

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, January 27, 1987

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

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. B. M. Taitt, B.A., (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Tourism and Industry)
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. W. O. Franklin, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)
Hon. N. K. Simmons, (Minister of Health)
Hon. H. A. Blackman, B.Sc., (Econ.), (Minister of Housing and Lands)
Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M.
Mr. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc., (Econ.)
Mr. C. V. Walker, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)
Mr. L. L. Brathwaite, J.P.
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 Tuesday, January 20, 1987.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes for the meeting of the House of Assembly on January 20, 1987 have been circulated.

I beg to move that these be taken as read and that they be confirmed as an accurate record of the "proceedings of this Honourable Chamber on that date.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations, let these Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for months ended September, October and November, 1986.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve of the publication of the notice of abandonment of the acquisition of land at Oistins, Christ Church.

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.

A Resolution to amend the Explanatory Note to Head 82 Subhead 1 — Industrial Development Corporation.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$157000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986—87, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 21 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I beg to state that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 66, 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, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting, subject to the customary rights of the Opposition.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that. •

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS Hon.

L. E. SANDIFORD: Order No. 1.

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 motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986-87 NO. 20 \$48 352

Order No. 1(a) was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$48 352 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to Supplement the Estimates 1986-87, No. 20, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

HEAD 18 - AUDIT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South). Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$200 was provided under this item to meet the cost of postage in respect of the operating expenses of the department. Because of the high incidence of postage that provision is almost depleted. There is a balance of some \$37.85, which is inadequate to meet the commitments of the department for postage for the remainder of the financial year. It is considered that an additional sum of \$60 is required to meet commitments towards the end of the financial year and, therefore, that sum is being sought from this Committee. 12.25p.m.

In respect of Plant, Equipment and Furniture, a supplement of \$5 780 is being requested. The reason for this, Sir, is that additional temporary posts for the Audit Department were approved, but there is no furniture to accommodate the increased staff. That increased staff is made up of two Senior Auditors, two Auditors, two Examiners and two Clerical Officers. The sum of \$5 780 is required to enable the necessary desks and chairs to be purchased to accommodate these officers.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 18 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 REVENUE COLLECTION

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, this House of Assembly provided the sum of \$62 200 for the rental of property. Specifically, the property being rented related to equipment from IBM and Barbados Business Machines Ltd. However, there has been an increase in the rates charged for these services, and there was also a commitment from the previous year. As a result of these two requirements, there is a balance of \$2 422.24 under this item. This is inadequate to meet the commitments and a supplement of \$23 735 is being required for this particular subhead, subhead 1, Rental of Property. It is for the rental of equipment for the Inland Revenue Department.

A sum of \$20 330 was provided under the item Plant, Equipment and Furniture for the Land Tax Department. On November 5 last year, the Commissioner of Land Tax reported the breaking and entry of the office at Cumberland Street, and that damage resulted to the following items of furniture and equipment metal filing cabinets, safes and desks.

Additional funds are therefore required to replace the safes and the cabinets. Two desks were allocated to the department from other sources. It is estimated that the sum of \$9 850 is required to supplement that particular subhead.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution for \$39 425 for these two subheads of Head 20 stand part.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 20 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, the requests for supplementary votes relate to two particular items, one for Utilities and the other one for Supplies and Materials. Under the provision for Utilities, the sum of \$11 620 was approved, but that has proved inadequate for the purposes of the department. An additional sum of \$5 302 is being requested to meet the requirements of the division for its utility services.

Under the item Supplies and Materials, a sum of \$3 000 was provided. That has also proved inadequate. An additional sum of \$2 125 is being requested to meet commitments up to the end of the financial year.

I beg to move, Sir, that these sums of Head 28 stand part.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, I have a brief comment about the Ministry of Legal Affairs. I realize that the Minister is not here at the moment, but I wonder whether the Leader of the House is in a position to explain the delay in processing applications for review of immigration matters. There seems to have been some delay in this. With many cases in which I have given advice in a legal capacity — about which I make full disclosure to this House — these applications have been pending for a long time.

If the Minister is not in a position to answer the matter now, perhaps he will let us know at an appro-

priate occasion whether it is still intended to have the mechanism of a Review Committee and whether it has been operating. If it has not been operating, I would like to know why not, and what steps can be taken to process these applications as soon as possible. 12.35 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I take note of the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition and I thank him for drawing these matters to the attention of this Committee.

I take it that he is indicating that there is a problem in this area and that some information would be required on the particular matter that he has raised. As he has indicated, the Attorney General is not in his place at this time. In due course we will give consideration to the issue which the Leader of the Opposition has raised and we will advise the Attorney General appropriately so that the necessary information might be provided to this Committee or in an appropriate forum.

The question that Head 28 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - \$1 500

Hon. W. W. HALL (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Chairman, under Head 39, Subhead 3 — Labour Department - Supplies and Materials, the Addendum sets out quite clearly that the sum of \$1 000 was provided in the 1986-87 Estimates. That figure represents a reduction of \$4000 from the fiscal year 1985-86. To date some \$985.35 have been spent and there are some outstanding bills to be settled. It is, therefore, estimated that an additional sum of \$1 500 will be required to supplement Subhead 3.

I now beg that this Head stand part, Sir.-Hon.

B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, as I look at the Addendum here, it seems to me that we had a penny-pinching policy pursued by the last Administration in relation to the Ministry of Labour.

I take the Ministry of Labour to be a very important Ministry, especially in the field where I do my primary occupation. I believe that that Ministry is being saddled presently with some very important work. It is not only in the day-to-day administration of matters relating to grievances and industrial relations. I believe that in terms of manpower policy this Ministry is pursuing work in terms of trying to find out exactly what the status of the labour market is in Barbados.

I wonder if the Minister of Employment will be able to give us some information about the status of that particular endeavour by Government. I am sure that our Government is pursuing a policy of trying to get the manpower planning questionnaires out to employers so that we will have the kind of information base on which we can plan labour market policies in this country.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, this is not particularly a vexed one. It was the subject of a Parliamentary Question from the Member for St. Thomas about four months ago.

I am pleased to say that the manpower survey has started on January 2, 1987, and work is going on on the supplementary questionnaire at the National Employment Bureau, which is looking at the profile of the unemployed. I think we are looking at things like age groups, educational backgrounds, training needs, qualifications, how long people have been unemployed and things like that.

The main questionnaire recently went out to employers and employer's organizations, I have been informed. The questionnaire seeks to evaluate and examine skills in industrial employment as well as shifts in production technology within each major economic sector. It also seeks Sir, to identify industries and occupations that are fast growing or have high potential for growth to develop linkages between industries and the education and training programmes.

- Even though we have been saddled with the fact that we have had no staff, we have been told by the Establishments Division that we will be getting the necessary staff so that they can go around and collect the information that is necessary and we can have an accurate picture reported. We talk about the unemployment rates and such things, but I think that most times we have had to depend on information that we could not guarantee was 100% right. I believe that now that this is happening we would be in a position where we can look at raising the standard of living in the society, because we will know exactly where we are.

I hope that that will satisfy the honourable Member. I think that is enough information for the time being. As soon as we have got to grips with the situation, I will be coming to this Honourable Chamber and letting all Members know what the position is on the manpower survey.

Thank you.

The question that Head 39 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported

the passing of one money Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

12.45 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Order No. 3, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OF THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF THE PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT SIX CROSS ROADS, ST. PHILIP TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION FOR HOUSING PURPOSES

Order No. 3 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the vesting in National Housing Corporation of land at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, on October 9, 1978 the honourable Member who now represents St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) - he was at the time representing St. Philip North - wrote a letter to the Ministry of Housing and Lands. He began by saying that he wished to record his plea for the erection of a low cost housing estate in St. Philip North. In this letter he stated that he would like to see 60 terraced units and 40 single units built in St. Philip, but he was specifically speaking about St. Philip North. He also identified three areas in St. Philip North, the areas which he suggested would be the best areas to use. One was by St. Philip's Parish Church, the Rectory, one was at Bayleys and the other one was at Gaskins. He requested a site visit, and the site visit was done on November 10, 1978, but the officers also went to two other sites, one at Six Cross Roads and one at Free Hill, which is part of Dodd's Plantation.

It is very interesting to note that of the five sites visited, including the three sites which were earmarked by the honourable Member, Six Cross Roads was chosen as the best for the purposes outlined by the honourable Member. In fact, the file went on to say that "we should seek to include Six Cross Roads in our 1979-80 Estimates, both for acquisition and for public housing." As I go on I am going to get to my point.

The funds were put in the Estimates, but then a Minute on the file said and the Minute on the file was on March 12, 1979;

"It was decided that this project be omitted from the 1979-80 programme but that the funds of \$175 000 which were provided under this project for land development should be added to the budget for the St. Cecilia project."

So straight off the hand St. Philip was abandoned! It was not only Six Cross Roads, St. Philip was abandoned!

they have always been convinced that they will never win

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am not going to get emotional.

The land was valued, soil tests carried out, all the reports were favourable. The acquisition was completed on October 24, 1980 to purchase 20 452 square metres or 220 143 square feet. All the money had been paid for the land, the land had been acquired. In fact, 4 827 square metres of that land was allocated to the Ministry of Legal Affairs for the construction of its fire station.

Those of us who have lived in St. Philip for a number of years — I have lived there all my years — know that in 1976 the Barbados Labour Party went all over St. Philip saying that there was a strong need for a fire station in Six Cross Roads. In 1981 the same thing happened. There were about six persons from the Barbados Labour Party, including the gentleman who ran against me, who had their pictures taken in Six Cross Roads and spread all over the newspapers about this fire station in Six Cross Roads. In fact, a Minute in the file said: "Such a fire station was considered necessary to provide fire protection coverage for the south eastern area of the island." Despite all of these reports, the last thing on file was on November 4, 1981. So after the elections and they won, that was the end of the fight!

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Asides

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I believe that was the problem. I believe the problem was that the Government won but the honourable Member did not win.

The point I am getting at is that last Tuesday, you heard about this Administration ignoring or abandoning people from another constituency.....

Asides

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am not reflecting..... and not caring for people. Look at this and see where St. Philip went through the eddoes. The only time the Barbados Labour Party did anything in St. Philip was at election time, when they came and they talked. That is all. We are not going to be emotional. You gave the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Hon. W. O. Franklin) a little bit just before the last election because you all were foolishly misled to think that the chap who was running against the honourable Member would win, so you started putting in a road here and a road there in St. Philip North, and you know that is true.

I am not going to be emotional, but when you are speaking about abandoning people and treating people badly, the Barbados Labour Party should be the last party to speak about abandoning people, because St. Philip was neglected totally by the Barbados Labour Party for the past ten years. St. Michael West, too. The reason is that

a seat in St. Philip, St. Michael West nor St. John, so they never did anything in those areas. So if you are talking about abandoning people or treating people badly, look back and see what the Barbados Labour Party did to the people of St. Philip and you would know about bad treatment.

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

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, in all that the Honourable Minister had to say, beyond what I read in this Addendum, that the approval of Parliament is sought for the vesting in the Housing Corporation of the parcel of land, I know no more about this Resolution. The Minister has spoken and sat down. He talked about the history — I am familiar with the history — but he did not tell the House in his opening why we are here today. Has he said that we are here because this land was never vested? What are we here for? He is trying to correct the deficiencies of last week, when he said nothing, by talking at length today and still saying nothing because the purpose of today's Resolution has not been made clear to the House. That is the first point I make.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He moved that the Resolution pass, he did not have to say anything. He could get up and say "I move that the Resolution pass", but we would not know what the Resolution is about and why we are here.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All right.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not permit cross talk. Will the honourable Member for St. Thomas continue his speech?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If you will make them continue to keep quiet.

Sir, do we know that this land is part of the present housing estate? Is this land below Frank Springer's gas station on the way to Four Square? Where is it? The Addendum does not make that clear. I do not know where Compton Fraser owns land. The Minister has a duty to get up and explain precisely where the land is, or better yet, circulate a map or plan so that we would have an idea visually of what we are talking about. I think I know where he is dealing with, Sir.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I think I know, is different from saying that I know as a fact.
12.55 p.m.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is only a courtesy. But I am saying that when he opened the Resolution he had an obligation to let us know.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Schedule says, Sir, "a piece of land situate at Six Cross Roads containing by admeasurement 15 634 square metres abutting and bounding on lands now or late of Four Square Plantation,"....

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I want to know exactly which piece of land it is"on lands of sundry owners and on lands now or late of Earl Estwick", whoever he is, "on other lands of the Barbados Government (on which a fire station is to be erected) and on a public road which leads to Six Roads in one direction and to Four Square in the other". It is below the gas station. I am assuming that it is that.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It does matter, Sir, because there was a piece of land near the other gas station which was to have been acquired by Government.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Which Government?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The past Administration. This was acquired by them, too. You are coming to vest it, as I understand it.

If I remember correctly, as was probably set out in my letter in 1978 or 1979, when we were looking around for land for the purpose of developing what I used to call a land bank, that is, you would acquire land and have land available for housing development so that when you are finished with one development you could move on to another development without disrupting work forces and so on, naturally, because I represented St. Philip North, I urged that the Government should establish low cost or low income housing development in St. Philip, preferably in St. Philip North. The Minister read the contents of the letter.

At the same time, the Ministry of Housing looked at other areas. I believe that this piece of land was

actually offered to Government. If I remember correctly, one of the reasons for hesitating to do any further acquisition in the Six Roads area, indeed, one of the reasons for not granting permission for Plantations Ltd. to carry out a development near the other gas station, the Cossey gas station, was that there was information from the Ministry then responsible for Energy that the oil veins to Woodbourne were suspected of being near the Six Roads area. So, for some time Government asked, and the Chief Town Planner recommended, that we tread carefully in terms of development at the area. With the passage of time, another six or seven years, it may be that the exploration that has been done in the meantime at Woodbourne, and the consequential geological studies, may have revealed that, in fact, there is no advantage in developing that area for the oil industry. That is the reason that was given.

Sir, I do not think that you can be facetious about these matters. If, apart from reading one file, the Minister would read those in the Town Planning Department, he would see that the point I made about the oil veins is not a facetious point, but was one that at the time was being canvassed by the relevant Ministry. As I said, passage of time may have changed that information and now it is perfectly permissible to do the development which I hope will come.

The Minister in all of his introduction — he was so intent upon making sport at what is essentially a very serious social matter — has not even told this House whether his Government intends to build any houses on this spot. He talked a whole heap and omitted to let us know whether he has any policy. I said last week he had none. I am more than fortified now in that view, he having spoken. The Addendum is about raw land. Does the Government intend to build a housing complex on this area?

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You can vest it in the NKC.

Asides

Mr. SPEAKER: No interruptions! May I remind honourable Members that, when an honourable Member is speaking, they must remain in silence to give the Member an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Addendum says "for housing purposes." What does that mean? Does it mean public housing? Does it mean sites and services? **

(*Aside:* You are to ask us.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am to ask them.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not me. The general public, better yet, the people in St. Philip North and South, deserve to be told....

(Aside: They know.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: what plans the Minister Ministry has. Is it a sites and services thing? Are you going to build houses for rent, or houses for sale? Tell us. Is it to be a West Terrace Project, or a Kensington Lodge Project?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not trying to defend anybody. The only thing I would defend, Mr. Speaker, since I am being provoked into this, is that between 1961 and 1976, when the Democratic Labour Party had the reins of power and two Members representing St. Philip for 15 years, there was nothing, nothing, that they could point to as having been done for the development of St. Philip. In the same Six Roads, before 1961 the post office was built. Princess Margaret School was built. The health centre was established. The housing area was established. The market was set up. That whole complex was built under the Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You do not even know there is a market in Six Roads.

Between 1961 and 1976 they did not add to that development. They know that in 1976 one of the burning issues in the by-election and the General Election was the provision of basic amenities. For 15 years in St. Philip North people did not have water, roads, or lights.

Do you want me to call them out? You could start with Padmore Village with the two roads in there opposite Wharton shop. Those roads were put in when I was M.P. Free Hill never had light. Chapel never had light, never had water. Up in Marleyvale, a place called Sealy Hill, never had water, roads or light. Now you can drive up there, almost right down to the beach. 1.05 p.m.

I will tell you a good story, Sir. When I was a boy there were politicians who came and promised the people in St. Philip a road from Bay field to Three Houses Hill.

(Aside: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Were they DLP politicians, too?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: One fellow called Mottley, J.C. I do not know if he was a Dem. Another one called Reynold Weekes. I do not know if he was a Dem. One called Wynter Crawford.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He promised a road, Sir. I will tell the Members now on the other side the story about the hurricane and the flat tyres.

For many years, fifteen years they were promised this road. Between 1976 and 1981, as the Honourable Minister well knows, that road was put in from Blades Hill down to Three Houses Hill connecting with Bayfield. Now I hear that St. Philip North got nothing during my time. If you did not say it today, you said it in the St. Thomas by-election. I have it on tape, locked up in the safe. So you drove all through St. Philip and you did not find anything that I did? You and the honourable Member for St. Philip North. But that was only a little political thing at the time. That is no problem. You were making a little capital.

(Aside: Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: And you still have it locked up?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Man who? I might have to write one of these days. Somebody is going to get cuffed about.

Sir, it is a grave slander to suggest that the Barbados Labour Party neglected the people of St. Philip, either part of St. Philip. The district hospital that you have there was.....

(Aside: Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: St. Philip North.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: - That is St. Philip North? Right. — completely redeveloped under the Barbados Labour Party between 1976 and 1981. The park

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you agree?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Are you putting one in the south?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Man, you are in power now, you can do the south.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No! The work at the park. King George V Memorial Park was refurbished and its conditions and its surroundings made more congenial.

(Aside: Hon. P. M. GREAVES: By Carmichael.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No! Do not call Carmichael's name. If he put in the children's playground outside, people still ran away from going inside. It was in a terrible state. The Honourable Minister knows that he and I had a drink on the verandah after that place was refurbished at somebody's dance there one Saturday night.

Laughter.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We stood up having a little beer and talking a little foolishness to each other. It was no big thing. He was there with me.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, we had a beer. He and I were there at somebody's dance.

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Members must remember their history. The park in St. Philip North was redeveloped by us to what it is today, to such an extent that we were for once able, by 1978, to have a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and all of that at that park in celebration of the work that had been done. The members had one more recently, in Christmas 1986.

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Man, I do not understand. I really cannot understand. You mean, you do so much and you still go through the eddoes? That is like the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves). He did a lot in his time and was pelted out in 1976. It happened to the Right Honourable Prime Minister many, many years ago in St. George. Each one of us suffers ups and downs. Political life is full of a lot of vicissitudes. Neither one of us is going to blame the electorate. How can we blame them?

Laughter.

(Aside: Any more.)

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They are supposed to be the voice of God, with all the wisdom. We would not even say that they make mistakes. But all three of us are back in here now, having been out at various points in our political careers.

Mr. SPEAKER: So let us get back to the Resolution.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am answering the Resolution, Sir, and I am answering particularly the point, Sir, that the honourable Members raised on the other side. They raised the question, 'How come so much was done for St. Philip North by the present representative for St. Thomas — they are conceding that — and yet, he still lost - that is in the Record — the seat in 1981?' I said it is one of these things that one cannot explain, Sir.

I never catalogued any achievements in St. Philip South, because -I was not as concerned with St. Philip South as with St. Philip North. I had no political duty to catalogue and memorize the developments. But I know about the Rural Development Programme at Heddings. I was involved in the contractual side of that. I know of the development of the road from the airport right through. That was done between 1981 and 1986 when the Labour Party was in power that ran from the airport. There is a whole widening of the road around Spencers' up through Rock Hall, St. Martin's all paved beautifully right up to Sam Lord's Castle.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know how long it took to do. It was done. Is it standing up? It is standing up, so if it were done in two weeks and it has stood up for two years, I do not think we can complain.

I do not believe that Members can truthfully claim that in our time Government had a deliberate policy of neglect. Explain this to me then, how is it that there is a lovely piece of road, also done about 1985, that runs right through from Bath right down past Foster Hall, all through Newcastle, Glenburnie and so on, in the Right Honourable Prime Minister's constituency?

(Aside: Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: In 1986.) Mr.

D. A. C. SIMMONS: It was done when?

(Aside: Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: In 1986.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It was done in 1986?

(*Aside:* Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Just before the election!)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But it was done. It was done well knowing the impregnability of the Right Honourable Prime Minister as the incumbent.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They are not even grateful.

Sir, I think the Honourable Minister should be a little bit more controlled in his comments about what was done in St. Philip. He is aware of the great strides that were made, certainly in St. Philip North, between 1976 and 1981, and he would concede that there was development. The whole industrial park at Six Cross Roads was a result of the severest pressure that was put on the present Minister of Tourism when he was responsible for Industry in 1976, and which forced him out.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, we do not want to go over that again. The Estimates of 1976 showed that where the industrial park developed, the Honourable Minister had in his estimates that that was to be used for sheep rearing.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You made the Honourable Minister of Agriculture put it in and it was exposed. They had no plan for the development of moving industry into St. Philip, moving industry out of Bridgetown gradually and decentralizing it. There was no plan at the time. Now he has got a platform and a wicket on which to build.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member is misleading the House, and because he was involved in the matter, I have to say he is misleading the House deliberately, because he knows his political party put out that this matter was canvassed. It went to the point where the honourable Member who is the Leader of the Opposition made a statement about putting CBC in court. All of that happened because we pointed out that Reynold Weekes had gone on a site visit with Neville Maxwell to establish the industrial park.

To say there was no plan for a park is utterly, completely and absolutely untrue, and the honourable Member knows it. Sir, I submit that he is misleading this House.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I mentioned the industrial development for another reason, which is going to fit in with the end of my speech. The honourable Minister ought not to accuse me of saying that I deliberately

misled the House when he knows that the evening that he broke the ground at Six Roads, he turned up with a certain member of the Industrial Development Corporation — still in the IDC now, - with a piece of foolscap and a piece of red crayon and a piece of green crayon — with some lines, not a plan. I was there. I was not invited, even though I was the MP, but Pabbo and I crashed it and saw what he called a sketch. I will never forget, but we are not going back into that. 1.15p.m.

What I want to suggest to the Honourable Minister is that, and I think he will agree, there has been development at Six Cross Roads in terms of what I itemized as having been done by the Barbados Labour Party in the earlier Administration. I think that on the other side of the road, opposite the industrial park and the health centre and so on, there is probably land there at Groves Plantation which is right for development. If he is going to have another housing area at this site below the gas station, I think Government should look at a total development. For example, Six Roads is heavily populated. Fellows from Marchfield, Four Square, Four Roads and Farm Road who all converge. One thing I would like to see there is a roundabout, to take the danger out of those six roads. I would like to see a total development starting with a roundabout.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, this is not stealing anybody's thing. The Barbados Labour Party «had discussed this and you would have heard people talk of this. I believe Mr. Linton may have talked of it.

I would like to see a roundabout in the middle and development all around it. I know that Plantations Limited wanted to do a development of a large shopping complex on lands east of Cossey's gas station. Certainly the area needs a fire station and certainly it needs a playing facility. I think there are lands along the road going to Four Roads, above, for example, where Mr. Gooding has his little business, which I believe can be released for a playing area and you will have your housing, and, if you want to, a community centre. I do not know if it is necessary; if you have a nice large pavilion on your playing field, that may provide the answer. Instead of building a community centre, have an appropriate playing facility with a proper pavilion, because you can always use the park, and that is not far away, for your other community activities.

I think Government must think in terms of a total development of the Six Roads area. I welcome the Resolution.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS (St. Michael South East): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution, but before I

get into the meat of what I have to say, I must say it always surprises me when I hear members of the Opposition get up and give such great advice as to where roundabouts should go, sort of forgetting they were the Government of the day for the last ten years and had the opportunity to do these things.

I want to speak on this Resolution because housing constitutes one of the major problems in Barbados. I would put it among the three major problems, including unemployment and drugs, in this country. I also have to speak on it for another reason. The constituency which I have the honour to represent, which has on its voters list some 6 456 people, has about 4 173 living in Government housing or Government associated housing complexes. I am referring to the areas like Wildey and Wildey Gardens which Government built. Therefore, 65% of the voting population in the constituency of St. Michael South East comes from Government housing. If we were to admit that the people in the housing area have a higher ratio of children than in the other part of the constituency, you can see that the population of the Government housing projects in the constituency of St. Michael South East constitute about 70% of the total population of that constituency. It is against that background that I have to make some comment on housing as it applies to Barbados in general. I want to compliment the Honourable Minister of Housing for taking this move, and compliment the Government on its plan to restart construction in this country, because wherever you go in the world, whether it be London, Toronto or New York, construction, and particularly Government construction, is an indicator of the buoyancy of the economic activity of the particular country. If you go into every store in Bridgetown, especially the hardware stores — and I had visited a few of these places over the last couple of days — every person working in these stores will tell you that the economic activity of Barbados has increased tremendously, especially those in the hardware sector. We need to look at that, because it is a true indication of the kind of economic climate that has come to this country since May last year.

Something has happened to this country within the last ten years. Those of us who have our ears to the ground and are listening to our constituents know that everyday people come into the constituency office asking about housing. There is a lack not only of houses, but there is a lack of spots for houses. I will get back to that later, because there was something done in this country in 1980 that will partially explain that problem in Barbados.

I want, first of all, to look at and talk about the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party 1976. I think this is already a document of the House. I am looking at pages 10 and 11, and it is under their housing policy. I just want to examine a few things and some of the

promises they made to the people of this country with respect to housing.

This is what they said under Housing:

"The BLP believes that every Barbadian has the right to decent housing at reasonable cost. The Party will, therefore, on being returned to power, embark on a programme for the building of at least 800 houses per year."

We know that that is a promise that they did not even come close to. But they recognized in 1976, even way back then, that housing was a problem and that they would have to build a minimum of 800 houses per year to keep up with the need. I would risk to say that probably within the last five years the total number of houses that they build would hardly exceed 800. I am not talking about houses built by private contractors, because this promise was a promise made for Government housing and not houses built by private contractors.

On the same page it says:

"To give effect to its policy on Housing the Party is committed to the preparation of a National Housing Plan, which will be based on up-to-date information as to the community's needs for housing and related amenities.

The plan will provide for:-

Basic amenities, such as water, roads and light, to be brought to those householders who are at present deprived of them."

After ten years I cannot identify a single place in Barbados where this housing plan has been implemented. 1.25 p.m.

I continue, Sir:

"The reopening of a Housing List for all persons who need land to rent, such land to be provided at a reasonable rent and to have the same facilities as exist in Housing Areas.

"A complete overhaul of the National Housing Corporation to make it an efficient agent of Governmental policy, capable of achieving the national Housing targets.

"A scheme whereby all tenants, existing and future, may opt to purchase both house and land from the Corporation and to that end have their rents credited to the purchase price."

That is a very significant promise that they made to the people of this country, that for people who were living in Government housing, they would implement a policy that the rents would become part of a payment towards the ownership of the house in which they lived. After ten years no such policy was implemented.

I continue:

"The Corporation to be directed to write off arrears of rent in the Housing estates for persons who are genuinely unable to pay, in order to give them a fresh start."

That is a very significant statement they made. But everybody in Barbados can remember that instead of writing off arrears for people who were unable to pay, the Minister of Housing went into some of these people's houses, brought television cameras, put them out of their houses and televised them so that not only Barbadians could see it, but people in St. Vincent and St. Lucia, who watch Barbados television, could see the ignominious state in which people in Barbados were evicted from their houses and had their furniture destroyed. So when the members of the Opposition start to talk about a housing policy, they have no grounds on which to talk, because their policy in housing has been a dismal failure and they have led us to a situation where we have now got an acute problem in housing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to refer, as I said before, to something that happened in 1980, which was probably the fulcrum of the acute problem which we have in housing, and it is something called the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act of 1980. That Act dealt a wicked blow to housing development in Barbados. I think that Act must have been motivated by the fact that they knew that Barbadians have a great desire to own land, and I am going to explain what I mean.

You have people living on tenantry lands. Before this Act was implemented nobody could move a tenant off tenantry land, he was protected from being moved off tenantry land, but there are some economic factors in this Act that we need to look at. What advantage was there for the plantation owner? Some people on tenancies were paying 50 cents for the spot on which they lived, and in addition to the spot on which they lived, most people had an eighth of an acre or a quarter of an acre which they planted, and they were able to sell their beans and potatoes and they were able to pay their weekly rent. If you multiply 50 cents by 50 weeks, you will see that the individual paid approximately \$25 a year for rent.

What the Freehold Tenancies Act did was to say to the tenant, you can go and buy the land. The land cost about \$500 a lot, but when you bought that lot, you

did not buy the eighth of an acre that you were planting. It takes approximately 1 000 weeks to pay 50 cents a week which would give you some 20 years of rent. The \$500 represents 20 years of rent, so what you were doing, you were taking a lump sum of money and giving it to the plantation owner. This is what you were doing, and if a plantation owner sold 30 lots, he had a hand shake of \$15 000. That is what it was designed to do, but it was designed to do something further than that.

We know that people in Barbados love to own land. If a man is asked to buy land on a tenantry, which he can pass on to his children, what you are doing is tying that man to the tenantry. When you tie a man to a tenantry that is associated with a plantation, you are allowing the plantation to have a labour force. In Barbados we look for upward mobility. A lot of us were born in tenancies. We did not stay in tenancies, because as soon as we had the educational exposure we moved out of the tenancies and into the terraces and heights. So the psychology behind the Freehold Tenancies Act has a lot more than appears on the surface.

The person now who buys the land, the tenant, does not only find he and part of his family tied to the land. Whereas he was paying \$25 a year for rent on land that you could not move him off from, he now has gone to the bank and borrowed \$500, and now that he owns that land, he has got to pay land taxes. I have seen people in my office complaining that the land taxes that they have to pay now are more than the \$25 a year they had to pay for rent, in addition to the fact that they have the \$500 debt to pay.

What is more, the Tenancies Act, as I understand it, does not force the landlord or the plantation owner to put in the necessary amenities before the land is sold. In a lot of these tenancies there are bad roads, there is no water. So if four or five years down the road a man can collect some money, he will not move on to a better spot because that spot already is his. It is that sort of thing that has caused the problem.

The Tenancies Act also did something else. It said that if a poor man who owns four or five acres that were left to him by his grandfather has two tenants living on the land, those tenants have the right to say to him, after living on that land for five years, 'I am not moving, I am buying this, this is mine.' The only thing that our forefathers could have given us was a spot, because they had no money, so what that Tenancies Act did was to take away the rights of individuals to pass land on to their children because they were magnanimous enough to allow somebody to rent the spots. Now their children find themselves in a position, when they reach 20 and 30 years old and they want to get married, that the land which their father had is no longer theirs. It is primarily because of that that people in Barbados now have refused

to rent people spots on which to put their houses, and it has created a severe shortage of housing spots in Barbados. So I want to compliment the Minister of Housing for vesting this land in the National Housing Corporation, because the Government will have to be a forerunner in providing spots for people to live on. I wanted to set the record straight for housing, and I want to make it absolutely clear that the last Administration has dealt a deadly blow to housing in this country. 1.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier that housing is a great indicator of the economic activity of a country. If we were to look at a cross section of people and look at the kind of employment housing development would instigate, we will understand why the building of houses is so important to a country. You will employ up front your surveyors who will survey the land. You would employ your lawyers who have to draw up your title deeds, etc. You will bring in your draftsmen and architects. Government gets its cuts out of the Town and Country Planning side of it. You have your road builders, and I know the members of the Opposition know a lot about road building, because wherever you pass in Barbados there is road building. Then there are services — water, electricity and telephone to be put in. The banks get a piece of the action with their mortgages. The insurance companies which insure the properties get a piece of the action. So whenever you turn around more and more people are being employed. The small contractor or the big contractor who builds the houses is there employing masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, steel-benders, painters, well-diggers, cabinet makers, and, of course, the labourers. The tilers, who put down the tiles get piece of the action and the people who put in the carpets. So you can see what a broad cross section of people are employed in the building of houses as opposed to the construction of roads where you only have three or four trucks and that is the end of it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say something about the present housing stock. I have been, as I said before, a little concerned by things that have happened in housing over the last couple of years, and I think there are things that we need to look at. Just as was promised in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, and I am sure it is something that we will implement, I think that we need to look seriously at what Government will do with its present housing stock. Government will always have to provide houses for poor people, and I think that there must be a policy in which people who live in Government houses must have the option to buy. It does a few things. If somebody moves into a house where they know that they will own it, you will find that he will maintain that property well. He is not going to allow windows to fall off. Garbage in the area creates a problem. If a guy knows it is a house that he is going to live in, he is not

going to allow anybody to come and dump garbage in front of his house.

Moreover, as the housing stock gets older and older, the maintenance cost to Government will get greater and greater, and if Government does not look at a policy of selling off housing stock and replacing it by new housing stock, then the mass of Government buildings is going to become bigger and bigger and your expenditure is going to rise year by year. If the individual owns the house, he will make sure that the toilets are always working, the windows are always functioning. For Government, as the estates grow bigger and bigger the overseeing of the problems become more and more difficult.

There is another sociological aspect to it as well. Where people have lived in the older housing estates and now have children and grandchildren, I would like to see a policy implemented that when houses in these areas become vacant, the residents, the children and the grandchildren in those areas, should have first preference to the houses, provided they can pay for them. I say this because I think it is a serious sociological factor. Especially in the times in which we live, where problems, like drugs, have become serious problems, it is important to keep the family intact, and one of the ways of keeping the family intact is trying to make sure that the child is living as close as possible to its mother, and that when the grandchildren come along, that the grandmother can keep the grandchildren. I do not think we can look at housing, especially if it is housing for people of the lower socio-economic group, in the way that we put up the houses for you and we are finished with you. I think there must be social factors involved, and I think the building of a family unit in the older housing area is going to be very important.

I speak with authority, because I represent one of the oldest housing areas in Barbados. I know how difficult it is for a 25 or a 30 year-old man or woman who was born in the Pine, who has lived all his life in the Pine and who has now decided to start a family to get a house in that area, despite the fact that there may be houses becoming vacant from time to time. I think that we need to look at this sociological aspect of housing very, very carefully.

Before I sit down, I want to say something else. I listened to the Honourable Minister of Tourism on "Point At Issue" last week, I think it was. He made a point. He might not have thought it was significant, but I thought it was very significant. He may have made it in passing, that is what I meant to say. He said that we should attract tourists to Barbados because tourists should come to see the experiment that we are carrying out in Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are we dealing with tourism or housing?

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I am dealing with housing. Mr. Speaker, I am just referring to that statement that he made.

I think that we have to look at what I would call futuristic housing. We live in the tropical zone, where, in a scientific age, we have young children, young adults, who have great aptitude in science. It is time that we look at housing, and I want here to make a distinction between town housing and country housing, because I think there must be a difference between the kind of houses you build in the City and the kind of houses that you build in the country. I think that we need to look at the country in terms of building houses for people which would incorporate people being able to keep their cows or their chickens, but I think that in attracting the new brand of Barbadian that is exposed to science, we need to challenge the minds of the young people. We need to look at incorporating things like solar energy, the collection of rain water for drip irrigation. We need to look at biogas production on these country Government estates. We need to incorporate these fantastic concepts and Barbados can be a model for this part of the world in the thrust into the 21st century as far as science and technology are concerned. We have the manpower to do it. I have seen where youngsters have left our secondary schools and have gone to places like Intel, and, with their scientific background, have excelled.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member has two minutes more.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to see us in Barbados start this experiment in scientific construction of houses. I think, in the long run, we will be able to provide a better standard of living, and in incorporating these concepts, we will have a broader base of employment.

I want to compliment the Minister on introducing this Resolution.

I thank you.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be very long in this debate, since really there is not much in the Resolution with which any honourable Member in this House would disagree. After all, this land was purchased by the Government as long as 1980. It was purchased for two specific purposes, one was the provision of housing in the area of St. Philip and the other was the upgrading of the Fire Service for that area. The project has not yet been implemented, and we have heard in this House two different reasons coming from honourable Members on

both sides of the House, both of whom have had the benefit of seeing the files. 1.45 p.m.

I make bold to say that the Barbados Labour Party intended to pursue the development of the Six Cross Roads area. It was outlined quite carefully in our manifestoes. In one manifesto, indeed we spoke of constructing sub-towns in Barbados.

This led to a good deal of laughter and poking of fun on the political platform by our opponents. Even now I hear the laughter from the honourable Member for St. George North (Mr. C. V. Walker). But at least he is now the heir to tremendous development of that concept. If he will take care to walk through his constituency from time to time, he will notice that the basic infrastructure for the development of the concept of the sub-town in Charles Rowe Bridge, extending to the Glebe, is there. He will notice, if he will persuade his colleague to open the poly clinic, that that is another development of the concept. He will see that the school is there and he will see that there is an upgrading of the facilities. I do not want to anticipate the debate that comes later on, a debate here for further lands at Walkers, but he will understand that we were serious about it, and it was not just a platform speech. He will see, too, that, in conjunction with that, private enterprise has begun to upgrade their facilities in the upgraded supermarket that has been constructed there already.

So, too, there were plans for Six Cross Roads. Honourable Members would recognize that part of those plans included the upgrading of the existing housing stock, which was built a long time ago, during the first tenure of the Labour Party Government in this country. It included the upgrading of the Six Cross Roads health facilities, and work has already started on upgrading that poly clinic. It included, as I said, the provision of a fire station, as well as the moving of the police station, although, from my memory of the files, the police at the time preferred to stay at District C. I have never understood why, in this day and age, when the circumstances which obtained at the beginning of the settlement of Barbados no longer obtain all police stations want to be on the highest points in the island. It seemed to me at the time, and it still remains my view, that it would have been preferable to bring the police station down to Six Cross Roads and have the fire station at District C where it would have the sort of vision and view that one expected. Obviously, we were very serious about this.

I understand, and I believe the honourable Member for St. Thomas as well, that problems arose after 1980 in relation to the development of that area because the Barbados National Oil Company was carrying out work there in looking at sinking of oil wells.

(*Aside:* Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Just down the road at Sunbury.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In fact, a little distance away from this particular site, some wells have been sunk, some wells have not proved productive but others have. If you go a little further in, you will see lands where they attempted to grow grapes, and that wells have been sunk and there has been some damage done to the agricultural development.

It is not necessary really in this House to try to put forward a case that the Labour Party did serious work in the last ten years in this country, in a developmental sense. Sometimes I hear from the other side that we did so much work that we were bunching projects. At other times I hear we did no work at all. But it is there to see, if honourable Members want to take the opportunity to go and look, they will see that it is there, and still there is work going on which was started by the party. It cannot be wiped out, no matter how much honourable Members may wish that.

I wish to engage the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons) on some of the comments that he made.

Sir, I am sometimes amazed at the misunderstanding which some people persist in, in looking at what has happened in the ownership and the development of the concepts of ownership of land in Barbados. The honourable Member's thesis to this House is that the effect of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act is to tie people into tenancies. That is nonsense, Sir. It really can be dismissed as that. The Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, despite whatever limitations one may want to find in it, had as its purpose the complete revolution in the ownership of land in Barbados; in fact, the sort of development that in some countries has led to conflict between big landowners and small people. It is the sort of Act that would be welcomed in other parts of Latin America and ought to be welcomed here. I certainly could not remain satisfied in public life that people who have lived on plantation lands for years should remain forever living there, in conditions in which they could not develop the infrastructure on which they lived because of the tenure which they had, and if I recall correctly, not only the Barbados Labour Party but both major political parties made some mention in their respective manifestoes at some stage to the need for security of tenure for tenants.

The Democratic Labour Party attempted in 1961, I believe it was, or 1971, some amendment to the Security of Tenure Act. For the benefit of the honourable Member, he has to go back a little further, to the year 1955, when the first Security of Tenure Act was passed here giving security of tenure both to agricultural tenants and to tenants who were renting house spots. But it was not

as secure as it ought to have been. Therefore, the Democratic Labour Party, after 1961 passed a Tenantry Control Development Act, in which if you owned or rented land with five or more spots you could not eject the tenant or raise the rent. You could only in fact, raise the rent with the approval of the court. You could not eject the tenant at all, except in limited circumstances.

If the honourable Member has access to the research done by objective staff — not us politicians trying to get votes — he will find that the point was made that part of that legislation had a dampening effect on people renting spots. It did not start with the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. He would also recognize that when the Right Honourable Member for St. John brought that legislation to the House, on Mondays hundreds of people were being chased off of spots of land on which they had lived for years. Anybody with a democratic, socialist conscience in this island would have come in and second the Resolution. But a lot of people are democratic socialists only in terms of paper. They shout it, they do not mean it. When you come down to the nitty-gritty of the legislation you are going to support in this House to help people who- most need it, you can then stand up and be counted.

I believe that the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act is one of the outstanding pieces of legislation in this country as an act of democratic socialism.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member is a well-known Tory, so I do not want him to tell me he does not believe it.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member looked at somebody whose countenance is such that he has a patrician bearing, and a person who in his conscience understands what is meant by legislation. 1.55 p.m.

The honourable Member must not confuse any bit of legislation that he says is not perfect with the aim and the purpose of the legislation. The legislation itself was an extremely well-conceived piece of legislation in the objects to which it was directed. If the honourable Member doubts that, let him persuade his Cabinet colleagues to repeal the Act. No one can quarrel about the purpose of that legislation.

I have a bit of experience of the law. I have never known any bit of legislation that has worked so perfectly that it has not called for amendments. Regardless of how you had framed that legislation, whether it was for five house spots or four, there would have been hard luck

cases. And, really, before the honourable Member left the Cabinet, having regard for the May 28 election, one of the things that the Labour Party was looking at, in the light of the criticisms being made, was whether or not we should have some form of tribunal to see how to answer the complaints of the few cases — there were not many — of those persons who wanted to say that they wish to leave the particular land to their children. Some of them were genuine cases. The honourable Member even contacted Sir Roy Marshall. He spoke about it in here last week and asked whether you had been in contact with Sir Roy Marshall, with whom he was dealing with the problem. He had agreed to come. In addition to that, let me go on and show the honourable Member, I know for a fact that when there were persons who said that they did not want to sell the land to a particular tenant, the Government went out of its way, as a matter of its administrative responsibility, to try to relocate that tenant, and in some instances to offer the genuine case of a landlord an alternative place.

When elections are on, it is all right going around and trying to use every particular grievance that there may be and catering in a broad way to those grievances. That is part of our function, whether we are in Government or the Opposition, and I have no quarrel with that. If you can exploit it to your political advantage, do it in an election. But am I to understand that the honourable Member for St. Michael South East believes that he could come to Parliament and repeal the Freehold Tenancies Purchase Act? That he does not want anybody who has got land for 10 cents to have that land? Last week I heard the honourable Member quarreling that a land owner, who owns 280 acres of land down in Six Men's, was being paid less than a quarter of a cent per square foot by Government. Now he is going to quarrel because tenants in the tenancies in Barbados, some of which have never seen the light of day of development, have been given the opportunity to purchase land at 10 cents a square foot. Barbados has gone through, by an improvement in its legislation in relation to tenancies — and it is not all perfect, none of us claim it is perfect — a revolution in making sure that you are bringing people into the ownership of part of the land of Barbados.

I do not mind how many columnists write a million times. I believe that we are right as legislators in this. We have to be careful not to pander to people who in the long run will not see social stability in this country. It is all right for those of us who might have a lot of land. But what about the other people who probably will never have had an opportunity? What are we to do about it? That is what I am challenging Members. You can read back from the moment I came into this House, never mind how you characterize me, that there has been a consistency in my advocacy of looking after those people who are less fortunate in this community, and if we have to do it sometimes by voting according to the method of

the Constitution, and there was nothing unconstitutional about the legislation either, then we should do so.

I know that the Democratic Labour Party felt that the clause in the Bill which called for a two-thirds vote was too wide. I heard the Right Honourable Member for St. John say on that clause that he felt it was too wide and it should be specific. Well, there are legal advisers. I was the Attorney General, the people drafted the Bill, I considered that it was appropriate to do it that way, and I brought it into the House that way. That is a criticism we could argue about legally. But can we really as legislators argue about giving people the right to own their house spots?

The honourable Member tried to go into the mathematics of it. I took it that he was implying in his argument that it is better for the people to remain all their lives as tenants and pay rent rather than to own their house spots. That is a very dangerous argument. The honourable Member must know that part of remaining all your life as a tenant in those lands, not in Government lands.....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, I am going to use the full time available to me.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr/Speaker, on a point of order: I think the honourable Member is implying things that I did not say and did not intend to say.

*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member says that he did not say and did not intend to say. He went into an elaborate breakdown of paying 25 cents a week and how it would take you a thousand and something weeks to pay, at 25 cents the \$500, and he compared that with the Land Tax.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, after this sentence, Sir, I will give way to the Leader of the House to break. I will continue after, Sir.

I heard a speech by the Right Honourable Member for St. John which I have never forgotten, in which he spoke about portmanteau architecture, where you had to take up your house and walk. I say that there is still too much portmanteau architecture in Barbados — too many people who have got to take up their house and move off a house spot because they have no security of tenure. That was one of the things that the Freehold Tenancies Purchase Act addressed.

After the suspension of this House, I will continue my speech on this point.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think it appropriate that this House should take its luncheon break at this time.

I therefore beg to move that this House be suspended until 3.10 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I second that, Sir.

The question that the House be suspended until 3.10 p.m. for luncheon break was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly. 2.05 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the honourable Member for Christ Church West was addressing the Chamber. The honourable Member has ten more minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I was making the point, Sir, that one of the dangers of not improving the security of tenure for tenants is that we may find that we continue to have what we refer to as portmanteau architecture. What is very significant is that since the passing of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act several tenants, both on the plantation tenancies and in the urban tenancies, have gone on with purchasing the land on which they live and improving their conditions.

I agree with the honourable Member when he says that in some of these tenancies no infrastructure has been laid. That is precisely one of the reasons why in the legislation the Government also provided for designating tenancies for development, as it was recognised that many of these landlords were not prepared to lay out money on developing the tenancies, and even if they did, as was happening prior to the change of the legislation in the 1960s, they wanted to throw the people off. If the honourable Member for St. Michael South East, would read the newspapers, even up to today, he would see that other tenancies have been designated for similar development, and it is right that once Government has gone in there and laid out the infrastructure, these people should have an opportunity to purchase the house spots on which they live.

The honourable Member says that he represents a constituency in which there is a large number of housing estates. I represent a constituency in which I would think about 70% of the people live in tenancies whether it is Eastmond Tenantry, Green's Tenantry, Bonnetts, Thomas Tenantry, Farmers Tenantry, Bolsden Land, Medford

Land or Pleasant Hall Tenantry, one of which has just been designated. Seventy per cent of the area — Worthing View, Amity Lodge Tenantry, one of which has been designated, Bynoe's Tenantry — is occupied by ""* people who could not obtain security of tenure, and I understood their plea for the need to pass legislation which would assist them in that regard.

Sir, it is being made to appear in the debate that everything was being unfairly done *vis-a-vis* landlords. That is not so. In the plantation tenancies, agreement was reached about the tenants purchasing their lots at a maximum of ten cents per square foot. I have never heard any of the people owning the sugar lands really objected to selling these lands. I have heard some of them object to selling it at ten cents a square foot, but not at selling the land to the tenants as such, and it seemed to me that Barbados was ripe for this type of legislation and this type of development.

In the urban and suburban tenancies, the tenants can purchase at the current market price, so a landlord is not disadvantaged in that regard. In relation to agricultural tenancies, — not only can the tenant purchase the house spot, but he can also purchase the agricultural land which he works. I believe the honourable Member was a little bit mistaken in this regard. If he would look at the legislation he will see that the legislation also encompasses the agricultural tenancies.

The only complaint which has been made of the legislation, and for which the legislation has been hammered, has been the complaint that a few people would say to you that they wanted to leave the land to their children. Obviously, Barbadians are very sentimental about land and leaving land to their children. A survey, which I believe is in the Ministry of Housing, will show that there are not many such cases of complaint, and that is why I said to the honourable Member that, in many instances, the Ministry of Housing did, and I believe still does, its best to accommodate such situations. I have known of cases where the Ministry of Housing has made spots available in other areas so that anyone who had a genuine case of wishing to leave the land to a son and daughter or other relative would not be deprived. So the fact that the legislation may not answer every case to everyone's liking does not mean that the legislation should be condemned.

I repeat what I have said. As Attorney General, the honourable Members had been in negotiations with Sir Roy Marshall to review the whole area of legislation in Barbados governing landlord and tenant, including this. In fact, when Sir Roy Marshall put up the various drafts that improve land law in Barbados we also asked him to look at the landlord and tenant legislation, but he said it was a mammoth task and, having regard to his then commitments, he could not undertake it. The honourable

Member must not presume bad faith on behalf of legislators because we are on opposite sides of the political fence. I think that a sober consideration of what has been achieved would lead almost every one of us to approve of that particular piece of legislation.

Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether they have taken or done any objective survey of the acceptability of the legislation. I think you will find that a large number of people who come into the special unit of the Ministry of Housing come for assistance to enable them to put in what is called the Form 3 notices under the legislation, rather than people coming and complaining that they have to sell the lots to the people.

I have several cases in which landlords have been absent for years, they will never return here. In many instances their children will never return here, but there is a sentimental view that I cannot sell you this land, I am not going to do anything to improve the tenantry, you have to remain for ever a tenant, and yet, in the absence of the legislation, the tenant cannot improve his lot. I think we must not be persuaded by some of these writers who really do not understand what the legislation was seeking to achieve.

The honourable Member makes a point, with which I can agree, about Government housing areas. I believe that in some of these housing areas, where tenants wish to, they should be allowed to purchase the houses that they occupy. I think that you will see that this policy had been started to a limited extent under the Labour Party Administration. Another form of the purchase of the houses also occurred under the Democratic Labour Party Administration prior to 1976. I believe that we have been making quite a lot of progress as well in providing sites and services to answer the needs of people who want house spots.

The honourable Member for St. Thomas spoke of the acquisition of areas of land to have a land bank. I think that honourable Members are aware that we had been in negotiations not only with the USAID Import/Export Fund for housing credit funds, but also with the World Bank to provide money for low cost credit to be given to people who want houses, and at the same time to put in sites and services. Within the honourable Member's own constituency, as he shares a common boundary with myself, he will see what could be done when tenants have security and when they can go on and own the house spots on which they live. I refer to Clapham Park, a community that was transferred from the area of Emmerton and transformed into Clapham Park. The Government put in the necessary infrastructure, assisted them, most of them are now purchasing their lots, people have converted from wood to wall. I certainly have not heard one complaint from anyone at all, Sir, on the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I can tell the Honourable Minister now that for every house spot that he has vacant certainly within my constituency, I can send seven people who are prepared to purchase it, young people who are setting out on the house owning exercise.

So we have to be very careful. I am not saying that the legislation does not need some amendment, but we have to be very careful not to listen to those advocates who believe that Barbados should be run so much on the total area of private enterprise, that the weak in the community must not be protected. I differ very fundamentally with them on this issue, and since the land is such a sacred matter for the people of Barbados, I believe that Government has a duty, wherever possible, to assist a wider mass of the population in owning land. 3.20 p.m.

Finally, I would not want to end without saying that I would have loved to see in Barbados more schemes similar to those engaged in by the Barbados Workers' Union, which is a model example of what you can do to really contribute to social development and social cohesion in our community.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE (St. Michael North East): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution and primarily to compliment the Minister for so quickly identifying with the housing needs of the people of this country.

The point was made during the debate so far, I think it was by the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde), that the land in question was purchased in 1980. The problem which we have in this country relating to housing and amenities for housing seem to indicate that six years is a very long time, and even at that point, Sir, they were unable to tell us that the area so mentioned was detailed specifically for housing development. For that reason, Sir, I would like to compliment the Minister for taking such swift action in this regard.

There are a number of concerns, however, which I have relating to housing. One relates to the safety of our young children in most, if not all, of the housing developments which, as soon as they have been developed, seem to attract a large volume of vehicular traffic. Some of us as drivers seem to pay little care or attention to the safety of the people in these developments, so anyone using these developments, even travelling on foot, will realize that there is a great danger posed to the young children of the areas, who must find some form of recreation. What I would like to see is that the Minister makes sure that in all of the housing developments to take place under his Ministry, indeed, the regime

of the Democratic Labour Party, some well-defined, properly fenced-in area be allocated to the young children in each development. I believe that recreation is as important as shelter, and in that regard, Sir, I would voice this concern that the safety of these little children, where you can put them into areas that they can be controlled, would be an asset to any new housing development.

In many of the housing developments it has taken, in my view, an inordinately long time to have proper street lighting. I would like to see some improvement in that regard. We know that there is a big problem in terms of crime where people seek in lawless ways to create havoc and problems for other people. In my own constituency, Sir, there is the problem of proper lighting in the Friendship area. The matter has already been drawn to the Minister of Transport and Works for his attention, and I hope to see some improvement in that particular regard. I believe that if the problem is attended to as quickly as I think we can, we would not have to harp over this kind of situation for too long.

The lack of housing is a very great problem in the constituency in which I have the honour to represent. I would like to see some accelerated programme for making housing facilities available to the people of my constituency. We may look at the general housing programme and conclude that because there is some activity in housing, that is going to be satisfactory enough. But it seems to me that because the demands are so great, what housing you can afford to give people, given the broad span, there is, will not even merely touch the surface of need. What I would ask at this very early point, Sir, is that whatever facilities are made available for improved housing in the St. Michael North East constituency, it be borne in mind that the need is great enough that we may not be able to accommodate persons from outside. It has many advantages and it has very serious disadvantages.

I do not wish to delay the proceedings on this particular matter. I would just like to register my support and to say that I am indeed happy that the Minister has shown this inclination to get on with the job as quickly as possible.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde), in the course of the debate, touched on the question of democratic socialism. It is my view, Sir, that an analysis of pursuit of that philosophy will not come from an *ad hoc* support of a particular measure, but will come from studied discussion of a person's public life, the positions taken and that person's whole approach to life. In fact, I do not think that we want to get into discussion of a particular person's attitude to democratic socialism. It is more fruitful, I think, to analyse a party's approach to democratic socialism, and that comes out of the party's

policies over a period of time. If you look at the Democratic Labour Party in terms of its educational programme from 1961 down, its social welfare programme, legislation as well as promises and institutions, you are talking about a party that understands and practices democratic socialism. The same cannot be said for all parties.

It is my fervent hope that the revolution that the Democratic Labour Party started and carried on in education and in terms of social welfare measures will be taken up in the field of housing. I believe sincerely that that is really the last frontier area in Barbados, in terms of social welfare measures, for revolutionary activity. I am not at all saying that we do not have housing of fairly good quality in Barbados, but I believe fundamentally that it is an area that still needs to be addressed by all of us, at all levels of the society. Housing is vitally important. 3.30

Sir, I should like to address the factual base of much of what has been discussed this afternoon in terms of Government's supply of housing to meet the demand of the so many who want either houses or house lots to advance their standard of living. I use as the basis of my discussion, Sir, the 12th Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the financial year 1984-1985, which is already a document of this House, Sir. Those who are not apprised of the facts would be shocked to hear, for instance, that from the inception of the National Housing Corporation to the end of the financial year ending March 31, 1985 some 38 239 applications had been received for housing. Of these, 8 728 have been met. In other words, you have a gap of almost 30000 applications in that period that have not been satisfied. But let us look at just one financial year, the financial year under question, Sir. There were 907 applications. Of these, 281 were satisfied.

So what we see is a yawning gap between the demand for housing and the ability of the present institutions to satisfy that demand. This is a matter of concern, I would imagine, Sir, for all of us, whatever our persuasions might be. It seems to me that housing is such a visible indicator of how well or how badly we are doing in this country that where you have the gardens and the parks et cetera expanding — in Frere Pilgrim and other places you can see some mansions going up - but you have this kind of demand not being satisfied, you are looking for serious cleavages in your country to develop over time. And the longer you stay to satisfy this basic need, the greater problem you are creating, because we do not anticipate that in the future it is going to become cheaper to build a house. It does not happen. So the more you postpone meeting this demand, the more you are aggravating a most important problem.

We are looking, basically, at a measure introduced by the Honourable Minister in the area where he has the honour to represent. We are talking about St. Philip,

but we could each, I think, deal with our own constituencies and come up with the same deficiencies. When I sit down in my office, at my clinic, if there are two people who come to me, the two want either a house or a spot along with a job, because wanting a house has nothing to do with whether you are employed or not. The unemployed want houses, too! You ask them, 'How are you going to pay for a house if you do not have a job?' They cannot make that differentiation. They want both! That is a very important thing for them. So all of us are caught in that same dilemma. It is not only politicians, but the relatives and other people who will be concerned, the builders. All are concerned of the lack of satisfaction of housing demands in this country.

In St. Philip, for instance, Sir, I note that for the same financial year there were 32 applications and only three were supplied. From inception, there were 1 116 applications and only 210 were supplied. So I do not think that the Minister has to go out of his way to make a case for housing development in St. Philip. The case is there. As a matter of fact, I was hoping he would get such a big development that some of my spill over would go in his direction. I am still hoping that even though he is not going to have an elaborate scheme up there, he would think kindly of his neighbour in the south who has some people in need.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am just looking at the numbers because my numbers look sort of big beside the numbers for St. Philip, but very small beside the numbers of St. Michael. So I am not going into a comparison act. I think that all of us are in need.

If we look at the houses that have been built over time by the National Housing Corporation, Sir, we notice that there are some 4 385 houses that are controlled by that corporation. Of these, 3 973 are rental units, 122 lease units and 290 are sale units. So the real demand out there is for rental units.

I would like to posit, Sir - it is not something that I would like to say - that as long as there is a Barbados of the type that we know, there are going to be persons who will not easily be able to afford to own houses. There is going to be a class of renters. This is very, very important. But when you look at the rental market today, Sir, it is shocking. Any person wanting to rent a normal house, a regular house, is talking about \$400 or \$500 a month. That is for a small house, I am not talking about a big house. It is \$400 or \$500 a month. If it is a wall building, two bedrooms, one bath. If you are talking about a wooden house, you are talking about \$200 or \$250 a month.

Clearly the kind of income that can afford that is not the lowest income in any salary structure in a

country like ours. So there will be people below that who cannot even think in terms ever of renting that kind of house. As a matter of fact I would say this, any person who can pay \$400 or \$500 a month should not be renting anybody's house if they want to own a house. We have to understand that clearly in Barbados. Anybody who can pay that kind of rent should be owning a house. That money should be going towards mortgage payments.

(*Aside:* Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am in agreement with that.)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The big difficulty in this country is the down payment. We are all aware of that. I am hoping that, as part of the housing revolution which our party has to become involved in, one of the measures will be to make it easier for a person to pay a low down payment. We are not going as far as Courts Christmas kind of gift. I do not think you can have that kind of exercise in something as fundamental as housing. But certainly I think that we have to think about lowering the kind of down payment requirements, because the person who would pay that \$400 or \$500 a month, if he had access to easy entry into that kind of mortgage arrangement, will pay willingly, gladly every month for that house if they have a chance of owning it. We have to open the doors to house ownership in this country. That is very, very important, and it must be done now.

I think it is the function of the National Housing Corporation now to cater basically to the renter class, the one that you would not get rid of so easily. I have watched the dismantling of that corporation over a number of years. I watched artisans being laid off, as though that corporation was irrelevant in our society. A lot of its functions were transferred to private sector contractors within the last ten years or so. I think that was a misguided policy. I am not saying the private sector must not live. It will live! We cannot stop it from existing in a country like ours. But Government does not have to go out of its way to foster it in that kind of positive direction — it will grow and it will prosper, I believe that corporations like the National Housing Corporation have a fundamental role to play in our society — this society is what I am talking about, Barbados — and that it has to provide units for the poor people in this country who will have to rent.

Let us make a comparison, for instance, between two housing areas, one in Christ Church East Central, one in Christ Church West Central, Gall Hill is an old housing area, and the way how it was structured, there was a diversified product. In Gall Hill you had 12 bedsitting houses, 32 one bedroom, 97 two bedroom and 30 three bedroom. So you were moving across the line, different people could be accommodated. By the time you came to Wotton, you had two two-bedroom units and 180 three bedroom units. Clearly you were now specializing in the

housing market. In doing that, you were neglecting a whole lot of people. If you are starting out with the three bedroom type, you are neglecting persons who do not need that type of unit at a particular time. Either that, or you create anomalies of a single person or two persons getting into that kind of unit — and it happens — while those could have gone into, say, a two bedroom unit and a bigger family could have been accommodated in a three bedroom unit.

I believe, therefore, that in these kinds of housing developments we need a diversified structure. We need the bedsitters, we need the two bedroom units, we need the three bedroom units. In my canvass I was surprised to see the number of young females who were renting houses. There is a tremendous amount of them! Part of that did not give me any joy, because it was part of the breakdown in the family unit, separations and so on. It did not give me any pleasure at all. But another part of it was the fact that we have a number of young women who are saving very early and want to be able to afford housing at relatively cheap cost so that they do not have to put too much of their money into one area of expense. A young lady putting \$500 a month into housing for an apartment does not have enough for saving, for her education and a whole lot of other developmental aspects of her life, and we need to keep a balance between the cost of housing and some other things in our lives. 3.40 pjn.

- I would like to suggest that the National Housing Corporation has to take on the function of purchasing spots, getting lands invested in them - just as Six Roads, St. Philip is being done now, we need that to be generalized throughout the country, that in its building programme it should think in terms of the kind of housing that it will be providing and that the National Housing Corporation has a responsibility to be a model house builder. It should build good houses, houses that can stand up, so that when private developers come, they have to look at a standard that has been set by that institution.

The same kind of statistics appear if we are looking at house spots. Between 1984 and 1985 there were 591 applications for house spots to rent. Thirty-seven (37) spots were actually rented. In St. Philip there were 19 applications and none were satisfied. We are talking about a situation that to me is already at a crisis stage. I think this is very important to note. It is not going to cause the same kind of disaffection as other things might, like salaries, for instance, things that are more immediate, but I believe that all of us in this Chamber would recognize what I am saying about the press that you feel when people come to you asking for houses. I am not just talking about emergency situations. All of us have those emergency situations, when we know that we have to write the Chairman of the National Housing

Corporation. But we also know that we are asking him to perform an impossible task of meeting our demands tomorrow or the week after, but we write. It is a kind of *pro forma* action that you have to satisfy your constituent that you are looking after their interest. But you know as you are putting pen to paper that you are asking the Honourable Minister, or the Chairman of the National Housing Corporation, to perform an impossible task, because all of us are doing the same thing, and the reason is that we do not have the houses to satisfy the demand. Now how long can we allow this situation to exist? Clearly Government is moving in the correct direction and we must applaud the Minister.

I read in the newspaper recently that there is going to be a meeting again of persons involved in housing, a seminar coming out of an exercise that went on at the Hilton. I think that exercise was started before May 28. It was an exercise that goes back sometime. If we recognize the importance of this exercise, we need to accelerate it. Let us be frank about it. We are talking ' about a lot of money. We are talking about possible effects on foreign exchange. All these matters are matters that are going to be discussed by the technocrats and the advice will be forthcoming. I think that in these matters we are looking at the principle, the philosophy and what is important to the country, and once we take a decision that this is important, we then have to do our cost benefit analysis. We have to decide we are going to do this programme over five years or ten years, or whatever. I think it is important that we start transforming housing in Barbados. It is time we start using the cement that we have at the cement plant to start building some wall houses for people in this country. There are still too many wooden houses in Barbados, still far too many. I doubt there could be any significant difference in the cost between a wooden structure and a „ wall structure out front. In terms of over the years, I am sure that the wall house is going to be a better bargain than the wooden house, and I believe we have to go in the direction of providing wall houses at all strata of our house development programme.

Mr. Speaker, with those comments, I would like again to compliment the Minister and to give my full support to this Resolution.

I thank you.

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

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the first thing I want to say is that it is amazing how some person on the other side comes over every meeting of this Honourable House. It seems as though every Tuesday one of

them has to come over in a manner that should not be emulated, let me put it that way.

The honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) started off by saying that I did not even mention that the Resolution was vesting the land in the National Housing Corporation. At the beginning of this debate on this Resolution the Clerk of Parliament said, "Order No. 3", and he read out Order No. 3 - "to move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of the parcel of land situate at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip to be developed by the National Housing Corporation for housing purposes." That is what we were debating, but he said I did not say it. Am I to repeat what the Clerk of the House had just said? It just shows that when you are short of anything to say, you get up and you say anything.

Mr. Speaker, he said that I did not say where the land was. Each one of us in this Honourable House receives his Order Paper, I think on Fridays. On the Order Paper, Mr. Speaker, it says here and I do not want to read all of it:

"ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land situate at Six Cross Roads in the parish of Saint Philip, abutting and abounding on this land by this person and the next person"...:

Each one of us had this. What do you want me to say? That it is the land behind Miss Brown's shop? Or it is the land behind Miss Carter's pailing? It is here!

Laughter

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: If you do not have anything to say, it is better to keep quiet.

You said that the development in Six Cross Roads was stopped because of something about the National Petroleum Corporation or BNOC. I have checked three different files

Asides

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Well, you probably know about another file that I do not know about.

I have checked the file in the Town and Country Department, I have checked the file in Housing, and I have checked a file dealing with Minutes of a meeting held March 12, 1979 at which this decision was made, a meeting with the National Housing Corporation held on March 12, 1979. At that meeting nothing at all was discussed about any BNOC or NPC. I see: "It was decided that this project be omitted from the 1979/80 programme but that the funds of \$175 000 which were provided under this project for land development should be added to the Budget for the St. Cecilia Project." You

were ignoring St. Philip and you cannot get away from it. It has nothing to do with BNOC or NPC.

You stated in your speech that I did not say whether the land was going to be used for sites and services or whether it was going to be used for Government units. Sites and services is only a new term, that apparently, the Labour Party has conned. There is nothing new about sites and services. It is just a spot. You survey a spot, you line it up, you put in water and roads, and that is sites and services. The point is, and the honourable Member must know, that there is nothing to say that you have to have sites and services there, as he understands it, and Government units elsewhere. All of them can exist the same place. If you have 112 lots or a large expanse of land, you could have Government houses on them, and in the other part of the land, you can have the sites and services where you rent out some and you sell some. But you still have Government units on the other side.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is on a point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the honourable Member given way?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, he sat down. He needed a rest. 3.50 p.m.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I heard some talk about Miss Brown's paling. You have some paling cocks on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, I was only enquiring during my presentation whether the Minister was prepared to explain to the House the specific purposes that he identified for the land, for example, whether he was going to have houses for rent with sites and services, or houses for sale or just houses for rent. I do not know. He would know what his policy was for the piece of land. That is all I was asking. Matters of understanding are very personal and subjective. If he does not understand, that is not my problem.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I will not go into St. Philip North and how he tried to, at least six years too late, convince the people of St. Philip North, I will just speak about St. Philip South. He mentioned that St. Philip South had the road from the airport to Sam Lord's fixed. This is perfectly true, but you know why it

was fixed. It was rushed through because there was a meeting of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers in Barbados at Sam Lord's Castle, and the persons doing it had to work Sundays, bank holidays, night, day, everything to get it finished in two weeks so that the Finance Ministers would not see the roads you had in St. Philip. That is all that happened, and you know that is the reason.

The honourable Member for Christ Church West said that we said that they were doing so much work that they were bunching the projects. It is quite the opposite. We said that they were doing so little work that they had to bunch the projects at election time. That is the difference. You were doing so little outside of election time that you had to bunch all of them at election time. That is what we said.

It was unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that the debate got to the stage where it became a debate on the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. I believe that the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act would have to take an entire day in here to be debated properly. I believe, and I hope I am right, that the idea behind the Act was laudable, but there are certain clauses in the Act that need to be looked at. There is no doubt that certain parts of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act are causing serious trouble in Barbados, serious heartaches. Because of certain clauses in the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act ordinary persons today are finding it very, very difficult to get land to rent. No landlord today is prepared to rent his land to any person, and the consequence of that is that National Housing Corporation is bombarded day in, day out with applications for house spots. It has got to the stage today where there are more applications, I believe, coming in per day for house spots than are coming in for housing units, and that is as a result of certain parts of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. As I said, I believe that the whole idea behind it was a laudable idea and I agreed with it, but this Administration has said in its manifesto that we will look at those parts of that Act that we believe need changing, and if so we will change them. The honourable Member for Christ Church West knows this, because I received a letter from him mentioning that we had said that we were going to look at the Act.

Aside

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: It is the Freehold Purchase Act. It is here in our manifesto:

"We propose to correct the disabilities in this legislation which are repugnant to the spirit of the Constitution and which affect the fundamental rights of the individual." That is all I have to say to that.

I turn to the speech of the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris), which I felt was, to say the least, a brilliant speech. I am in total agreement with most of what that honourable Member ** said. In fact, the Cabinet as a whole is in agreement with most of what that honourable Member said.

He said that any person who is paying rent of \$400 a month or more should be in the house owning market, they should own their own house. I am going further. I believe that when it comes to National Housing Corporation rental units no one earning over \$1400 a month should be allowed to rent those units, because National Housing rental units should be for low income people, people who cannot afford their own homes, and this is the way in which we are moving.

The honourable Member also stated that he saw over the past four or five years a dismantling of the work force of the National Housing Corporation. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there is a big enough market in Barbados ** to accommodate the private contractors when it comes to middle and upper income housing. I also believe that when it comes to National Housing Corporation's units for low income persons, National Housing Corporation should be building those units. I do not believe those units should be going out to private contractors.

This is what has happened over the past five years. The problem in NHC has always been, and especially within the last two or three years, with the supervisors. Many supervisors were selected not because they have any supervisory ability, but because of their political leanings. It had nothing to do with supervising. I am going to bring to this Honourable House the names of persons who were made supervisors two, three, four, five weeks before general elections, with no supervisory ability at all, but because of their political leanings. What you need at ^" Housing are good supervisors. You have good painters, you have good carpenters, you have good masons, you have good plumbers, everything but the supervisors. They have to be looked at.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: No skill required!)

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: No skill required! They have to be looked at.

There was an example in Bonnetts, Brittons Hill where persons from NHC were relocating two houses from March last year, two months before the General Election, March 1986. I got complaints all the time, 'Mr Blackman, these people up here are not working,' and one day I decided to go up there, and when I got there there * were about 13 people working on the house, and the second house was not halfway yet and they were working from March. I went up there during the first week in

December. I asked them to let me speak to the supervisor and he came to me. I said, 'What is going on here?' He said, 'I was supervising here when the house' started. I only digged out the foundation and then they move me somewhere else and they brought another supervisor here,' and he called the supervisor's name. I do not want to call the name in here now. I said, "Do you know such and such a person has not done one damn for the last three months up here?"

Mr. SPEAKER: That word must be withdrawn.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am sorry about that word. That was reported speech.

What I said was that nothing had been done on that site for the past three months, but supervisors were then running left, right and centre, and up and down. I had the privilege to go back up there two weeks after, and if you wanted to live in the houses you could live in them; the windows were in, and they were painted. Everything was finished.

The supervisors are the problem, it is nothing to do with the workmen. One of the other problems is that it would appear that the supervisors are not being supervised either. This is a problem in a lot of the Ministries.

On the question of rents, you would have heard that I recently made a statement about rents in Government rental units. The rents outstanding in November to the National Housing Corporation were \$2.5 million. This is a situation that cannot be allowed to continue. One of the problems is that there are a lot of persons living in Government rental units who have no right in Government rental units.

Let me explain what I mean by 'have no right.' They do not qualify. They never went into National Housing Corporation. Some persons are illegal dwellers. They are squatting, they would not pay and they will be moved out very shortly. We are moving them out. If you are in there illegally and would not pay — those are two things against you. If you were in there illegally and were paying, you might be able to get away, because the only way we would know you are in there illegally is if we went to check. If you went for the house and I was living in there paying your money for you, nobody would check. That was the situation.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am not talking about the situation that obtains now. I am talking about the situation that obtained before, and you know this is a fact. What I am saying is that if I was paying your money, nobody would check to see if you are still living, but if you had somebody in there illegally and not pay-

ing, that is the problem. We cannot allow that sort of situation to continue when there are about 7 000 persons waiting for Government rental units. You cannot have people in the units illegally and not paying. There are 7 000 people waiting for Government units and all the illegal ones are going to be put out.

A lot of people seem to think that you have to be soft soaping people, as the old people used to say. I am saying this: I have a housing area in my constituency, and if there are any people in there illegally and not paying, they will have to leave. It is a very simple matter.

(Aside: Start with yours!)

Asides. Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that has to be tackled. There is no question about that. I am not saying that I am going to be successful, but I am going to try, because I am put here to make sure that Government finances as far as housing is concerned are in a good state. That is what I am trying to do.

There are other things we have to understand. There are persons in Barbados who tend to call in on the call-in programmes and say that the Government rents are too high. I cannot believe it, and to think that the person believes himself to be a very sensible person! He calls in every day. I believe everyone of you all know him, the cement man. He called in the first day after this thing about Government rents came out. He started by saying that we are charging economic rents. Some person must have told him that cannot be true; there is no way that Government can charge economic rents otherwise nobody would live in the houses, it would be too much money. So he back-tracked and he said that the rents would have to be too high.

I would like to let that gentleman know that when you go to me National Housing Corporation for a house, you sign a voluntary contract. When you go to the National Housing Corporation for a house, they say you have to pay \$20 a week, \$30 a week, or \$15 a week, as the case may be. It is a voluntary contract, and the person signs the bottom line that they are able and willing to pay the \$15 a week.

People have to understand that if the Government rental units came down to \$1 a week, there are still people in Barbados who are not going to pay, because there are persons in Barbados who believe that, once it is Government, they do not have to pay. So to get on the radio and say that the rents are too high, you are joking because if you came down to \$1, there are people who

are still not going to pay. They are going to say, 'It is Government, so we are not going to pay.' It is especially so with the illegal ones who know that the legal persons are overseas. You send letters to them five, six and seven times, so they live in the houses for five or six years without paying, until you discover them and put them out. It is a simple matter.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have covered most of what I have to say. I believe that the National Housing Corporation and the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act are subjects for extensive debates. I believe that when you get a debate like this and you go down those lines, you can speak for the balance of the day.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WALKERS, ST. GEORGE RE THE GLEBE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Order No. 4 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Walkers, St. George, for the purpose of augmenting and facilitating the relocation programme arising from the Glebe Development Project.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, the Government is in the process of acquiring 2318 hectares of land at Walkers, St. George, which includes the 1.61 hectares previously identified for housing development, the property of Mr. DeVere Davis (Walkers Plantation). This acquisition has been considered necessary in order that the relocation programme arising from the Glebe Development Project might be augmented and facilitated.

An area of land at Walkers, St. George, was acquired by Government in 1980 as part of a larger area used in the construction of the St. George Primary School. It has been utilised for the relocation of houses which have been affected by the works undertaken at the Glebe. However, this whole area has proved inadequate, since it can accommodate only 14 of the 30 houses affected. As a result, it is necessary for the Government to provide a further 16 lots to facilitate a relocation programme.
4.10p.m.

The land in question today is situated south of the land on which housing relocation is in progress. It has been identified as the most suitable site for subdivision into lots to accommodate the 16 houses. It is adjacent to the present Walkers housing site and could easily provide an extension thereto.

This land enjoyed planning permission before for residential subdivision, but the owner has indicated that he has no objection to selling it to the Government..

Provisions of Section 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 to compulsorily acquire the land have already been invoked.

The Resolution therefore seeks parliamentary approval for the compulsory acquisition of the above-mentioned 2.378 hectares, approximately 5.87 acres, of land at Walkers, St. George, so that the acquisition proceedings may be finalized and the owner duly compensated.

So, basically, we have an extra 16 houses to relocate. We did not have enough land where we already had land to relocate them, so we had to acquire land over the other side.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir, and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. C. V. WALKER (St. George North): Mr. Speaker, this Resolution states that the land is to be acquired to augment and facilitate the relocation programme arising from the Glebe Development Project. If there was ever a group of people who needed to be facilitated, it is the people at the Glebe in St. George.

It states, also, Mr. Speaker, that it is at Walkers. I must say that Walkers has nothing to do with Cyril Walker; therefore, I do not have to declare an interest.

Mr. Speaker, when people find themselves dealing with an uncaring Government, and when people find that no one really cares about them, there is always the element of frustration. It goes further. When the people who are supposed to carry out the policies of the Government recognize that no one cares, they, too, begin an element of frustration.

Mr. Speaker, the Glebe at St. George has contributed to this country. Indeed, if one were to check the history of the area, you will find that it has produced people of all walks of life, artisans, lawyers, engineers, school teachers, Assistant Commissioners of Police. But, Mr. Speaker, the history of the Glebe, which I will also build right up to the problem that now exists at that extra spot in Walkers, goes back to the fact that the people of the Glebe are literally one family. I make bold to say that even my grandmother was born on the Glebe in 1875. She has given me chapter and verse on the Glebe. Even I can give the Members of this Honourable

House a history of the 1898 storm. So I think I speak with authority. It is a family area more than a community.

I can even recall the Right Honourable Prime Minister, who is sitting in his seat, as far back as 1951 standing in front of the same Glebe and telling the people he looked forward to the day when the people of the Glebe would own the spots from which they now had to move. From which they now had to move! And he was speaking through a bull horn.

(Aside: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Tell them!)

Laughter.

Mr. C. V. WALKER: I know, Mr. Speaker.

Asides

Mr. C. V. WALKER: The Glebe, St. George, adjoined Walkers, the Glebe and the Valley. The honourable Member for Christ Church West made a comment earlier today when he tried to introduce Charles Rowe Bridge as part of the Glebe. I am sure that the Right Honourable Prime Minister has already explained in here what the Glebes are and what the Valley is. I hope that the honourable Member will get his record straight.

Aside

Mr. C. V. WALKER: The Glebe, St. George - St. George Boys' School. I had the privilege of going to school there and I also now have the honour of representing the same people of the Glebe.

(Aside: Hear, hear!)

Mr. C. V. WALKER: So when we are talking about the Glebe and Walkers

Aside

Mr. C. V. WALKER: there is a history to it - boy, you could never turn me off — and we will continue to deal with this history.

What has happened in the Glebe in St. George goes back to 1976. Nineteen hundred and seventy-six — the tale of two cities! We were going to have a city at the Glebe in St. George in 1976. In 1981, the Barbados Labour Party and the fellow who used to represent it said that up and down St. George. Indeed, I think it was part of a document produced by the Barbados Labour Party. But we heard a little more! We heard that there was going to be a swimming pool at Gun Hill.

Aside

Mr. C. V. WALKER: The sea was under the late Mr. Miller or something like that. That is something else. We are talking about a swimming pool at Gun Hill.

Aside

In 1986, we heard a lot more. We heard all of the comments about the great development of the Glebe with a city, how the agreement was signed or mutually agreed upon somehow with the church. They were trying to give the people of St. George the impression that any agreement they had for the development of the Glebe was done with the St. George Parish Church. But the people were wiser than that. That was agreed upon, as we know, with the Cayless Agreement and the Valley Agreement under the Diocese, not necessarily St. George Church. And in 1986 we not only heard of a city then, but we heard that you were going to have another swimming pool — this time right above the graveyard.

Mr. Speaker, in 1980 the then Government of the day bought land at Walkers, part of which was used for the construction of the now St. George Primary School. The extra land that was there turned out to be a development of 14 spots. If you would recall, signs went up that the 14 spots were for sale. However, in 1985, when the Barbados Labour Party was approaching elections in 1986 and was speeding up their activities about the city and the poly clinic, going around not only St. George North or St. George South, but indeed throughout the country, they discovered that there was no place to move the people when they were talking about resiting the people who were living on the Glebe. They also discovered that there were 30 houses to be resited, but there were only 14 spots on the land that was acquired when the school acquisition was done. I will get back to that and tell you what I think the people who were there on those 14 spots are entitled to. 4.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the National Housing Corporation, or the Government of the day, or somebody decided that it was essential that these people be moved in 1985, and sometime in December, I think it was around December 9 or 12, or thereabouts, sometime within the first two weeks of December, 1985, these people received letters telling them that they would be resited, not knowing where they would go. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, around Christmas 1985, and right into January 1986, there were knocks on the doors telling these people that they had to pack and be ready to be relocated. Remember I said there were 30 houses. They had 14 spots. They sent some of these people to Brittons Hill, some to the Pine, and some of these people to private homes. I would not want to call the names of the people who owned those homes in this House today. I am talking about December 1985. This is January 1987. Some of those people have been

packed since December 1985 and they have not yet been moved to any location. I am talking about the people of the Glebe. You talk about problems! The Government set up a contract for some \$582,000 and gave to a gentleman called one Cumberbatch. I am made to understand that the Cumberbatch is the great Cumberbatch who was mentioned in Black Bess during the St. Peter by-election. I am sorry that the honourable Member for St. Peter is not here - the Cumberbatch who was praised by the late Prime Minister that he had done such a great job in such a short time in Black Bess, to the point that, I understand, he was promoted. I understand that he went somewhere up in the Pine working for another Minister who subsequently discovered that he could not produce. The sad thing about this whole contract is, having been dismissed, fired, or whatever from MTW, he was given total responsibility for the running of the job at Walkers, the resiting of the people. I will tell you what happened.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you speaking about a Member in the Government Service?

(Asides: No!)

Mr. C. V. WALKER: Far from it, Mr. Speaker!

Mr. Speaker, the particular individual took over the running of this project, the resiting of the people. First of all, the people had to pay extra dollars to have additional work done. There are now at least four cases in court I know of by people who have been resited. There are also cases in court by sub-contractors. The well-diggers could not get paid, the carpenters could not get paid, the people working on the sites could not get paid, and worst of all the guy picked up one day and headed for the airport and was leaving town. Do you know what happened? Some of the same people who were working on that development went to the airport trying to stop him from leaving, and he had the audacity to tell them do not worry, "My brother is going to go to the National Bank. The funds are all there and everybody will be paid." And the people believed it.

(Aside.)

Mr. C. V. WALKER: Are you going to lock him up? Well, if you lock him up, that is your business.

Mr. Speaker, the people took his word and went down expecting that they would be paid, only to be told that there had not been any money in the bank for weeks. People stopped, the project stopped, and everything shut down.

About a year ago, Mr. Speaker, I was summoned from my office and was told to come to the same Glebe, because people expected a war was going to start up there. The particular individual had not paid these people,

and the Press was up there, too, and there were at least four people around there who had bounced cheques in their hands. He was able to convince them not to show the Press the cheques because he was going to pay them the next day. They have not got paid yet. Do you know what he did? He actually went to the Press a couple of days after that and accused me of trying to incite the people up there for political reasons. Can you imagine me inciting? Walker from Walkers?

That was not the end of it. It is my understanding that National Housing allowed it to continue. The 14 people were there. He moved some of their houses. I would not even call the people's names, it is not right, but I know that to this day there is some special galvanize on some of the roofs. When you move galvanize from one house and take it to another house, if you are a smart carpenter you are supposed to fill up the holes. He punched holes in the galvanize and left the old holes open, and water was dripping through the old galvanize on the people. That was the kind of job that was going on.

I would only say that I would hope that the Minister would understand that these people have borne quite a bit. We heard earlier today about the rights of people and how people should have the opportunity to acquire land. Some of these people have been living on the Glebe for ages. There is one lady. She is 92, so you know how long she was living on the Glebe, not too far from the church. She had to pack up and move. She has been living there and she raised a family, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I would hope that now she and her family are over there on the 14 spots, she will be able to purchase that land at a reasonable price.

Asides.

"V-

Mr. C. V. WALKER: The honourable Member for Christ Church West is saying the Freehold Tenancies Purchase Act. But, as I said, the National Housing Corporation had a sign up there that these spots were for sale, and I am saying that when they are able to buy, I want them to be able to buy it at a decent proper price, under the Freehold Tenancies Purchase Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is another point I want to make in this contribution. Contrary to the general belief and contrary to everything that the Barbados Labour Party was saying not only in 1976, but in 1981 and right up to 1986, there were no discussions with the people of the church about the details of the movement to the Glebe. There was one meeting in the church one night when a certain gentleman called Les Case or something like that was there. I was there. He never came back to the people. All we heard was that there was this agreement with the church. The people knew nothing about it. I know what I am talking about. Again, I am speaking factually, I have

the privilege of being a member of the Church Council of the same church, so I know. I was asked as a member of that Church Council to make representation to find out what was going on with the Glebe. Nobody, Mr. Speaker, was in a position to give me an answer. I believe they knew, but I think they knew what was happening and what was about to happen some time in 1986, so they thought once I do not know it might be better for them. 4.30 p.m.

I am sure that the Minister will not put any swimming pool above St. George's churchyard; we have too many funerals up there already. We were offered a sea, we were offered a pool at Gun Hill and now we are offered a pool next to the graveyard. Listen, we are a proud people up there. We have no sea, but do not try to drown us.

Aside.

Mr. C. V. WALKER: Is it bothering you?

When Mr. Davis had discussions with the last Government, the Davis mentioned in the Resolution, you occupied the man's land. Today if you went up there, there are houses on that additional section. Some are incomplete and some just have the base and about another level of blocks and nobody is working there. I understand that National Housing is now trying to go up and clean up the mess that was developed up there by the contractor. The contractor has gone, and 19 lots are left.

Mr. Speaker, through you I would like to say to the Minister of Housing that St. George North is one constituency in which there are no housing developments, none whatsoever, and if those 19 spots are going to be left after the additional 16 are occupied

Aside,

Mr. C. V. WALKER: Waverley Cot is in St. George South.....those 19 spots should be allocated to the people in St. George North who on a daily basis are looking for house spots and some place to put their houses.

There was some mention made about the whole Glebe project and the opening of the polyclinic. Even one who writes in the Press made a comment about the problem of opening the polyclinic. As I said, I have the pleasure of representing those people. I walked between those hills as a little boy. I cannot see any old people walking down those hills. The last Government did not have the foresight to realise that people have been dying coming down the Rectory Hill, that they would have to put a walkway so that these people are not knocked down by trucks, especially now with the two and three trailer carts in the crop. Until a proper walkway is put down there, I would suggest that that polyclinic be not

opened. Otherwise, we will have to go to some funerals in St. George.

I would like the 14 people on the lots to be able to buy the land that is there. I would also like the additional ones on the 16 to be able to buy that land, and I would like the other 19 lots to be allocated to people up there. I have already said, 'No Mr. Minister, no swimming pool next to the graveyard.' Also, please give them some, lights, because even now, although the 14 are there, they are sharing electricity. Two or three houses are sharing electricity.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, those people have suffered so much that it would be incumbent upon the Ministry to send those people a letter of apology for the inconvenience that they have suffered for the last 15 months. As if it is not bad enough, now that the 14 people have gone the others are down in Brittons Hill and scattered about — the bush has grown up the area from which they have moved and you have a forest. I would ask that that be taken care of as well.

I will close, Mr. Speaker, by saying this. Adjoining the Glebe Development Project, as we know it, is also the Valley Glebe Development, right next to Parish Land. These people have paid money for their land a long time, and we will come back to that on another issue later, but I would like the Minister also to check on that, because there are problems. You have the problem of the Glebe spilling over to the Valley Glebe. Do you know where it is going next? Down in Parish Land. I think the honourable Member for St. John knows up there very well. The honourable Member for Christ Church West passes through there every morning, so every day now he is trying to give the impression that he knows all about St. George North. Keep passing, we will not block you.

Mr. Speaker, give the people the Glebe. The people have come together in that 14-spot area in such a way that they are now a community. They have actually called up there Knots Landing because of all of the frustrations they went through in the 15 months. I believe they must be complimented for putting up with all the inconveniences for the 15 months to the point that they have organised themselves, and even over the Christmas holidays they had community shows and little dance groups among the youth, and they are enjoying themselves and hoping for the best.

Mr. Minister, I support you on this Resolution and I hope that you continue to look after the people at the Glebe.

I thank you.

Mr. R. P. BYER (St. George South): Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I get the opportunity to make a contri-

bution in this Honourable Chamber because of my duties as Chairman of Committees. I enjoy those duties, but I could not let this Resolution pass without making a contribution, not only for that reason but because it concerns St. George. I have spent all of my life in that parish, apart from periods of study abroad, and I have grown to love it.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, will you protect me from these two honourable gentlemen, please?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will advise you not to listen to Asides, listen to the Chair.

Mr. R. P. BYER: It is difficult, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not hear them.

Mr. R. P. BYER: As I said, I have grown to love this parish, but from the time I had any understanding about politics or social life and social welfare in Barbados, I have often heard it said that we have been promised this and we have been promised that. All of the promises that have been made in St. George stretch from the sea, and now I am hearing about a swimming pool, and I feel it is time that we be taken as a very serious and proud people from a very important part of St. George, an area which, I am certain you will agree with me, boasts the most beautiful spot on the island of Barbados, the St. George Valley.

I do not want to cover any of the ground that was covered already by the honourable Member for St. George North (Mr. C. V. Walker). I think that he has eloquently and completely dealt with the problems faced by the residents of the Glebe and Walkers in St. George. I have had occasion to be the listener to many complaints from residents who live in that area. When they cannot get in touch with the honourable Member for that constituency they call me. When mine cannot get in touch with me they call him. It is like that, because we view St. George, although politically divided in terms of constituency, divided for political purposes, as one entity. So I do not really want to cover any of the ground that he covered. I would like to speak to the Resolution for a different reason. I believe I would still be within the scope of the debate, Sir, if I had to make mention of real estate agents and the way they operate in Barbados.

I am very concerned with the way and the manner in which real estate agents conduct their business in Barbados. In my practice I have had opportunity to be the recipient of many complaints, especially against one gentleman. I believe the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) some time ago made mention, although not calling his name, of that person,

but, Sir, you will recall that I did inform you today that I have every intention of calling that person's name. 4.40 p.m.

I want to do this to let the people of Barbados be aware that there is a person out there operating as a real estate agent who does not have their interest at heart, a very selfish man, a man who can be called a con man. I do not know of any single spot of land that he has sold since he operated as a real estate agent.

Mr. SPEAKER: Including the Glebe, I guess.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I do not think, Sir, that he was involved in that transaction. That was purely one of the National Housing Corporation. But, as I said earlier, I believe that I would still be within the scope of the debate if I have to refer to real estate agents, because they are engaged in the business of selling land.

It is about time that the operations of real estate "agents in Barbados be controlled. It is about time that legislation in Barbados beyond what is already on the Statute Books be passed to control the operations. The operations in relation to real estate agents in Barbados cover registration. That is all it covers. I think it is about time that the laws be made more complete to allow for the establishment of some board, some controlling agency, that can oversee their operations.

I believe that because of the nature of the engagement, because of the nature of the employment, real estate agents should be made to sit examinations so that we can have some reputable persons who know something about what the law requires. A lot of them operate without any knowledge of Land Law or aspects of Property Law and I do not think that that should be, allowed to continue.

The person that I am talking about is a man called Arlington Griffith.

Asides

Mr. R. P. BYER: I told the Speaker that I would call his name. I informed the Speaker that I would call his name. I did that by way of letter today.

I think it is about time that people in Barbados be made aware of the way this gentleman operates. Every day he is in court in Barbados.

Asides

Mr. R. P. BYER: He is a real estate agent, he is not a lawyer. I mean that he is brought before the courts for engaging in acts of doubtful validity. That is

what I am talking about, and it is about time that his activities be stopped.

I believe that any controlling body in so far as real estate agents are concerned, Sir, should be established with a view to protect the professional integrity of real estate agents. As I said before, one of the things that could be allowed for is for the establishment of an examining body, and that they be made to take exams. It is a very responsible position, they take people's money, and I believe that something should be done to control their activities. This is even more important, Sir, because very soon the Stock Exchange will be established, and I believe that you will need this additional legislation to protect investors.

Sir, I want to move on to another topic, and it touches upon what we are discussing now, this Resolution, and it also has to do with the operations of building agents. It is because of the way how the contractor operated at the Glebe Development that the people in that development are suffering. There may very well be need for legislation, too, Sir, to control contractors in the way they operate in Barbados.

There is a contractor who operates in Barbados, a gentleman who operates behind a company called "General Development Company Ltd¹" - I did inform you that I would mention that person's name — a Grafton Marshall.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: A gentleman called Grafton Marshall. He has a front called "The General Development Co. Ltd."

In 1983, a client of mine signed a contract with this gentleman for the construction of a house at Charnocks, Christ Church. The contract was for \$150000, and the lady, without taking any legal advice, deposited with him \$60000. Up until this day the house has not been built, efforts have been made to recover this money through the courts and, once again, there is nothing there to recover. Judgment was obtained, judgment was registered, but the company does not have any property, so one cannot recover. It is like having an empty judgment, just something on a piece of paper, and \$60 000 has gone down the drain.

I sought at one time to involve the police in the matter but they informed that it was a civil matter involving breach of contract and they did not want to become involved in that affair. I have my own views on that. I think that it was fraud and I think that the police ought to become involved in it.

There are several people in Barbados who suffer because of this person. I think it is about time that we try to

protect small investors, or any type of investor at all, who deposits money with contractors. I think if the existing law does not cover this kind of criminal behaviour, then laws ought to be introduced to cover it, because there is a lot of money involved.

The \$60 000 were savings. It was not money that was borrowed from a bank, and the woman is an old woman, well into her late 60's or early 70's, I believe. These were a lifetime of savings, \$60 000, and all of it was deposited with a builder, and now he cannot account for any of it, all of it down the drain. I would ask that these matters be addressed with a view to enacting legislation to control the operations of real estate agents and people who call themselves builders, as distinct from contractors.

Sir, a lot has been said about the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. I have had occasion to speak on that Act before. I have introduced a question in here addressing some aspects of it. I do not really want to dwell too much on it. I gather from the Minister of Housing that the time might arise when we will have the opportunity to debate the legislation extensively.

I can only say that the Act as it presently stands is very harsh in its operation. There are a number of restrictions which, I believe, the Minister will address himself to, when he sits down to look at the legislation, with a view to repealing or amending those parts of the Act.

I believe, and this was the tenor of the speech of the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) as well, that the idea behind the Act was a laudable one. I do not share the view that it was the greatest piece of social legislation ever passed in Barbados, as was said by a former Member, but it was laudable in its intent. The manner in which it went about was another matter.

One thing that I would say is that the way in which the Act operates in relation to what I call small tenancies leaves a lot to be desired. I agree that, however the Act was drafted, there would be a measure of hardship attending some person or some persons, but because it was retroactive in certain respects, in effect, it had the effect of affecting a larger body of persons than it was necessary. 4.50p.m.

I come from a constituency that has many tenancies the designated tenancies, the plantation type, and the tenancies that are tenancies by the operation of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and the Security of Tenure of Small Holdings Act. What happened was that under the Security of Tenure of Small Holdings Act, a tenancy was, I think, five or more house spots. What people used to do was rent four, they knew that they did not create a tenancy. What the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act did was to retroactively say that the amount of house spots in a tenancy would now be reduced from five

or more to two or more. So you then captured a lot of tenancies that were not intended to be tenancies. I hope I am very clear on that.

That must be changed, Sir, because landlords were then told that the parcel of land that they owned were now tenancies when they did not intend, in the first place, for them to be tenancies. Apart from its doubtful constitutional validity, that is one aspect that has got to be addressed, and addressed with great speed.

The other thing that it does, as I have said before, is that some areas are designated tenancies. I can speak about the Dash Valley area in St. George. That is now designated a tenancy, but the people who acquired the lots are finding difficulty in getting planning permission to erect houses, because the development is in zone one water area. That is something that has got to be looked at.

Even though you have certain sections of the Act to allow for the landlord to resite a tenant, as it were, what is happening, especially in relation to that development, is that it would be very difficult to resite anybody at Dash Valley at all, because the whole area sits on a very large underground reservoir. Another part of Constant Estates would have to be acquired if it is thought to relocate people from Dash Valley. I think the honourable Member for St. Andrew (Mr. C. A. Neblett) will support me in this regard.

I want briefly, Sir, to speak to the housing problems that we have in Barbados. The Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons) spoke about the maintenance problems that the National Housing Corporation would experience from time to time because of the kind of operation that it conducts. Housing is a worldwide problem. Even our great capitalist neighbour, the United States of America, is having problems housing its homeless people. Daily on the CNN reports that we get in Barbados, we see that there are many homeless people in the United States of America. The increase in homelessness in that country has been brought about largely because of the policies pursued by the present Administration.

We have got to be very careful. I think that the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central earlier on spoke about serious cleavages that could develop if we do not address the housing problem in Barbados. I would not want to see an increase in the homeless in Barbados. I think the time is right when we have got to sit down very carefully and give a studied approach to the way in which we must address our housing needs in Barbados and take the best possible approaches that could be adopted. I think it is a task, if it could be spoken of as such, that ought to be addressed with urgency. I do not think that we should allow it to develop any more.

Many more Resolutions should be brought to acquire land to satisfy the backlog of applications at the National Housing Corporation, but also to build houses or apartments, whatever you want to call them, to satisfy ~» the growing need for that type of accommodation in Barbados. I think we must proceed *posthaste* with this approach.

In relation to other aspects of housing, and specifically the problem of maintenance, I believe that the Ministry responsible for Housing ought to give some consideration to converting some of the housing estates into condominiums or co-ops along the North American lines. I must add that this is a matter that was discussed between myself, the honourable Member for St. Michael South East and the Member for the City (Mr. P. J. Miller). I think that the effect this would have is that it would now remove the problems of maintenance from the corporation to the owners of those condominium type dwellings. I think that some consideration ought to be given to this.

I believe that there is a lot of pride when one has his own house. That person would look after the maintenance of the house and, generally, the conditions of the development would be improved. What I am saying is that the onus would now be shifted from the National Housing Corporation to the property owners. I think that that in large measure would take care of some of the problems that the National Housing Corporation has in terms of maintenance of these houses. The units that are being built now are very attractive and I think that people would want to own them, as long as it could be explained to them the implications of condominium type developments and co-op type developments as are pursued and enjoyed in North America.

I believe, Sir, that efforts should be made to, as I ^ said, address our housing problems and that these efforts should be urgent. The situation is becoming a little chaotic and, before it gets out of hand, we ought to pursue it with great haste.

Thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 66 by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, asked by 4, the Honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Question 66, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 66, asked by the Honourable Member for St. George is as follows: 5.00 p.m.

1. The qualifications required for a Secretary are as follows -
 - (a) Four (4) 'O' Level Certificates one of which must be English Language and the ability to take dictation with a speed of at least 100 words per minute and to type at a speed of at least 50 words per minute.
 - (b) Complete knowledge of general office procedures and the ability to communicate effectively with persons within the Authority and the general public.
 - (c) At least five (5) years practical experience as Secretary in a major Industrial or Commercial company.

The Secretaries receive a salary of \$23 184 per annum and the Secretary who records the Minutes of the Board of Directors meetings, an additional \$2 400 per annum.
2. All Secretaries hold the required qualifications.
3. No specific directions have been given to the Board of Directors but the salaries of appointed Secretaries are recommended by Management, approved by the Establishments Committee and the Board and are then subject to the approval of the Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any supplementary?

Mr. R. P. BYER: No, Sir.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (RESUMED)

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That concludes Replies to Questions, Sir.

I beg to move that we revert to Government Business and Order No. 6, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now taken. Order No. 6.

PENSIONS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1987

Order No. 6 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend certain enactments relating to the payment of pensions, gratuities and other allowances.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Speaker, soon after this country proceeded to the enlightened state of independence, the Public Officers Pensions Act was amended to make it possible for members of the Public Service to interrupt their service for one reason or another, either to go into private enterprise or to work in statutory corporations, or to go overseas, or for training where leave had not been granted, and to re-enter the Government Service without losing their pension rights. The Pensions Act was amended accordingly so that public officers who resigned after not less than ten years of pensionable service, but before reaching the normal retiring age, should become eligible for retiring benefits at the age of 55 years, and that such benefits should be computed on the employee's emoluments in the Service at the time of his resignation.

We have had cases in which Members of Parliament worked in the Government Service for 16, sometimes 18 and sometimes 20 years, had not reached the retiring age of 55, had entered Parliament and lost their rights to any retiring benefits under the Pensions Act. This is no longer the case, so that a public officer who, let us say, enters the Public Service at the age of 18 and does 20 years service, and he reaches the age of 36, he is not entitled to receive a pension for another 19 years but he can now go outside into private employment and when he attains the age of 55 years, he can then claim his 20 years of Public Service.

The reason for that is very simple, in that a person who entered the Public Service for the first time at the age of 45, as long as he put in ten years before reaching the retiring age of 55, he would be entitled to pension. But the person who had joined the Public Service immediately on leaving school, full of energy, put in 20 years and then decided that he would like to improve either his education or his experience at the work place would not have been entitled to any retiring benefits, even although he put in 20 years service. This did not appear to be equitable and so the Act was amended accordingly, and the effective date of coming into force of the Act was November 30, 1966, which date, I do not have to remind Your Honour, is called by the Barbados Order in Council "the appointed date."

As far as casual workers are concerned, this did not apply to casual workers, as casual workers, from 1967 onwards, came under the National Insurance provisions. The problem with casual workers, who normally would have retired at the age of 60, is that up to today they could not receive any benefits until they attained the age of 65. So there was a hiatus of five years during which they received no National Insurance benefits at all. Had they joined the Service before 1971, they would be entitled to some kind of pension under the Casual Employees Pension Act, Cap. 20, and I believe that is still the case.

There has been some agitation, as some workers in St. Philip said that they bore the heat of the mid-day sun, and by the time they got to 45, they looked like 85, and public officers, who were working in the relative luxury of the air-conditioned offices, by the time they reach 55 they looked as if they were 45. Be that as it may, there is a hiatus between the age of retirement of Casual Workers and their receipt of National Insurance benefits if they joined the Service after 1971.

But there is a double disadvantage in that casual employees do not enjoy the same suspended benefits which public officers enjoy. Many casual employees sometimes get recruited for the farm labour programmes in Canada and in Florida in the United States of America. Those casual employees, having interrupted service, would not be able to claim, no matter if they had done 15 or 20 years of that accumulated period, if they came back to the country and rejoined the Public Service either at MTW or some other place as casual employees. The National Union of Public Workers had made representations from time to time on this score, and the former Administration had indicated that they were willing to amend the provisions of the Casual Employees Pension Act. The purpose of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, therefore, is to bring casual employees in line with public officers, and the purpose of the amendment which we are now considering is to put this into effect by legislation. 5.10p.m.

I do not want to quote from proposals, if you will bear with me, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to quote from the amending Bill itself, which is on the Order Paper. In the Schedule, this Bill amends the Casual Employees (Pensions) legislation, the existing legislation. As you will see in the Schedule on page 3, where an employee has qualified for the payment of a pension under subsection (2) he may, at the time when payment is granted under that subsection, be paid at the date of his qualification for pension - which normally now would be the age, I believe, of 60 - together with any additional benefits that he would have received had he qualified under subsection (1); and any such additional benefits are payable out of moneys voted by Parliament.

"(3) Where a person who becomes an employee after the appointed day retires from the public service before attaining the age of sixty years the Minister responsible for Finance may grant to that person a gratuity calculated in accordance with paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (2) whichever is applicable, but payment thereof shall be suspended until the person attains the age of sixty years or is disabled through injury or ill-health or dies."

"(7) Notwithstanding subsections (1) to (6), an employee who leaves the public service before attaining the age of fifty-five years, whether or not he has completed ten years pensionable service is

entitled to have his service treated as continuous if he is re-employed in the service for a period of not less than five consecutive years and it is immaterial that his leaving the public service or the re-employment occurred before this subsection came into operation."

In all events where a casual employee leaves the Service and becomes entitled, the payment is suspended until he attains the age of 60 years or he satisfies the Board that he has had to retire because of ill-health or is disabled.

That, basically, Mr. Speaker, is the reasoning behind the introduction of this legislation. What it will do, is to put casual employees on the same level of treatment now enjoyed by public officers. A public officer is defined in the Constitution. Casual employees are not public officers, with one reservation, that the retiring age, for some peculiar reason, for a casual employee is the age of 60, and the optional retiring age for public employees is 55. This does assist those workers who from time to time wish to go outside of the country, maybe for periods of five or six months under the farm labour schemes, and since they are casual employees, the nature of their occupation is that they should be kind of itinerant, they move from one job to the other, they do not have the same kind of security as public officers, and therefore we considered that they should be treated not less favourably than public officers are now treated under the provisions of the Pensions Act.

Mr. Speaker, if there are any further questions I would be glad to answer them.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very brief on this matter. This Bill has the support of the Opposition.

As the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, the Bill is as a result of discussions with the unions representing public workers. In my view, it is a correct thing to ensure that casual employees and people employed by the statutory boards, who come under the provisions of the Statutory Boards Pensions Act, are treated no differently from public servants in the sense in which public servants are defined in the Constitution.

I have been concerned by the misunderstandings which have occurred from time to time among people who have given service to the Government of Barbados or to a statutory board and find that they are told at the end of the day that they fall a month short or a couple of days short, or that their service has been broken and two periods of service cannot be added together since it is not

continuous. In some respects, this Bill seeks to end some of these complaints.

There is also the complaint that has been addressed, I am sure by several Members of Parliament and certainly by the unions, about the speed with which people are paid their pensions and gratuities. The answer to this is to have properly kept personnel files in which service is accurately recorded, and that well ahead of persons reaching the pensionable age of 55 or 60, as the case may be, the Accountant General's Office start the computation of their pensions so that delays cannot occur.

In the case of some of the casual employees, they are not as well off as some other persons in the Service, but they find that they can go months without receiving any form of remuneration. This is a very serious thing. In fact, I have in the past couple of weeks been addressing several letters to Government departments about people who have retired from the service and who are either complaining about the delay in receiving their pensions, not because of a lack of money but because the computation has not taken place, or there is some argument as to whether or not their years of service are accurately recorded. Also I have been addressing letters to them concerning people who feel that the computation which has taken place is incorrect.

I think our records really should help us to avoid this from occurring in a modern Barbados. In this day when the Government has access to computers and data retrieval, it should not be difficult for a pension to be paid promptly after a person has retired from the public service either at 55 or 60.

The other thing that concerns me is that, to some people, the pensions legislation is still a very esoteric subject. It should be easy as part of the assistance which the Ministry of the Public Service provides to put out a simple brochure explaining to persons coming into the Public Service what are the options available to them in terms of pensions and gratuity, and following this up by making the brochure available to those who are leaving so that their rights are easily set out for them and they can understand them without very much difficulty.

The other subject I would draw to the Right Honourable Prime Minister's attention is that some Government corporations either have their own pension schemes or have no pension schemes at all, and whether or not they grant a pension is a matter for the discretion of boards, although I believe there is some administrative statement which permits a pension to be granted. I find it difficult to see why there should be discrimination between persons employed in the various Government statutory boards. There is no reason why people, say, at the Transport Board should be any worse treated, than people who are employed, let us say, at the IDC, or the Barbados National Bank, or the Barbados Development Bank, which have their own pension schemes to some

extent. I believe that Government ought to take a long term view of this whole area of pensions in the quasi-public boards and ensure that those who have to go for their own funding scheme have adequate resources to meet the needs of their several employees^ 5.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we should be conscious that Barbados is becoming a more aging society than we imagine. We are now living longer because of improved conditions which have occurred in this country in the last 50 years from the 1930s onwards. The health conditions have improved significantly, therefore, we have to expect that the subject of pensions is going to be a very important one for this community. The funding of pensions is going to be a very tough one for Governments in the future. We have to recognize that as our younger population gets smaller, that the aging population will be looking for the younger persons to carry the cost of long term pension funding. We have to ensure that the various pension funds, whether they be contributory or non-contributory, private sector or public sector, are properly funded and that enough actuarial evidence is available to the Government in the long term to help us forecast the cost and to distribute the cost so that there is no problem in this regard. I know that the Consolidated Fund can never go bust. You only increase the taxes, and once the public is earning some money somewhere, it is there. But I still think that it is a problem that those of us in public life have to be conscious of.

As I said, the Opposition supports this legislation. I am particularly happy to support it, as it applies to the section of the working community which is not in a position to look after their interest in the same way as the Permanent Secretary or the other top civil servant can look after his own interest. I am pleased to see that this legislation, therefore, comes before this House with the support of both political parties and the various unions representing the workers.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN (St. Michael Central): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that the National Union of Public Workers was also interested in seeing this particular piece of legislation enacted. I am glad that they have been able to join the Barbados Workers Union in a matter of such great significance to the workers of this country. As a matter of fact, Sir, it was the Honourable Minister of Trade who, in the Other Place, more than a year ago, introduced at that level very strongly the thoughts and the aspirations which the workers, through the Barbados Workers Union, had been pushing for the correction of this oversight for some time.

I am of the view, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party over the years has shown very forcibly its commitment to what I have called the social revolution in Barbados. When there was the enactment of the Miscellaneous Pensions Act that allowed for the break in service or what the Honourable Prime Minister call a suspension in service, that was seen by us as being a

particularly important bit of legislation, since it allowed a number of things to happen for established and un-established staff. I think that at the time of the introduction one of the significant points that was made was that a person who had given a number of years within the Public Service, could, as it were, go out into the private sector, give to the private sector some of the benefit of his expertise and knowledge, but could benefit from that elapse of time and from the recharging of batteries.

Unfortunately, however, there was a situation where the casual employee could not similarly benefit. We within the Barbados Workers Union have been very concerned to find, particularly after 1976, the kinds of problems which came out of the oversight. Although there was no enactment of the legislation, custom and practice still obtained up to 1976 to allow for casual employees within Government departments and quasi-Governments departments to leave their jobs for some time, sometimes as much as a year, and to travel to areas outside of Barbados to work and then come back to the island and to resume their jobs at no loss of pay or no loss of seniority, two very important considerations.

They were also able to leave their jobs within the Public Service and to go into the sugar cane harvest in Barbados, thereby doing two things; one, managing to supplement their incomes from higher earnings within the sugar industry during the crop season; secondly, allowing us to be able to use a local work-force to reap the sugar cane harvest thereby ensuring that we did not have to import labour from outside of Barbados to reap the harvest. Therefore, we were of the view that this was a very significant thing that was being done in the interest of Barbados allowing us to benefit from that overall arrangement.

Unfortunately, that system was not contained and we were first brought ruggedly face-to-face with the matter when some workers at the Transport Board, thinking that they had the same arrangement that they had previously, sought to leave Barbados in the late 1970s, only to find that when they had already made their arrangements with overseas employers and had their passages booked, they were told that they could go, but they would not be coming back to any jobs. Now that we are correcting this problem, I am sure that that arrangement will again redound to the benefit of all Barbadians and to the people themselves, because the invisible imports which are derived from the monies which those persons will send back from time to time will, no doubt, assist us in the way that it has been doing before.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that there is, and has been, a very conscious effort to upgrade the social legislation within our country. I look forward very shortly to seeing

the social legislation that relates to a correcting of the severance payment error being brought before this Honourable Chamber very shortly. Only today, Sir, I heard the very unfortunate news concerning some people working at a plantation in a constituency which is either St. John or in St. George — I am not too sure with the new boundaries that we have. Those persons worked at that plantation, certainly for as much as 20 years, then they were laid off for all of 13 weeks, and because they thought that they were then entitled to severance pay, they did not immediately respond to the request to return to work, I think, a day or two before the 13th week had expired, only to find that they have, or may have, surrendered their entitlement to severance. I look forward to the day when we come back to a much shorter period like the one we had before, where, after a lay-off of four weeks, a person is able to put a claim on his employer who will then advise him if he has the opportunity to resume work or to be paid severance in accordance with the Severance Payments Act. 5.30 p.m. ^

There is much more, Mr. Speaker, to this matter of the Casual Employees Pensions Act, as is now being amended, that concerns me. I believe that if this had been done previously by another Administration, the people at National Housing Corporation would have been able to derive certain benefits. As a matter of fact, I have had the unpleasant experience of putting claims for persons working at the National Housing Corporation and finding that because we were not too sure as to whether they were fish or fowl, or even red herring, we had the difficulty of trying to discover whether those persons should be entitled to a pension under the Casual Employees Pensions Act, or, because previously the Board was the Barbados Housing Authority, whether they would be entitled to a pension under the Statutory Boards Pension Act, or whether they were entitled to a ^w pension under none of these Acts, but were rather entitled to severance payments under the severance payments legislation.

We had problems of that nature, where some people had been working from about 1958, they were still not age 55, they were being made redundant by the National Housing Corporation at that time — I had better stop quickly to say, Sir, that it was not under the chairmanship of the Member for St. Thomas, since he may stop me if I do not say that — and because they were being made redundant in that massive layoffs situation that there was at National Housing Corporation, they found themselves not being able to find employment anywhere else in Barbados, they were at that age where people do not get employment very easily, in the late "fifties, but at the same time they had not qualified either for retirement benefits or, indeed, for any other benefits. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is very important,

therefore, that this bit of legislation be introduced to prevent those kinds of difficulties.

I am of the view, Sir, that there are some statutory boards which need to be looked at in relation to this matter. I know that for a number of years the Transport Board did not benefit in this way until the Barbados Workers Union was able to negotiate to have a pension scheme brought about in that place. Although a number of people do not always recognize it, that pension scheme is of the same nature as the casual employees pension scheme in the post-1975 period, that is to say that it is an integrated pension scheme and that persons would be entitled to two-thirds of their pensionable emoluments provided they put in the full number of years, but less National Insurance benefits.

Just last year, Mr. Speaker, it was my honour to negotiate with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. We were trying to get a pension introduced there, only to learn, to our dismay, that the establishment there — before the election — was telling us that they were under instructions not to agree with us to have any pension scheme, because it was not part of Government's policy to have a pension scheme for that statutory board or, indeed, for statutory boards.

Whereas I understand that Governments were moving, and are moving, towards having as near as possible a national pension philosophy, while the grass is growing, the horse is starving. I am of the view that there are some of these boards that are in dire and immediate need of examination in this regard, because it is a fact that there are a number of workers who are working at certain statutory boards, and where there is no pension, they will have a difficulty, because some of those boards, nonetheless, will retire the individuals perhaps before age 65. While the National Insurance Scheme will pick up the pension at age 65, there is that hiatus between age 60 and age 65, and even if there were a pension at age 60, there is no good reason why some public servants should get one level of pension and other public servants, working and deriving benefits from the same sources, should receive another kind of compensation. It might be necessary, it would be a good thing, Sir, if all of the statutory boards were looked at in some omnibus fashion, and if we were able in such circumstances to have a general policy determination governing pensions.

One problem that sometimes is overlooked by workers, Sir, in relation to the matter of pensions that I should like to address is one that relates to the computation of pension. It might be necessary for trade unions and Government departments to review the extent to which workers are made aware of how the pension is actually computed. Within this Act, the computation is that persons will get one quarter of their actual wages paid for 220 days, multiplied, of course, by the total

number of years. It seems to me that a number of people, not fully understanding the relevance of this bit of computation, sometimes believe that they would get the same computation of pension regardless of how their attendance during their tenure of office at the workplace happens to be, and, therefore, the concern for total or maximum attendance is not always in evidence. Unfortunately, one hears that within the Public Service this is more of a problem than it may be elsewhere. It may be necessary that people should be made aware that those days which might otherwise be used in attendance will be of vital importance to them when it comes to the time of pension. If that were generally known it is possible that departments would not always have the same problems and difficulties that they have.

In that regard, Sir, I would support the view of the Leader of the Opposition, that a brochure might be very much in place. It would be in the interest of all that that aspect be brought forcibly to persons. After all, if there is social legislation, if there are benefits to be derived by individuals, then persons should be kept constantly in touch with what those benefits are how they can set about getting those benefits and indeed how they can set about maximizing those benefits.

Mr. R. P. BYER (St. George South): My contribution to this debate will be very brief. I note everything that was said in relation to this measure this afternoon, and I will support the Resolution.

I am concerned about the way that pension plans operate in relation to the private companies. Recently, we would have read in the daily newspapers of I think there were about two companies that had closed down and then the employees of those companies who had made contributions to pension plans were then told that they could not benefit since there was no money. I think, Sir, that there should be legislation to cover this aspect of the pensions in Barbados in relation to the private companies. I think one of the companies at the time was the Barbados Foundry — was closed. I had a client who was in such a position, and when I made the enquiry, there was nothing that could be done to help him.

I would hope that some study be given to this aspect of pensions in Barbados. It is not only a problem in Barbados, but it is also a problem in America where people are caught in a similar position. It is not so widespread a problem here, but I think that we ought to anticipate that it will happen again and make allowances for it.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the

House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

5.40 p.m.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one BUI in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

PAYMENT OF RETIRING BENEFITS IN THE FORM
OF A GRATUITY AND MONTHLY PENSION
TO MRS. YOLANDE TOPPESf

Order No. 5 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to authorise the payment of retiring benefits in the form of a gratuity and monthly pension to Mrs. Yolande Toppin, a former public employee of the handicraft Development Centre.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that this measure comes immediately after we were discussing the question of pension rights of persons who worked for statutory boards and similar institutions. This measure concerns one such individual.

Sir, in 1964, a 17 year old girl went to work with the then Handicraft Development Centre. That centre had been established in 1955, and it was a place where a little handicraft was carried out by persons who were considered to be perhaps just short of being wayward girls.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He has managed to do what the Opposition cannot do.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: This was a place, as I said, where persons did a little knitting and other similar things to keep young girls out of trouble and this young lady was 17 years old when she went there. By dint of her ability and the policies which changed over a period of time, by 1974 it became clear by the then Administration that handicraft was not, in fact, palliative or a system for social welfare, but rather a matter of economic reality, a

serious industry from which people could develop, not only in terms of the economy but in terms of their own self-development. So the Handicraft Department was seconded from the then Ministry into the Industrial Development Corporation, which took responsibility, and still has responsibility, for that industry.

Mrs. Yolande Toppin, — she was Wharton when she joined the Handicraft Development Centre — reached the age of 37 by 1983. At the same time, for some reason, it was determined that the Handicraft Department would be reorganized — those were the words used — and it was found that this lady, who had been seconded in 1974 for one year, and subsequently in 1976, when all of the staff had gone over were deemed to be seconded to the Handicraft Department until further notice, was deemed to be no longer required for secondment by the IDC. She had in the meantime reached the level of Craftsworkman. It is called Craftsman, but it was Craftsman Category 4, whatever that was.

^*

Believe it or not, after a vigorous examination by the Chief Personnel Officer in 1983, they could not find a comparable post in the Public Service. That was the information which was transmitted from the Government sector to the Ministry concerned. I do not think there were any editorials about Mrs. Yolande Toppin. There was no discussion in the Senate. There was no discussion anywhere. As a matter of fact, she became forgotten, because the Chief Personnel Officer wrote to the IDC, which had informed them that they wanted the lady deseconded, if you will pardon the expression, and told the IDC that, since they could not find a post for the lady, it would be a desirable thing if they would continue to employ the lady until they could find a post in the Service. Thirty-seven years old she was.

The IDC paid no attention to them at all. So by ^-- the next time there had been communication between the substantive Ministry, or what they call the Executive Ministry, and the CPO, and the CPO wrote to the IDC. The IDC said, 'What are you talking about? We released that woman sometime ago.' In other words, she went into limbo. She went into a place not known in the administrative system. She was neither fish, nor fowl, nor red herring.

Then the legal opinion was that she had fallen into a "state of abolition." I say it casually, but it is interesting, in light of the debate we have had, what can happen to a human-being in the systems we have designed for administration for living in Barbados. It is only if you come from a certain particular stratum in the society, or you have the presence of mind to get representation of a certain kind, that your case might be known. ^

The NUPW raised her case. Decency requires that I not reveal to this Honourable House what the files

indicate. They then ensued a period where the Ministry sought to refute a paragraph in the NUPW's letter which accused a particular Ministry of being responsible for the lady not getting her compensation. Because the Solicitor General having determined by a circuitous route that she would have to be treated as a person whose post was abolished, the question as to compensation was the next step, and the question as to who would compensate was the following step. 5.50 p.m.

Without going into a long dissertation, Sir, suffice it to say that the Cabinet of the day determined that she should be compensated. More legal discussions! Cabinet having decided she should be paid compensation, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance discovered that there was no law under which she could be paid the compensation, so the rounds started again.

By 1985, the Permanent Secretary in Finance had told the Solicitor General that you had to get a Resolution. Cabinet deciding in 1986 that she should be paid, arising out of the decision by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, a Resolution should come down. But then another officer discovered that the calculation which had been worked out would not fall within the ambit of the legal ramifications necessary to make the payment - of about \$4 000 or thereabouts!

All the politicians had said that you should pay the woman, but the law went into process. No public meetings were held, no discussions, meanwhile, the woman was out there in limbo, severed from the IDC, not accepted because they could not find anywhere for her in the Public Service. She was between, if you will pardon the expression, Sir, the devil and the deep blue sea.

In fairness, the Cabinet had decided that she should be paid. What, in fact happened, Sir, was that the House then went into what they call dissolution, so she was again behind the nine ball. The poor woman has not received a cent since 1983, really 1985, because in 1985 she had received a letter from the IDC telling her, 'Well, I do not know what the fellows up there are doing, but as far as we are concerned, that is the end of you.'

I am saying these things, Sir, to point out that all kinds of things can happen to people in this community. I have to agree that it is necessary for us, certainly for us as the political people, to find solutions to these systems which make one kind of things of certain people and another kind of things of other people. That lady, fortunately, is now in the United States, and she has indicated that any moneys which are due to her ought to be paid into her account. In fact, her lawyer has so indicated.

Mr. Speaker, the file tells a tale which would make interesting reading if one were in the process of making that kind of case. It is an indication of proper bureaucracy, mind you, everyone being correct, but no one paying any attention whatsoever to the victim of the proper procedures, no one paying any attention because she was, in the final analysis, Yolande Wharton from Wavell Avenue, who became Yolande Toppin and moved to various places, ending up at Manning Land and subsequently in the United States.

This Resolution, Sir, seeks to put an end to that. The Resolution is one that had been drafted by the last Administration. I want to make it clear that the Resolution was to come down finally before the House went into dissolution. This Minister sent it back after the lawyer had raised the question, because the House having been dissolved, that was the end of the matter so far as the Service was concerned — the file was put away. But when the question was raised by the lawyer, who called this Minister and asked why I wouldn't pay the lady the money, especially since she lived in my constituency, you know that that raised the crest of my head. I could not understand, we could not find any lady in the constituency by that name, and I started worrying that that might have been a vote I could have got if I had been a little more diligent. But, in fact, she did live in the constituency before she left for the United States, and I was able to invite the Cabinet to re-evaluate the situation and make the decision that had been made before.

I make no legal judgment on the matter, because I am not competent to do so, but it is my contention that when this lady is finally paid, she ought to be paid in the way the courts would have insisted that she be paid, with some kind of interest for all the time that has elapsed since she was severed, because she was, for all practical purposes, relieved of her job, unlawfully in my opinion, and this Resolution merely seeks to give legal force to the decision to pay.

It is a fascinating history of what can happen, and it also is a story about women which will probably not be told, because it will be buried in the records of this House. Any statements made around 6 o'clock in the evening usually get buried in the House, and there will be no *cause celebre*, there will be no major marches or any similar things about this.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, no, no, I am not asking for it.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying the publicity has nothing to do with the facts I am dealing with. I am dealing with those persons who can find causes to discuss in great

detail in long columns when those causes do not seem to excite the people whose job it is to take up those causes. I am dealing here with the comparative analysis between chalk and cheese, and I know the honourable Member does not wish me to go into any great detail to explain what I mean. Suffice it to say that Mrs. Yolande Toppin will have no cymbals being clashed for her, no drums will beat, no marches will be had. She will eventually receive a cheque from her lawyer, minus his fee.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: This Resolution takes account of what she is to be paid. This Resolution can do no more than that. The lawyer will have to remonstrate with the Attorney General and perhaps bring a whole new arrangement.

These are not matters over which Ministers have any jurisdiction. But I think, Sir, that I have said enough to excite the intellectual and moral palates of my honourable colleagues in this Chamber so that they will recognise that we have fallen just short of an injustice here, if, in fact, an injustice did not occur, bearing in mind that a long three years passed between the time this woman was severed from her normal employment, a skilled woman, no less, for whom they could not find a place, until the time when she, perhaps illegally, wended her way to what is now the cold climes of New York.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Sir, I am sorry to hear of the history of delay which has

occurred in this matter. I am aware that in the last Estimates, which we passed some time in March last year, there was provision for payment of the gratuity and pension to this lady. It shows you that there can be delays in administration beyond even the dictates of the politicians. Probably if the lady knew who her representative was, no doubt representation would have been made at an earlier stage on this matter. Anyway, it is now being made, and I am very glad that at long last she will be able to get paid.

I agree with the Minister that it would be appropriate, if the Estimates have not got in adequate funds for her, that she ought to be paid interest on the money and her legal costs as well.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, it is not proposed to deal with Private Members' Business at this sitting, and unless there are any matters to be raised by the Opposition, that concludes our business for today's sitting.

I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 3, 1987 at 12 o'clock noon.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 3, 1987 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 6.00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. M. Barker-Welch, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and 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. GREAVES, 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. GREAVES, 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 employees 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, I 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. I 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 has 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 rent 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 manage 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 bank-

ruptcies 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 envisaged 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 i i u 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. I 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 has placed 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. GREAVES, 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 past 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 McGuffey 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 Church 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 land."

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 permission, 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.

(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.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Consult?

Mr. SPEAKER: Address the Chair.

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 biased. 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 certain 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 personal 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. O. 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 particular areas, they have acceded to some barony. So the person 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.

I think that this is another indication of the attitude of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of justice for everyone, 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 13¹/₂ 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 property 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. O. 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. O. 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 recognise 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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Hon. E. E. (St. Lucy) MILLER, P. J. M. (City
of Bridgetown) MORRIS, R. L. (Christ Church
East Central) SANDIFORD, Hon. L. E. (St.
Michael South) SIMMONS, D. A. C. (St.
Thomas) SIMMONS, E. A. (St. Michael South
East) WALKER, C. V. (St. George North)
BARKER-WELCH, M. (St. Joseph)**

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 17, 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. B. M. Taitt, B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Tourism and Industry)

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

Dr. D. G. Blackman, B.A., M.A.

Hon. M. A. King, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)

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

Hon. N. K. Simmons[^] (Minister of Health)

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

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

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

Mrs. M. Barker-Welch, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and 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 Fr. Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, February 3, 1987.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of the meeting of the House of Assembly on Tuesday, February 3, 1987 have been circulated.

I beg to move that these be taken as read, and that they be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber on that date.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received:

Accounts and Statements for the month of December, 1986 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

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

Guarantee by the Minister of Finance to grant all benefits and exemptions under section 32(1) of the Exempt Insurance Act 1983 to Motors Mechanical Re-insurance Company Ltd.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 9 months ended 31st December, 1986.

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

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations, 1987.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$1 413 057 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 22 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$2 442 189 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 23 which form the Schedule to the Resolution. Sir, I will at an appropriate time shortly seek approval of the House to deal with these two Resolutions in all of their stages today.

A Bill to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

A Bill to amend the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, the following Bills were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

A Bill to amend the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that the following replies are ready:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 23, asked by the honourable Member for St. Thomas.

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 45, asked by the honourable Member for St. Andrew.

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 64, asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to state, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, that the following replies are ready:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 51, asked by the honourable Member for St. George South.

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 56 asked by the honourable Member for Christ Church East.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, subject to the customary rights of honourable Members.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.25 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FIRE

SERVICE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1987

Order No. 5 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Fire Service Act.

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to amend the Fire Service Act, Cap. 263, to clarify the law relating to the enlistment of fire officers and subordinate fire officers. That is stated in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill.

The position is that, for some considerable time now, there has been an interpretation given to Section 8

of the Fire Service Act which would indicate that fire officers and subordinate officers should be required to enlist annually. Accordingly, these categories of officers, irrespective of the number of years they have served in the Fire Service, have been re-enlisting every year.

From time to time, the Fire Service Association has made representation to the Chief Personnel Officer that this practice leads to insecurity among fire officers. In fact, occasions have occurred where fire officers have failed the proficiency tests and the Chief Fire Officer has suggested that their increments be withheld.

We feel that it is not in the best interest of the Fire Service for fire officers to have to re-enlist every year, and the amendment which is now proposed would equate fire officers to the same position as police officers, for instance, who on enlistment in the Police Service, serve a probationary period of two years and, subject to the quality of their probationary service, may then be confirmed in their appointments. This practice of probation, of course, extends throughout the Public Service, except that in the case of public officers, other than police officers, the period of probation is one year.

The object of the amendment is to place the fire officers in exactly the same position as police officers so far as their recruitment into the Service is concerned.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I second that, Mr. Speaker, and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, the Opposition supports this amendment. I never understood why fire officers were treated differently from policemen, for example, in so far as there was this requirement that each year they had to come up and re-enlist.

The Fire Service, of course, had its origin in the Police Force, when policemen did the duties of the Fire Officers. I think the laws of 1904 would show that. But the movement of the fire officers over the years has been less quick than the police, and, more and more, we have to try and equate or standardize terms of conditions of fire officers with those of the police.

There was a time, prior to 1976, when fire officers were called upon to work as many as 81 hours a week. I was very happy that, before we went out of power, I was able to reduce those hours to 56. That still is not the ideal, and I hope that the Government in time, will be able to make a reduction of even more substantial proportions.

I, as Attorney General, had a scheme in mind to assist with the reduction of hours to below 56. Early in 1986, after I had met the Association in December 1985, I proposed that we should start to develop the reserve scheme of fire officers by attracting for training a number of young people with basic qualifications to be fire officers and to pay for that training out of the Work Experience Fund, the Training Fund I think it is called, operated by the National Training Board, as one of the aspects of youth training. It had been my desire to have these young people trained so that at the completion of the six months' period, they could move into the Fire Service, or, at least, if we wanted another 18, I think that was the figure, to reduce the hours even further. We would have had a pool of trained persons, trained not out of the general revenue, but out of the Training Fund, who could have moved in and assisted in the reduction of hours.

I gave instructions for that scheme to start in May. It was never started before the elections. I do not know if it has started since the elections. It was a matter of great disappointment that a directive on policy was ignored and the scheme was not implemented, even though the programme had been worked out with the National Training Board and, as far as I knew, all of the officials in the Ministry of the Attorney General and the executive personnel in the Fire Department had agreed to it. I think that we lost a golden opportunity to assist in the further reduction of the hours worked by the fire officers because of some neglect — I am not going to accuse anybody of anything else, I am just going to say neglect — on the part of someone. I would be grateful to the Honourable Attorney General, if he has come across that in the files and knows of it, if he could tell us what Government intends. 12.35 p.m.

I think that if we are continuing the training schemes of Skills Training, Work Experience and Skills Action, you have a ready market which you could tap. You can create your reserve fire officers out of those young people who are trained, and from time to time use them. If you give them the two years' probation, you can use them in the regular Fire Service. I throw it out to the Government as something that is well worth looking at, not as anything new but as something that had been in the pipeline after December 1985, with a view to early implementation.

I am obliged to you Sir.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS (St. Michael South East): Mr. Speaker, I want to support this Resolution to give security of tenure to the members of the Fire Service. I think it is an important piece of legislation.

I listened with interest to the last speaker, the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) talking about the reduction hours, but before an employee is concerned about the reduction of work hours, first he likes to know that his job is secure. Security of a job is most important; after your job is secure, you can worry about all the frills. So when I heard him talk about the things that he moved to do as Attorney General. I should remind him that, although what he was doing was good, one of the fundamental things should have been to make the jobs of the firemen secure first. That is very important.

Asides.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: You had ten years and it was not completed.

Mr. Speaker, we in Barbados have got to recognise that, in a developing country like Barbados, the Fire Service and the firemen provide a very important service to the community. It is therefore important that we let people like the firemen know that we are serious about their job and that we are grateful for the kind of work that they do. And in looking at the Fire Service, there are some analyses that we need to do of the Fire Service in general. It is very political, especially during times of campaigning, for each of us to call for a fire station for our constituency, but I think in a lot of the new developments that have been taking place in Barbados, one really needs to look at the Fire Service and maybe re-think what the Fire Service means to a country like Barbados and how best it can be utilised.

We are in a situation in Barbados where we are building new highways, going from no place to no place, and in the process of building these highways destroying properties, destroying villages and the basic livelihood of some people in certain villages. But I think that we cannot always look at the negative aspects of highways, because they are with us, and we will have to try to find some positive things to do with them. I think the Fire Service is maybe one of the areas that we can look at in using these highways as positive mechanisms within the system. Since we have the highways, we will be able to move firemen and fire equipment more quickly throughout the country, and one of the things that we need to look at is probably re-allocating the fire stations to maximum points near the highways so that they can more easily reach the trigger areas of fires which are mainly the industrial areas.

There are of course, the fires set off during the crop season. But if we look down the road, we are aware of the fact that cane sugar is a declining industry. I read it time and time again and, of course, all the prophets of the sugar industry say that sugar is declining. So I think it is fair to assume that we will have less and less sugar cane

in production. So when we look down the road in planning our fire system, we must understand that down the road you are going to have less and less canes, and therefore fires caused to industry or private properties by sugar cane fires will be decreased. I, think we have to keep that foremost in mind.

What probably is very very important is how best we should utilise the fire services that we have. I have said already that I think there should possibly be no increase of the number of fire stations, but probably a re-allocation of the fire stations at the appropriate points. I also think the firemen must be used to do a different kind of job. I think that is what we have to look at. I think the firemen must be used as tools of education in our society. I think that the firemen now have got to reach out to the service groups and the schools, because in Barbados we are seeing a strange phenomenon. As our country is developing, we see that we are getting more and more house fires, and I think one needs to sit down and have a serious investigation into why we are having ^{Wk} more house fires in Barbados. I do not know if any one of us can hazard a guess as to why house fires are increasing, when we really have electricity almost in every home, and in the days when we had the kerosene oil lamps the percentage of house fires was much less than it is today. I think that we need to look at house fires in that respect.

We have to look at house fires in another respect, too, because it causes a lot of problems within the society. When somebody's house gets burn down, the Government has to look to house that individual, and it creates a strain on the housing stock that we have. So it is a financial burden to the society, and I think we have to address that problem very very carefully.

I think the firemen should be used in another respect. I think we should upgrade the efficiency of buildings in Barbados. I think they should be used more in the inspection of not only public buildings and buildings of business, but also private buildings. We have a lot of Government estates where a lot of work was carried on and where we have a lot of fires, and I think that these are some of the areas where the firemen need to inspect. It is my observation that in the last year and a half, when there was a rush of repair to old people's homes, a lot of windows were left hanging, and are still hanging, in a lot of old people's homes, and these are a threat to the old people. This is the kind of problem that we need to address or else we are going to have serious problems in that area.

Barbados is becoming rapidly an industrial area and we find that companies are coming in from overseas, some of them banned because of the materials that they are using overseas, and they are bringing a lot of these very toxic materials into Barbados, and some of these

toxic materials are very flammable. I think we should insist that the Fire Service have an inventory of all the industrial factories in Barbados, and the chemicals that they are using, and that no new company should be able to come into Barbados unless they declare to the Fire Service the kinds of chemical materials they are using. This is very important. If fire breaks out at an industrial plant, it is important that the Fire Service know what kind of chemical is in that plant, because there are some chemicals which you cannot fight with water, because water can accentuate the problem. If the Fire Service has information on the chemicals situated in every plant, it would make the job of the Fire Service, and the life of Barbadians, much easier. "

I want to say something even more important and more urgent. It has been brought to my attention that some place in the area of Roebuck Street there is a plastics factory. All of us know that plastics are very flammable and very potentially dangerous fire hazards. I think this has been an area of concern to the Fire Service, and I think that we need to look at the location of that plastics factory and make a determination as to whether or not, in a highly industrial area like Roebuck Street, that plastics factory is located in the right position. When you have a place going up in smoke loaded with plastics, it is almost impossible for the Fire Service, first of all, to get near the fire and get it under control. If we are going to have those sorts of materials in Barbados, we have to pick an optimum location for them, where there is a relatively free area all around, the area is not highly populated and is accessible to the fire fighting mechanisms. 12.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to support this Resolution. It is one of the social pieces of legislation which can easily be identified with the party of which I am a member.

I thank you.

Mr. E. BOURNE (Christ Church East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to support this Resolution, but I should like to add that the Fire Service should be better trained. It is all well and good to have them go to a Skills Training course, but what you need in the Fire Service are good forensic experts who, after a fire, could tell whether it was arson or not.

In my capacity as an Insurance Surveyor, I have come in contact with many fires, and, clearly, the claims submitted by the owners of these properties are not on par with what appeared to have caused the fire. When you look at some of them, the average layman would see, for instance, that the driver of the car would claim that it is an electrical fire. But careful inspection some-

times shows that at the time of the fire there was no battery, and you would know that it is not really electrical. And when you look at the report of the Fire Service, it is ridiculous to even attempt to read it, because it says nothing. You could only conclude that the Fire Service is lacking in proper forensic training, and I should like to add that we should spend some money in having the firemen properly trained, because when insurance companies have to pay out large sums, or any amount of money, it comes from the pockets of every person living in the country, every person who has their property insured, in the end, must pay this cost.

Public buildings, the hotels and apartment buildings should have proper sprinkler systems and they should have fire pumps installed to further assist in the control of fires. In the highly industrialised countries, fire pumps are mandatory in all these buildings. I do not see why we cannot force the owners of these buildings to install fire pumps. They are not that expensive.

All in all, I feel that the Resolution is a good one. I feel quite strongly that the firemen should not be working 56 hours. They should be working the regular 40 or 48 hours a week. When you get people working long hours they become tired and worn out, and they definitely cannot do their job properly. We should look into this and, in the not too distant future, see to it that they enjoy a regular working week like most of us in the work force.

I support this Resolution because it is a good one.

Applause.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) made points about a reserve scheme for fire officers and the suggestion that they be trained out of the fund provided by the National Training Board. I believe this was a programme which was articulated just before the last election. I also believe that that was at a time when there were a whole lot of programmes being articulated to place large numbers of people in employment.

I have no real objection to the training of fire officers, but we could not be responsible for the fact that the scheme did not come into existence, because you said that there were some foul-ups which prevented the proposal from coming on stream in May, as you had planned. I do not quite know what is responsible for those foul-ups.

The fact is that the Fire Service and the problems of the Fire Service have to be looked at in some depth been use there is — and I think the honourable Member for St. Thomas, the former Attorney General could verify this - a vast residue of discontent in the Fire Service in relation to the terms and conditions of their service. A whole lot needs to be done in order to come to grips with the problems

which the fire officers have in relation to the terms and conditions of their employment,

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: There is no problem with the Ministry of Finance at the moment. I have had meetings with the Fire Service Association. I have promised them that I would have the office — what is it called?

(Aside: O and M.)

Hon. M. A. KING:..... the O and M Division of the Ministry of the Public Service to take a look at the Fire Service to see what can best be done in relation to the problems which fire officers have.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: Well, the • question of more men and money is a question which the O and M Division of the Public Service Ministry can look at, assess and determine if, in fact, more men and money are needed, and how best the men and money can be disposed in the Fire Service.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons) made a number of comments in relation to safety aspects of the Fire Service, useful comments which the Ministry will take a look at, the requirement, for instance, that the Fire Service should have an inventory of all the dangerous materials being used by businesses with a view clearly to having appropriate anti-fire fighting equipment. He made a number of interesting points which need clearly to be looked at.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East (Mr. E. Bourne) made a number of points which clearly have some reference to do with a re-examination of our building codes, for instance, when he suggested that perhaps we need to have safety sprinklers in buildings, this is not an area which the Fire Service itself can perhaps initiate action on, but an area perhaps where, from the point of view of safety in building regulations, some attention can be given.

In relation to training of fire officers, the honourable Member for Christ Church East lamented the fact that fire officers seem not to be as well trained as they can be, because, in many cases, the reports which they give after the fires perhaps are not of the best assistance possible. I agree there is a need for training in a whole lot of areas of Government. Unfortunately, this seems to have been an area which was sadly neglected over the past ten years. In the Police Force there is a need for the establishment of proper and effective forensic facilities which can be of assistance to police and firemen in detection of crimes like arson and other akin offences. So the point of the honourable Member for Christ Church

East is well taken, that there 'needs to be effective training for fire officers, a forensic laboratory and necessary ancillary support services.

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12.55p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the contributions which honourable Members have made to the debate.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative with QUJt division.

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, at the start of this session, I indicated that I would be seeking leave of the House to deal with two Money Resolutions, of which notice was given at the start of this session. I now seek that leave, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections, leave is granted.

Order No. 8 was called - To move that the House resolves itself into Committee of Supply to consider two Money Resolutions for the service of this island.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY Mr.

CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986-87 No. 22 - \$1
413057

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, the Resolution which we propose to deal with

at this stage is one for the sum of \$1 413 057, and
what

is being proposed is that this sum of money be granted from the Consolidated Fund and be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986—87 No. 22, Part II - Capital - which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

In dealing with Head 76, Ministry of Education and Culture - this is the Capital Estimates - this relates to a number of primary schools, namely the Sharon School, the St. Joseph Primary School and the Westbury Primary School. It also relates to Structures, the Project Unit of the World Bank Project, and it deals with professional services. 1.05 p.m.

In respect of Sharon School, we have had to look at the original contract for the construction of this school. That contract was awarded to Joachim Engineering Limited, and the amount of money for the contract was \$1 270 626.66. The draft final account by the quantity surveying consultants, as estimated at the value of the completed works, will be \$1 096 040.35. The firm has been paid the sum of \$1 081 687 and there is therefore a balance of \$14353.35 owing if the recommendations by the consultants are accepted.

But the contractor has not accepted the findings by the quantity surveying consultants and is disputing some of the items in the draft final account. The Project Manager has therefore recommended that a contingency amount of \$35 000 should be provided to offset any additional payments which may become due to the contractor.

A separate contract was awarded to R. M. Construction Limited for building a new access road to the Sharon Primary School, and that was at a cost of \$110 120. The Chief Town Planner indicated that some additional works should be put in as conditions for planning permission, and the contract sum was therefore increased to \$153 842.51.

The contractor has, to date, received the sum of \$139 296.85 and therefore there is a balance owing to the contractor of \$14 545.66. The amount of \$5 000 was provided under the item for the current financial year and a balance of \$4 473 is outstanding, so the vote will be inadequate to complete the contract payments.

The amount of \$59 426 is required to make the appropriate payments and that is the sum that this Committee is being requested to provide.

As far as Subhead 5 is concerned, the St. Joseph's School, the contract sum for the construction of the new St. Joseph Primary School was \$1 228 266.81 and the final account for the project was \$1 079 251.55. The contractor has received payments of \$1 062 162.78, leaving a balance of \$17 088.77 owing to that contractor.

As far as the grounds are concerned, a contract was awarded to Cumberbatch Nurseries for landscaping the grounds. That work was completed and the grounds handed over to the school some time in 1986. However, some problems have occurred in respect of the grounds. Some erosion has taken place with the soil from the sloping areas being washed away, and some of the trees, because of the nature of the terrain, are struggling for survival. In the meantime, some weeds have grown up among the grasses and there is remedial work required to be done.

There is a recommendation from Cumberbatch Nurseries that top soil should be placed over the eroded areas and grass supplied, and that the pupils of the school should be prohibited from those critical areas until the grass has actually achieved full growth. They have also recommended that three doses of fertiliser, at monthly intervals, be applied in the critical areas following the replanting, and that the appropriate weeding programme should be carried out to ensure that the grass is allowed to grow under optimum conditions. The cost for all of that work is some \$7 000.

The amount of \$5 000 which is available under the item is inadequate to carry out those works and to complete the payments to the contractor, and therefore a supplementary provision of \$19 089 is being requested from this Committee.

Subhead 6 deals with the Westbury School, World Bank Sub-Project. For this particular project, the contract was awarded to Nehaul Construction Limited in October 1984. That contract called for the construction of an extension and renovation to the two Westbury schools at a cost of \$1 154 295.48. Extras to the contract resulted in a revised contract sum of \$1 329 641.17. To date, the contractor has been paid \$1 328 070.71. A balance of \$1 570.46 is therefore due to the contractor. 1.15p.m.

The contractor has had some difficulties on the final accounts — he does not agree with the final accounts. During the deliberations with the quantity surveyor, he sought to have included a sum of money, an *ex-gratia* award, to compensate for the late payment of some interim certificates by the project office. There was a claim that the payments were behind the stipulated time which attracted interest, and he is claiming an *ex gratia* award as compensation for late payment of some interim certificates by the project office.

The funds which were included in the Estimates during the 1985—86 financial year were insufficient to complete the payments to the contractor, and the process for seeking supplementary funds was in progress when the contractor claimed other sums, or additional

sums, due to him. So while the Ministry was awaiting provision of supplementary funds, further delays occurred because the project office was only able to pay the contractor a part of the money due on Certificate No. 11, and there were further delays on Certificates Nos. 12 and 13. So we have had a number of delays on this project, and each delay indicated resulted in some interest payments falling due to be paid.

I am advised that the project office was required, under the contract, to settle claims within 14 days of receiving them from the contractor. It is considered that the claim by the contractor for the *ex gratia* award for the overdraft charges is responsible, in as much as they were incurred as a result of the delays by the Ministry, through its project office, and, therefore, the sum of \$8 000 is being requested as an *ex gratia* award of compensation.

No funds are available to meet that particular award to Nehaul Construction, and no funds are available to meet the outstanding balance of \$1 570.46, to which I made reference earlier. So a total sum of \$9 570 is being sought from this Committee to make that *ex gratia* payment for the claims on late payments as well as the amount outstanding to the contractor.

We assumed, Sir, that that was the end of the matter, but, I am afraid, that is not the end of the matter, because the contractor has not agreed to, nor has he signed, the final account, and claims that an amount of \$187527.10 is still owing to him on that Westbury School project. He has agreed to accept the \$8 000 for the *ex gratia* award but without prejudice in any way to his other claim for the sum of \$187 527.10 on the contract. Discussion is still going on on that other amount that is outstanding, so we will have to deal with this matter at a later stage.

It is a fact, Sir, that we have been having some problems on some of these contracts. Problems occur. We are not blaming the previous Government for problems in the contract, but the fact is that problems have occurred, both on the construction side and in terms of change orders and administrative delays. Sometimes it is not always easy to get all of the professionals, technical and administrative people to see eye to eye on all matters so we have to seek to resolve all of these matters from time to time.

There is one other subhead, Sir, under the Ministry of Education and Culture, Head 76, relating to Professional Services, Subhead 25, Item No. 26. The sum of \$744 000 was provided under this item in order to meet the payment of fees to the architectural, electrical, engineering, land surveying and quantity surveying consultants under the Ministry's Second Education and Training Project.

The required plans and documents were being prepared some time during 1986, but the Inter-American Development Bank had a stipulation, as a precondition to the negotiations for the loan, that it was necessary to complete all the preparatory work on all of the projects to be included in the first year's programme of the Education and Training Project. Those negotiations took place during March 1986, and the available balance under the vote will be inadequate to meet the expenditure anticipated. Therefore, a supplement of \$49 972 is being sought from this Committee to pay for the works involved.

That completes my submission under Head 76.1 have sought to give the Committee full and detailed information on those projects. These are for projects which have already been completed or on which remedial works have to be done. We are not dealing with those projects which have to be done now.

I see my colleague, the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) smiling and asking, no doubt, about St. Matthias. I have already given him an assurance on that particular project. 1.25p.m.

I beg to move that Head 76 — Ministry of Education and Culture — stand part.

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

The question that Head 76 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 84 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, \$1 million was provided in the Estimates under this Head for the purpose of taking care of some drainage works pursued by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications. Up to the end of December, 1986, which would be nine months in the financial year, the sum of \$999 297.39 was spent, leaving a mere \$700 in the vote for the remainder of the financial year.

Sir, the work done under this Head was undertaken on the basis of reports submitted by some consultants, Island Engineering Group Limited in the case of Speights-town, and Miles Rothwell Associates in the case of Wotton. About 70 per cent of the work as recommended by these consultants in these two areas, which are known to be prone to flooding, has been completed.

At the time when these reports were submitted, the recommendations for the remedial work to be undertaken accepted and the estimates of the costings known — in the case of Speights-town \$5.7 million and in the case of Wotton \$1.97 million - the then Minister of Finance and

Planning had indicated that these two would be special projects, undertaken outside of the normal Estimates provided for the Ministry's budget. In fact, by some oversight, this was not done, so that such work as has already been undertaken has been done out of the Ministry's normal vote. So we now have to replenish this vote in order to be able to carry out other works.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No, that was fine. It was properly spent, except they were not treated as a special project. There were proper commitments to this vote in those two areas. All that is needed is either you supplement these votes by a large enough amount in order to carry out that work, or you deal with it as a special capital project by itself. This was not done, but this was the fault of the previous Government. This is what the then Government failed to do when they were preparing the Estimates.

It is now estimated that the sum of \$325 000 to meet commitments, as well as to carry out work for the rest of the year, will be needed.

Under the Subhead 15 — Highway Rehabilitation Force Account, Object No. 23 — an amount of \$204 250 was provided in this year's Estimates.

There is some work being undertaken under the road maintenance and rehabilitation programme. It is a programme entered into with the World Bank for the maintenance and repair of certain roads in Barbados. Some of these roads are maintained by contract — International and Competitive Bidding — and the other roads are maintained by the Ministry itself on the Force Account.

Sir, there is one road now under repair and maintenance under the ICB, that is the International and Competitive Bidding head, and that is the road from Canewood to Belle Gully. That is being done by one contractor, and there are two other roads to be started shortly by the same contractor, the one from Warrens to Sturges and the one from Haggatt Hall to Six. Roads. These three contracts were all awarded two days before the last general election.

The other work that is being undertaken by the Ministry on its Force Account is the road from St. David's to Providence. That road has now been almost completed. No further work can be done on that road until the Airport to West Coast Road has been completed. The road from Green Hill to Well Road has been completed and maintenance work is now under way between Cave Hill and Holders Hill.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Highway 7 is being undertaken on a different basis. Work is already underway on Highway 7, but not under the World Bank Programme.

Sir, the amount of money now required for the rest of the financial year to complete this work is \$950 000, to supplement Head 84, Subhead 15. '

I therefore beg to move that Head 84 — Ministry of Transport and Works stand part.

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

The question that Head 84 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
1.35 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986-87 No. 23 - \$2 442 189

HEAD 17 - DEFENCE AND SECURITY - \$24 932

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, under Head 17, as the Addendum shows, the sum of \$24 932.00 is required to meet outstanding and projected overtime and allowance charges to the end of the financial year 1986—87. I think, Mr. Chairman, you would appreciate that at this time of the year, with the tourist season in full swing, immigration officers are required to work overtime. The estimated amounts to cover this item of expenditure has proved insufficient, so this supplementary sum of \$24 932 is required to meet anticipated projected overtime and other allowance charges to the end of the year.

Under Head 28, Ministry of Legal Affairs.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No. I think you should deal with one at a time.

Hon. M. A. KING: I am sorry.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 17 do now stand part.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Would the Minister explain what is the difficulty in appointing the review committee to deal with persons who have asked for a review of their applications for various status under the Immigration Act? Why there is a long delay in processing these matters?

I realize that the Minister has to deal with close to 200 to 300 files on immigration matters alone during

a month. This is probably a good case for a Ministry of Home Affairs - I look around to see who is in the ministerial stakes - probably a good case for a Parliamentary Secretary or probably a good case for a change in some portfolios.

Whatever is the position, there is some delay in this area. Perhaps, the Minister could explain, because there are some concerns being expressed by persons whose applications have been pending for a long time.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE (St. Michael North East): Mr. Chairman, I should like to bring to the attention of the Honourable Minister a matter of some concern to me as it relates to immigration - the allocation of staff at the entry point of Grantley Adams Airport.

Some weeks ago, I had reason to be there, and it seemed to me a waste of people's time to have three aircrafts on the ground, people coming into the country, and just two people working at the immigration desks. There was an inordinate delay, and I am seeking that assurance of the Minister that this matter would be looked into the near future.

Asides

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, in relation to the review committee, I assure the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) that the review committee will be appointed very shortly.

Aside

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg your pardon.

Aside

Hon. M. A. KING: I am sorry. Who said that he wanted the Chair?

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The review committee will be appointed quite shortly, and all the matters which are pending will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

In relation to the matter raised by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East (Mr. L. L. Brathwaite), I do not know of the problem as is, but I assure the honourable Member that I will have the matter investigated. If there is need to have more immigration officers at the points of entry so as to facilitate the entry of passengers, provided that there is no problem with space for the officers, I will have the matter dealt with as a matter of urgency.

The question that Head 17 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS - \$48 942.90

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$48 942*90 is required to meet an obligation, I call it, on the part of Government arising out of an act of negligence on behalf of an officer in the Registration Office.

There was an equitable mortgage, which was incorrectly recorded in the Registration Office, which covered two parcels of land. The mortgagor, whose land had been the subject of a charge, sold the land, I think it was to the University of the West Indies, without paying off the mortgage. When the attorneys for the university went to investigate the title, the charge against the property did not show up, for the simple reason that the charge "had been incorrectly recorded in the wrong name.

Eventually it was discovered that the property was not really free from encumbrances, and that a Registry clerk was at fault in not recording the document properly. As a result, the Government accepted responsibility for the act of default, and the sum of \$48 942.90 is required to make good the loss which the mortgagee suffered as a result of the act of default on the part of the officer of the Registry.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 28 do now stand part.

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

The question that Head 28 do now stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 32 - FIRE SERVICE - \$ 30 000

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Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, under Head 32, Fire Service, the sum of \$30 000 is required to meet {the cost of freight charges on orders which have already been made, and to recover expenditure which is projected to the end of the Financial year 1986-87.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 32 do now stand part.

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

The question that Head 32 do now stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND > ' CULTURE - \$81 277

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Sir, under Subhead 1, Utilities,, as the Addendum indicates,

there was no provision made in the vote to cover the interim increases in telephone rates which was granted by the Public Utilities Board to the Barbados Telephone Company on February 21, 1986. Supplementary funds are required to meet the additional costs which will be incurred as a result of the installation of new telephones to facilitate additional staff and the re-assignment of staff in the Ministry of Education during the period of 1986-87. The sum of \$13277 is required to supplement that particular subhead. 1.45 p.m.

For subhead 5, a supplement of \$60 000 is required and requested. This is to carry out and continue the maintenance work on pre-primary and primary schools which is ongoing commitment.

A supplement of \$8 000 is required under the Audio Visual Aids Department for Ottyer Personal Emoluments. The Addendum sets out the reasons why the supplement is required, because the levels of vacation leave, study leave and sick leave during the current financial year have been higher than was anticipated, and substitutes had to be employed.

I beg to move that Head 34 stand part.

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

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN (St. Michael Central): Mr. Chairman, I think that we all can understand the value of education and, therefore, the need for having education reflect the long term development needs of our country. However, in looking at this particular situation we have to see one problem which I am sure has been with us for some time and which we would want to correct as a matter of urgency.

The schools in Barbados today are using public funds and, we understand, they are hiring staff from overseas countries. There are several Barbadians who are unemployed, there are several qualified Barbadians who are unemployed, and there are several qualified Caribbean persons who are unemployed. Yet schools can annually go off to Britain, for the sake of argument, to hire staff. I am told that some of these staff members do not teach, or cannot teach, in comparable measure to our local or original persons. I am of the view that, now that the matter is known, we will be able to see that that system will be brought to a very speedy conclusion, and that we do not have the particular problem of having our locals unemployed while we still think that if we hire from outside of Barbados, especially in the metropole, we get a better brand of person.

I understand too, Sir, that there are some accounting firms that are guilty of a similar approach to matters of

hiring staff. I am sure that that will be dealt with in this place, but at another time.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is the policy of the Government in its hiring policies to make jobs available through the established processes: first of all, to Barbadians; secondly, to nationals of other Commonwealth Caribbean countries, and then to others. We seek to carry out this policy and I give the assurance that if my honourable friend has specific instances in his knowledge, we will be willing to consider those.

The question that Head 34 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS - \$22 337

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Sir, the sum of \$22 337 is being requested from this Committee to supplement the vote for the National Library Service, which is Subhead 5 - Object No. 2 — Other Personal Emoluments. The expenditure under this item is higher than was anticipated, because no provision had been made for employing substitutes in place of two members of staff who were on half-pay since March 1986 and who also had training leave, granted on full pay. Therefore, a sum of \$22 337 is requested for this vote to see it through to the end of this financial year.

I beg to move that this Head stand part. Hon.

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

The question that Head 38 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY - \$1 984 700

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Chairman, this is to supplement the following items in the Current Estimates of Expenditure under Subhead 17 — QE.H. Under Object No. 2 - Other Personal Emoluments - the provision in the Estimates is inadequate to meet payment of additional staff. As I understand it, five additional posts of radiographer were created so that a 24-hour service can now be implemented.

Also, consultants became eligible for on-call allowance at the rate of 10% of salary, retroactive to April 1, 1985, and the Heads of Department's allowance was increased. Provision was included in the 1986-87 Estimates to meet the increase in salaries for consultants and junior medical staff, but not to meet the payment of arrears of salaries nor the on-call allowance, since the effective date of payment was not then known. Included in this sum is an

amount to pay on-call allowance to 38 consultants for the remainder of the financial year. We also have to look for additional funds for the increase, in the Heads of Department's allowance.

1.55 pm. v , * . ' ,

We also have to look for a sum to pay on-call allowances to the University of the West Indies' consultants who are required to be on call for public patients. These allowances, too, are at the rate of 10% of the S.5 scale, and there are 11 such consultants. '!

By the Civil Establishments (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1985, 150 of the 180 temporary posts of Ward Nurses were established. But, due to an oversight, no provision was made in the current Estimates to meet the cost of salaries for the remaining 30 temporary Ward Nurses, and since the graduation of the students, we have to make provision for them for the rest of the year.

There is an amount for overtime payments which occurred in the last financial year. We believe that the amount now voted would be inadequate to meet what is anticipated, bearing in mind what was paid last year. Of course, there are also acting allowances for substitutes.

Under Travel, the consultants at the QEH are now eligible for fixed travelling allowances. This has caused an increase in the amount allocated for travel.

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Under Object No. 9, because a number of the persons brought in to be radiographers are non-nationals, we had to rent property for them, and therefore provision must be made for them as well.

Under Operating Expenses, Object No. 12, falls the Medical Aid Scheme. As I understand it, \$500 000 was voted for this scheme, but, quite frankly, that was most inadequate to meet the needs of the scheme. Another \$400 000 is now required to meet outstanding commitments, and the anticipated expenditure to the end of the current financial year.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the amounts required under those Objects will come to that which I am asking, \$1 984 700, and I now ask that this Head stand part.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
, WORKS - \$250000

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, when we were dealing with another Head in a different Resolution, I explained that the commitments

of the Ministry in providing reasonable drainage works in certain areas had committed the Ministry to certain expenditures. In fact, this is based on the same reports of Messrs Rothwell Associates and Islands Engineering Group Limited.

The sum of \$1 200 000 was provided in this year's Estimates, expenditure to December 31 was \$1.071 million and there are commitments of \$105 828.41, leaving a committed balance of \$22 427.16. It is estimated that an additional -\$250 000 is required for the work under this Head for the rest of the financial year.

I move that this Head stand part. *Hon. M.

A. KING: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 42 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

\ On the motion of Hon.

L. E. SANDIFORD,
seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 23, asked by the honourable Member for St. Thomas, of the Honourable Minister of- Transport, Works and Telecommunications.

QUESTION RE TERMINATIONS AT TRANSPORT BOARD

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 23 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: Will the Minister please state (a) the number of persons whose services with the Transport Board have been terminated between May 28, 1986 and October 17, 1986, and (b) the total amount of money paid to the said persons by way of termination benefits, severance pay or similar compensation?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 23 is as follows:

- (a) The services of 58 persons were terminated. This is part of the over 100 taken on before elections.

- (b) A total of \$77 382.74 was paid in benefits made up as follows:

Severance payments	-	\$22 261.66
Salary in Lieu of notice	-	\$36 576.22
Vacation pay	-	\$18 544.86

Mr. SPEAKER: Supplementary questions?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No supplementaries.
2.05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 45, asked by the honourable Member for St. Andrew.

QUESTION RE PROBLEMS IN ST. ANDREW
AS A RESULT OF HEAVY RAINS

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Parliamentary Question No. 45 is as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware of the following problems resulting from the recent heavy rains in the St. Andrew area: (1) that landslides have caused a complete break in the Shorey Village/Bridgetown bus service at Spring Vale and the St. Andrew Church/Bridgetown bus service at Turner Hall and White Hill, resulting in long delays to the travelling public in reaching their destinations; (2) that the Transport Board has removed most of the newer buses from the Haggatts Depot and replaced them with older units which are prone to frequent breakdowns, and (3) that, despite temporary repairs to White Hill Road, which is now used by delivery trucks, heavy duty vehicles from Soil Conservation and even the Water Vat from Barbados Water Authority, bus drivers are consistently refusing to use the regular bus terminal in the district, forcing residents, especially those from Mount All, to walk over 1 mile to reach a bus stop? 2. If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Minister, in the present emergency, consider the issue of permits to minibuses operators to ply the affected areas until the roads become serviceable once more?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 45, asked by the honourable Member for St. Andrew, is as follows:

"(1) Because of the landslides, buses serving Shorey Village, Lakes and St. Simon's have been diverted around the affected areas. Efforts are still being made to maintain the level of service.

(2) Some older Leyland buses were substituted for newer Mercedes Benz buses at the request

of the operators. However, if there are unserviceable units, they will be withdrawn.

- (3) Yes, Sir. This problem is being corrected. There are three minibuses licensed to operate in the St. Andrew area and it is not proposed to assign any more minibuses to this area at this time as the Transport Board is taking steps to improve the Service."

Mr. SPEAKER: Any supplementaries?

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate whether he is satisfied that the Board has done everything in its power to alleviate much of the hardship being experienced in St. Andrew, considering the time span between the landslide caused by the heavy rains and this stage, where it is a little drier in the month of February?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that the Board has put in some very useful work in that area. The work is not complete. As the honourable Member might well be aware, the Ministry had to wait until — I assume, a supplementary relating to buses or landslides, it does not matter — the areas have dried out sufficiently before work could be undertaken.

The work is continuing on this, and it will be a continuing process until we have the St. Andrew area that has been affected by the floods back in the condition it was, and probably even in better condition than it was, before the floods.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 64 by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

QUESTION re MAINTENANCE AND DRAINAGE
IN STOREY GAP, CODRINGTON,
ST. MICHAEL

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Parliamentary Question No. 64.

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that road maintenance and drainage in Storey Gap in Codrington, Saint Michael have been left unattended by Government for many years resulting in a broken road service very detrimental to residents of the area? 2. Will the Minister give his commitment to the early improvement to this very unsatisfactory situation?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 64 is as follows:

"Major road repairs are presently in progress in Storey Gap, Codrington, St. Michael. The work in progress involves resurfacing of the road, repair to guard wall, replacing of the road direction sign, reconstruction of the sides of the road and weeding and cleaning the road."

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 51, asked by the honourable Member for St. George South.

QUESTION RE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY
SMALL FARMERS IN RESPECT OF PORK
AND PORK PRODUCTS

Mr. R. P. BYER: Question No. 51, Sir:

To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries: 1. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties being faced by small farmers in the disposal of their pigs for pork and pork products? 2. Will the Minister state whether import licences have been issued during 1986 for the importation of pork and/or pork products, and, if so, how many licences have been issued, to whom were they issued, for what items and quantities in each instance and the date of issue of each licence?

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 51 is as follows:

1. Yes, Sir.
2. Import licences have been issued for the importation of pork and pork products up to 9th December, 1986, as follows -

IMPORTERS	Bellies, Pork Loins and Cushion Meat	Shoulders/Legs Christmas Allocations	Total
	Kgs.	Kgs.	
B'dos Packers and Canners	239 400	164655	404 055
Hojeg Meat Pro- cessing	13834	68040	81 874
Hanschell Inniss (H.I.H. Manufac- turing)	472416	114 306	586 722
Pinnacle Foods	-	14968	14968
TOTAL	725 650	361 969	1 087 619

Mr. SPEAKER: Any supplementaries?

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes, Sir. Will the Minister be able to state whether these levels of importation will be maintained in view of the present state of the industry?

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, the Ministry is trying through a process of reduction of feed, better quality pigs and better management to reduce the price of local meat, and we have an agreement with the processors, in principle, that if we can reduce the price of local pigs to \$2.45 per pound for a dressed carcass, they would increase their present intake up to 75% of what they are presently taking. So the Ministry, in conjunction with BAS, the feed companies and the producers of pork, is working, and we have been reducing these amounts, I am certain.

We do not make allocations unless the BAS is allocated. The committee dealing with the allocation of pork comprises the BAS, the pork producers, the processors, and people from the Ministry. So anytime we make an allocation, it is with the approval of the BAS, which is aware of the problems that we have in trying to keep the processors competitive. If we have a situation where the processors are not competitive, their markets will dry up, and we would be reversing the same thing we are trying to do, since, if the processors cannot sell, the local pork producers would not be able to produce any further.

We are working towards a complete solution to the problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 56, asked by the honourable Member for Christ Church East of the same Minister.

QUESTION RE DYNAMITING OF FISH IN CHRIST
CHURCH AND ST. PHILIP

Mr. E. BOURNE: Question No. 56, Sir.

To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries: 1. Is the Minister aware that, despite legislation prohibiting it, the dynamiting of fish in the sea is done daily from Bow Bells, Christ Church, in the South to Sam Lords Castle, St. Philip, in the East? 2. Will the Minister consider having the Coast Guard patrol the above area with powers of search and arrest to deal with offenders?

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 56 is as follows:

"The Minister is aware that periodically anonymous callers report the dynamiting of fish in the sea in areas ranging from Bath, St. John, through the south and west coasts to Half Moon Fort, St. Lucy. All reports are recorded and immediately communicated to the Police Station nearest the reported location and to the Coast Guard.

"The Coast Guard already patrols the above-mentioned areas but will be requested to increase the frequency of its patrols.

"Under Sections 211 and 213 of the Defence Act 1979-25 the Coast Guard has the powers of search and arrest for offences committed against The Fisheries Regulation Act, Cap. 131."

Mr. SPEAKER: Any supplementaries? Mr. E.

BOURNE: No supplementary, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of Replies to Supplementary Questions..

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is also the end of Government Business for today's sitting. 2.15 p.m.

I must express my appreciation to honourable Member's particularly the members of the Opposition, for their co-operation in the transaction of today's business.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, March 3, 1987, at 12 o'clock noon.

On that day, as I have indicated to the Opposition, it is expected that we will consider certain Civil Establishment Orders.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, March 3, 1987 at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 2.17 p.m.

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