. On that occasion, the Right Honourable Prime Minister very modestly, I think, acknowledged the contribution which had been made by his distinguished relative, and indeed was very grateful to the House for giving consideration to establishing a permanent memento to his contribution. 4.25 p.m.

While I am aware that we already have the Duncan O'Neal Bridge named after the late Charles Duncan O'Neal, and also that the medical fraternity has in his honour established a series of lectures, I believe that it is fitting that this House should show in a more tangible way, on behalf of the public of Barbados, its appreciation of what he has done in the historical development of the political movement, parliamentary democracy and the working class movement in Barbados. That is why, as the Government, which was then the Opposition, did on the occasion, it gives us great pleasure as an Opposition to sanction this Resolution. I think that it is a timely Resolution in many respects, and I hope that sufficient machinery will be in place to see that the Resolution is implemented.

On a wider sphere, I hope that we have come to the stage of recognising in Barbados the necessity of paying due regard to our national heroes. Although, in many respects, we are an old country, some of these concepts are new to us. The honouring of outstanding persons was a privilege reserved almost exclusively for our colonial masters, who governed us up until 1966, and therefore, in the past one looked forward to the imperial honour and little consideration was given to the need to recognise our own heroes.

I believe that that time has fully come and that the country must have a gallery for its national heroes, and I speak not only of the gallery here in Parliament. When I look around this Chamber, in the Senate Hall where we. are meeting with leave of the Upper House, I see too few effigies or likenesses of persons, local persons rather than our overseas masters, who have made a contribution to the development of this island. We must, therefore, as a Parliament, put in place sufficient adequate machinery to recognise those who have made a contribution to parliamentary institutions, and we must also, as a Parliament responsible for public affairs, put in place machinery which will recognise persons who have contributed to the overall national development of our island.

In Jamaica, I believe there is a national heroes park. Other countries have set aside galleries for this purpose. I have no doubt that we should give consideration, whether in this Resolution or in an amendment to it, or another Resolution, to both Houses of Parliament considering the establishment of some similar mechanism'** so that in the future we would not have to bring specific Resolutions on each occasion that we wish to honour a national hero.

I would like to make one plea — I do not have to make it to honourable Members of this House - to the public. The two-party system has become part of the institutional development of Barbados. One has to recognise that at one time or another, one or other of the parties will form the Government and the other will form the Opposition. In the heat of parliamentary debate and in our anxiety to establish our own point of view, particularly at campaigning, we tend to be extremely severe on each other as politicians, and very often we wait until that person is dead to pass all of the encomiums that should have been given to the person in his lifetime. In the process, we tend to sometimes give the public the-" impression that there is no good in the other. Whilst I admit that the two-party system leads to a disagreement, I believe that we all should be big enough to, in the

national interest, recognise the contribution which others of us make to public life, and be bold enough to say so. I regret that some people will set about to disagree with the contribution which people like the late Charles Duncan O'Neal has made to the development of Barbados.

I have followed, in the limited history that is written of our great men, the role which this illustrious son has played, and I am satisfied that he was one of the great architects of the democratic socialist movement. Were it not for people like him, Barbados today would not have reached the stage that we have done in, let us face it, 50 years. In 50 years because of the work of people like himself, Chrissy Brathwaite and Grantley Adams and the whole lot, we have transformed this Chamber. There was a time when those of us around here would not have had a chance to look into this Chamber. Let us recall that it was only in 1932 that Dr. Duncan O'Neal himself was able to gain a seat, and even then he was fighting against tremendous odds. Those were the days of the rotten boroughs, of which the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) spoke so movingly a while ago. Those were the days in which patronage was dispensed by the plantocracy and the ruling class to you if you belonged to them, and if you did not belong to them, only if you were sycophantic. People must remember and recall that, and we have to make the point repeatedly — it took courage for a man of Dr. O'Neal's standing and colour to sacrifice everything he had to fight for the principles to which he was dedicated.

This Resolution, therefore, in my view, in a way has come very late. I regret very much, although I was in the House and one of the people to pass the Resolution in 1979, that it was not followed up. In fact, I was a bit surprised when I first saw the honourable Member's Resolution, and we started to research the matter, to find that nothing was done about it. It is a matter for deep regret, certainly on our part, that the precursor to this Resolution has not been adequately implemented. I recpgnise the contribution which the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central made to the first Resolution in terms of research. I believe that every Member in the House in those days recognised his hand, although his voice was absent at the time. I know that it is an area of history which the honourable Member has researched very carefully. 4.35 p.m.

Sir, I am told by my colleagues of the last Cabinet that prior to the election and the dissolution of the last Parliament, steps were afoot to order and commission a suitable effigy of Sir Grantley Adams. I believe that that effigy should be followed up as well.

I also believe that in addition to recognizing the politicians, there are others who have made outstanding contribution to the development of the working class movement. Some of them are not as well known, not as renowned as either Dr. O'Neal or indeed other Prime Ministers, but I believe they too, deserve their proper niche in history. I hope that at the end of this debate, the Leader of the House would be in a position to give honourable Members an undertaking that the Government is looking at the wider question which I have raised in this very brief contribution.

If I have been brief in the contribution, it is not because of any lack of ardour. It is because I think the honourable Member in introducing the measure has done so adequately, and also because I would like to read into the records of the House, the Hansard for November 27, 1979, under "Private Members' Business" and adopt the words spoken in support of the Resolution and as a tribute to Dr. O'Neal:

> "I believe that Barbados' political life and Barbados' social life would have been the poorer without the contribution which he made at that time."

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Speaker, my contribution will be in fact brief, for the simple reason that the Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) gave a very good and clear historical background to Dr. Duncan O'Neal and I must say that the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) has added to that and has made some very kind remarks about Dr. Duncan O'Neal.

I believe however, that I should make a few remarks when we honour persons like the late Dr. O'Neal and other great people in our community, whether they be politicians or otherwise, because I firmly believe that we have other heroes who were not politicians. We have people who have been outstanding in the socio-economic development of this country who were not politicians. So I do not necessarily share the view that we should only look at putting up statues or effigies of politicians, or naming highways or whatever after politicians alone.

One of the things that has come to mind as a result of having to speak to this Resolution is the fact that many of our school children, and certainly, Sir, I would suggest many of us in this Honourable Chamber, are totally unaware of some of the great black people in the history of Barbados. I must say that until recent times, I have not been aware — I have heard their names — of the contributions that many great black people have made to the development of Barbados.

This is probably a good time for the Minister of Education and his Ministry to look at including this kind of history in our curriculum. We all know the history of

people beyond our shores, people who did not have much to do with the development of Barbados anyhow. The only statue I know in Bridgetown is one of a man who I probably know more about than I know of Duncan O'Neal.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that bother me, looking at this Resolution, is that, as the Member for Christ Church West correctly said, a Resolution was brought to this House on November 27, 1979. Just about seven years later the Estimates 1986-87, Subhead 33, included $190000 to put up an effigy or statue of the late Sir Grantley Adams. There was nothing in that Estimate that indicated that there would be a statue included of Dr. Duncan O'Neal.

I have no difficulty in having a statue erected for the late Sir Grantley Adams, because I am sure we all agree that he made a great contribution to the development of Barbados. I was one of the people that was very surprised, dismayed, when that small bust — some people call it a mini-bust - was erected of Sir Grantley Adams in front of Government Headquarters on Bay Street. I was one of the people at the time who thought that a statue should have been put up. Considering the kind of money that was being spent in other areas, I am sure the money was available or could have been made available to put up a better statue.

Even so, we have honoured the memory of Sir Grantley, with a school and an airport. I see an attempt was even made by the Barbados Labour Party to put up a picture of him on the building in Roebuck Street. I must say that it is looking terrible. Something should be done about it.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: If you did not have such an expensive election campaign, you might have had some left.

Laughter.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: One ad in the newspaper could have done that.

(Aside: Good shot!)

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I was one of the people that was fortunate to have known one of our unsound heroes. I believe that most, if not all Members of this Honourable House, know of, or personally knew, a lady called Eunice Belgrave. She was known to most of us as "Nicey". She used to sell vegetables and fruit in the alley there by Harrison on Broad Street, and her other occupation was that of politician. I say that because I remember her telling me a story about Dr. Duncan O'Neal, and I think this puts in the right perspective the type of person that the honourable Member for Christ Church West was describing.

In his campaign, in 1932 I believe it was, he had a number of people like Eunice Belgrave who did what we call canvassing for him. As a matter of fact, I would have to check this out with the Member for Christ Church East Central, because he is the historian, but I believe that she was among the first women who spoke on political platforms in Barbados; she and Katy Green and Mrs. Manning were the first women to speak on political platforms. Eunice Belgrave said to me that after the election campaign was over and Dr. O'Neal was elected, they, of course, feeling very proud that their man was in, had gone up against a white man and beaten him, came to the Parliament Buildings, the House of Assembly, to sit in the gallery and observe their man on his first day in,*" only to find that the Constable at the door, almost like today, was preventing them from entering. When Dr. O'Neal came he -asked what was the problem and Eunice Belgrave said to him, 'Well, Sir, they are not allowing us to go in and see you in the House." 'Oh no, this House of Assembly is all of ours.' He enquired of the Constable whether or not this was true, and the Constable said, 'Yes, those kind of people cannot go in there.' Dr. O'Neal kicked the door open and told them, "Follow me." And they went in! 4.45 p.m.

To me, that told of the type of man whose memory we want to honour - a strong powerful man who stood for the rights of black people in a day when, as the honourable Member for Christ Church West said, it was a thing that was almost unheard of. I call Dr. O'Neal a black man. In those days they called those "people of colour," today we know it as "black." When a black man reached those heights and in that day when you became a medical doctor, and a surgeon to boot, you did not have to look back. As one of my colleagues said, you could kick the pail over at that point. But he located his practice at the corner of Reid Street, an area where, I do not care how long ago we look back, I do not even think you would find too many upper-class families living in that area at that time. You may have found middle-class ones, probably the Millers.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I was not born yet.

Most of the people living in that area were deprived, and it is still a very depressed area. (The honourable Minister of Housing and 1 will be looking at that down

the road.) But you had a man like Dr. O'Neal who made sure that he located in a depressed area, where people who could ill-afford to pay for his services lived. In fact, the information I get even from old people who are still living in the area, and which the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central verified to me is true, was that in a lot of cases he did not even charge for the service he rendered to these poor people.

I can think of no better person to honour with an effigy or a statue than Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neal. I know the honourable Member for Christ Church West indicated that we did have a bridge named after him, but, as he said, I think we need to go further than that. I think that was only a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the Resolution.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH (St. Joseph): Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to lend my voice and support to the Resolution by the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris). As a student of History, I know that any country which does not honour its heroes, does not go back in the past and remember the work and the contribution of their own national heroes, is doomed, and I would like to see in Barbados that we pay due respect and honour, to the memory of such persons.

A lot has been said about Dr. Duncan O'Neal. I will not go into his personal history, but I would like to say that a man like Dr. O'Neal was even ahead of his own time. One of his planks was Free School Meals, and we know that it took one of his descendants, and his party, to bring free school meals to Barbados.

I too, like the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) feel that there are several areas in which both sides of the House can agree, but I certainly would not like to be part of a Government that has wasted so much time in implementing what they had talked about in 1979. When you speak after other honourable Members of this House, you run a risk of repeating something they said, but I must mention that I, too, thought that a little bust hidden away in some bush was not what I could call a measure of the honour and respect that that party had for its own hero.

We need a bit more of this nationalism in Barbados. We need to have our children educated as to the contribution of their heroes. Not enough books are written. I am hoping that during the years that we are occupying the Government, something will be done about writing the history in simple form so that all the children of our nation can read and understand where they came from, and by that, understand where we are going.

We also need to be more patriotic. I am very heartened that a young member of our society has launched an organization — I do not remember the name — dealing with patriotism. We want people to honour their flag, to understand that when the National Anthem is played, they ought to stand and be proud. We can only have that if members of the Government do all in their power to help to commemorate the memory of those who did such yeoman work for us.

I would like to see the day when the women of this country who have made contributions are remembered for their valour, for we must remember in those times, in Dr. O'Neal's time, the women were behind there supporting them. We had lots of women who came forward and supported those men, and, like today, a lot of them were women who had to carry the load of a family on their backs. I would wish to see in the not too distant future some effort made to research the history of some of those women and have little booklets made so that the children of Barbados, especially the girls, will be able to see what contribution was made by the women, even though at that time there was not the emphasis on equality of women. I do not think that we have come all that far. There is still a long way for the women of Barbados to go, because we must remember in those days women did not even have the vote.

Mr. Speaker, once more I reiterate my support, and express my utter delight that this Resolution was brought to this House. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it will not take us seven years to make that statue we are going to make to Dr. Duncan O'Neal.

I thank you.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, I endorse all that has been said by those who have spoken before me, and I compliment most warmly the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) on bringing this Resolution and on the excellent speech that he made when he introduced the motion on the last occasion. It is a pity that in 1979, when this matter was debated, due recognition was not given to his research by the then mover of that Resolution.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, I like to be fair. It was my party colleague, Dr. Cheltenham, who moved it, but I knew when I read this the other day and heard the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, that he must have been the author of it. I believe that people must be big enough and mature enough when one is quoting to give recognition to the author and not trot out material as though it is original, well knowing that it may only be plagiarism. 4.55 p.m.

Of course, I have no personal knowledge of Dr. O'Neal. I am younger than the honourable Member for the City (Mr. P. J. M. Miller), but my father is 77. He is a northerner and he knew Dr. O'Neal, and, as a boy I got to know Dr. O'Neal's relatives. Gerald O'Neal at one time was manager of River Plantation when I lived in St. Philip, and subsequently was manager of Pickerings Plantation in St. Lucy. He is a cousin of the present Prime Minister, and on occasion, because our two families were close — the Gerald O'Neal family and my family, when we lived at Dodd's — I have heard conversations between those two and the late Arthur Livingstone Jordan, who was one of the first black men to own a bus service, the Leeward Bus Service, and I heard of Duncan O'Neal.

I took the opportunity since the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central moved this Resolution, to check what had been said in 1979 with my father, and I am assured that no fault can be found with the accuracy of the comments made. Dr. O'Neal was seen by persons of my father's age and vintage as a great patriot whose desire was to uplift the lot of the black man in Barbados and as fast as possible get rid of the yokes of colonialism. But it was explained to me that the problem was that other black professionals, who may have been able financially to make the sacrifice, were more concerned with their own personal accumulation of wealth than the interest of the majority of people in this country, who were black. So, Dr. O'Neal found himself ploughing a lone furrow, as it were, but he had lit a candle which was taken up and run with by other selfless persons, like Hugh Gordon Cummins, Chrissy Brathwaite and Grantley Adams, and gradually our race in this country was given leadership at a collective level in the Thirties with the Democratic League, I think it was called, and then the Progressive League and so on. But there were a number of blacks who had benefitted by virtue of education and had preferred not to identify with the struggle. I suppose this happens in many societies. Only a few reach the top, and only a few are prepared to make the sacrifice.

Sir, in public life, those of us around this table ought to think deeply on the precepts which inspired O'Neal and persons of his ilk, because I do not believe that any one of us in here sought to join a political party to represent people other than for the most altruistic purposes and for the best reasons, that is, to do service to our country. Regrettably, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has hinted, because the two-party system has become so dynamic and adversarial over the years, we have not considered — when I say "we", I mean the black politicians — that we have done ourselves a tremendous injustice and we are writing illegibly for history when time after time we seek to impute the worst possible motives to our own, on either side. We say nasty things about you and you all say nasty things about us. No foundation is laid, only the desire to gain political power, and in that desire we, as black people, tear down one another. I do not hear the white people doing it to one another.

The one time I have lost my temper in this Session was because of the persistence of one, who pretends to champion the cause of black people, in pulling down another black person, without any evidence and telling lies. I think we must pull back and ask ourselves, 'What are we doing but destroying the good name and the image of ourselves as leaders of our people in this community?' We should be setting examples. We have our political disagreements. Let us disagree on policy. Let us be as strong as possible in our disagreement, but when it comes to the personal tearing down, it is a weakness of black people. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition said we have done a lot in 50 years, but perhaps we are still a very immature people.

The time for us to seek gradually to change this is now. I am noticing certain trends in this House. I must say that, so far, this Session has been the most pleasant, the most friendly, the most amiable that I have ever endured in 11 years of parliamentary experience, and if we are developing now, consciously or otherwise, a new attitude to political life, then I am happy. I hope it will persist for ever, and I just urge honourable Members to be careful how we pull down each other, for fear that we are destroying those who come behind us the real image of those who have made a fundamental contribution to this country.

The late Prime Minister, in the O'Neal debate in 1979, said some words which I think, even for those who do not care too much for him, should inspire all of us. I quote from the debate for November 27, 1979 at page 3010.

> "In paying this tribute, Sir, I ask for no more than for anybody on this side of the House that when our own epitaphs come to be written, our achievements may not be as large, our careers may not have been extensive, but I ask for no more than the recognition of sincerity that conformed our entry into the public life in the first place, as the sincerity which I recognise in Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neal on his entry into public life.
>
> "I have much pleasure in supporting the Resolution." 5.05 p.m.

We are a people bereft of a meaningful history, bereft really of persons to whom we could recognize as heroes. Apart from our sporting heroes, particularly our cricketers — it seems that they are so embedded in our culture that it came naturally to hero worship our cricketers, to the point .....

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: They are getting some licks now.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not let us be too hard on them, Sir, because we are getting some licks in Australia. It is just like political parties — today you are up, tomorrow you are down. I know they disturbed our sleep last night and left us very disappointed and disorientated this morning at 2:30 o'clock, but let us have some sympathy. They seem to be having some emotional and psychological problems affecting the team.

As a boy, there used to be competitions at school as to who could walk like Worrell, or who could walk like Weekes or Sobers. No more, you do not hear about that. Nobody is trying to copy any of the fellows on the present West Indies team. There have been these folk figures in other areas. But the weakness has been that no one — and I hope that the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central will gradually fill this void — even in little treatises, has really written, apart from Hoyos, but there are criticisms of his history, anything about these people. How many of the historians at Cave Hill have really written something substantial about our heroes?

I have not been able to walk into a bookshop in Barbados and pick up a history book written by any Barbadian historian. I am not talking about the little thing about churches or some little thing about 20 years of slavery, I mean a substantial thing. Nothing like O. J., nothing like Sherlock, nothing so by any Barbadian historian! I do not think it is good enough.

I was on the staff at Cave Hill for five years, and in 17 years since I have not seen a publication of any substance coming from the History Department. I am looking forward to the honourable Member to start to fill that void. I know that he is committed and I know that he will do it in his own way. I hope Dr. Beckles and people like these will see the need to keep us informed and spread the word around to the people of this country.

My children have grown up in ignorance of a lot of our history, and we have to put that right, Sir. If, symbolically, whatever is going to be done for Dr. O'Neal more than the bridge, a bust, effigy, whatever, is a start, do not let us stop. There are others and I would certainly like to see a broad-based committee, perhaps outside of politicians, to determine who are the heroes worthy of recognition, and in what manner should they be recognized. I just throw out that — if we could take it out of politics, or perhaps out of partisan politics, a more meaningful development. But let us continue. Let us search for all the others who need to be recognized in this country and give them what is theirs.

Honourable Members may recall, Sir, that when I was Chairman of the National Sports Council, one of the things that was going to be done in 1985 was the establishment of a Sports Hall of Fame. It was in the Sports Council Development Plan 1982-1988 and we were taking active steps to establish that. That would have been a small contribution to the recognition of our heroes, and in the political sphere, in every sphere, the honourable Member for the City showed the breadth of recognition.

We can do this, and we can leave posterity a meaningful contribution. I would have been well satisfied if when I enter the departure lounge to leave this life, not the airport, I would be able to look back and see that there is a place in Barbados similar to Madame Tussand's in London, to which we and visitors could have resort. It cannot be of the same scale, but similar, where one could browse and look and see photographs, effigies, works and manuscripts, whatever, of people who have made a contribution to our development over a time.

I am very pleased to support this Resolution with all the gusto I own.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. C. V. WALKER (St. George North): Mr. Speaker, I plan to be very brief on this. There were two names mentioned in here in this tribute, if you will, to Dr. O'Neal that actually forced me to say a few words on this Resolution. Those two names were Nicey Belgrave and Chrissy Brathwaite.

I first heard of Charles Duncan O'Neal from the late Chrissy Brathwaite sitting in the house with my grandmother and discussing Charles Duncan O'Neal. They also discussed at that time the work he was doing in conjunction with a gentleman who then ran a school in a place called Flat Rock, St. George, Dr. Reggie Hunte. Indeed, the same Nicey Belgrave was born within the vicinity of that school.

As a youngster, I would listen to the stories about the "great", as they referred to him then, Charles Duncan O'Neal. As fate would have it, I had the opportunity and the privilege to travel some years later and again to sit with the likes of the same Dr. Reggie Hunte, who is now departed, Reggie Pierrepoint from the same area, who .is now departed, a gentleman by the name of Hutson Lovell, who is now departed, and Garfield Davis, who is now departed. They were all of that vintage, if you will, and invariably, whenever they sat, they were members of an organisation then called the Overseas Association. Invariably, the conversation would get around to Charles Duncan O'Neal.

I think we have lost some of the history and I hope that we can reclaim it.

I, too, would like to add my support to this Resolution.

I thank you.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, that brings* us to the end of business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 17, 1987, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The Question that the House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, February 17, 1987 at 12 noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.17 p.m.

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