

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 16, 1987

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. Weekes, J.P., (Speaker)

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

Hon. L. E. Sandiford, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Affairs, Minister of Education and Culture)

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 Health)

Hon. P. M. Greaves, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications and Leader of the House)

Hon. E. E. Greaves, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade, Industry 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 Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)

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)

Hon. C. V. Walker, (Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Culture)

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

Mr. E. Bourne

Dr. E. A. Simmons, M.D.

Hon. W. W. Hall, (Minister of Tourism and Sports)

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 Father Noel Burke. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, June 2, 1987.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes be taken as read and be confirmed.

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

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to lay the following documents:

The National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 1987.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Self-employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations 1987.

The Eighth Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended December 1986.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, "I beg to lay:

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1985.

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

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No.3) Order, 1987.

The Betting and Gaming Duties Order, 1987.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay:

The Report and Financial Statements of the Public Utilities Board for the year ended 31st December, 1986.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay:

The 29th Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Board of Tourism for the year 1985 - 86.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following:

A Resolution to amend Resolution No. 85/ 1985;

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$325 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1987 - 88, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1987 — 88, No. 1, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$3 600 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1987 - 88, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1987 - 88, No. 2, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Bill to amend the Barbados Water Authority Act.

A Bill to amend the Liquor Licences Act. A Bill to amend the Firearms Act.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, 4 each seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the following Bills were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Barbados Water Authority Act,

A Bill to amend the Liquor Licences Act, and A Bill to amend the Firearms Act. CONGRATULATORY AND/OR

OBITUARY SPEECHES

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ERROL WALTON BARROW

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 1987 the task of bringing to this Honourable Chamber the sad news of the passing of the late Right Honourable Enrol Walton Barrow was my sorrowful responsibility.

Mr. Barrow died on June 1, 1987, at the age of 67, at his home "Kampala", Paradise, Black Rock, and the Coroner's verdict is that death was due to myocardial infarction (natural). His body was cremated yesterday afternoon, June 15, in Miami, and, as soon as I receive information regarding the arrival in Barbados of the urn containing his ashes and of the arrangements for scattering them in accordance with his wishes, I shall share that information with the public. 12.30 p.m.

Today, I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, and my honourable colleagues to pay tribute to our dear departed friend and leader. In attempting to honour this great man, I am reminded of the opening lines from the great elegiac poem, "Adonais" which I now quote:

"I weep for Adonais — he is dead! I weep for Adonais! though our tears thaw not the frost which binds so dear a head! And thou, sad Hour, selected from all years To mourn our loss, rouse they obscure compeers And teach them thine own Sorrow: say: "with me Died Adonais, till the future dares Forget the Past, his fate and fame shall be An echo and Light onto eternity!"

Death, Mr. Speaker, may have claimed the body of Errol Walton Barrow, but I believe that at that very moment his soul was set free. Indeed, he seemed to -* symbolise, in his request for his ashes to be scattered before the trade winds, that his spirit be entombed with his mortal remains.

Errol Walton Barrow excelled in every area of his endeavour. He showed clear signs of his ability to lead from a very early age, and we are told of his early determination and sense of purpose.

He could well have continued in the academic field and become a great scholar and teacher. An Island Scholar, he embarked upon a career of service in the Royal Air Force, where he excelled, becoming, at the end of World War II, Assistant to the Military Governor in Germany at about the very young age of 26. This certainly explains his particular propensity for long hours of work and his confidence in the ability of young people to accept and handle responsibility.

In all this, he remained a student of the classics. We in this Chamber have often listened in awe to his brilliant quotations from memory in both English and Latin, with equal fluency. His academic excellence has earned him recognition from many institutions, including the London School of Economics and Political Science and Sussex University, which awarded him the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

A man of many parts, Errol Walton Barrow was equally at home on horseback, sailing, or flying an aeroplane. This versatility was reflected in his behaviour and his living. He could truly walk with kings, yet retain the common touch. Whether in the marketplace or at Parliament, the late Prime Minister by his simple humanity disarmed people, even his adversaries, if, in fact, there were any.

The spirit of Errol Walton Barrow will live on, Mr. Speaker, in the institutions for higher learning which he has built upon this rock. It will live on in the generations of children who study in these institutions. It will be there in their achievements, in their struggle for excellence, in the intelligence they pass on to their heirs and successors.

The spirit of Errol Walton Barrow will remain alive as long as Barbadians are permitted to claim their rights under the Constitution, to practise their religion, to debate issues, to agree and disagree. Throughout his public, and his private life, Errol Barrow sought assiduously to secure the life and liberty of Barbadians and to further their happiness.

Stories of Mr. Barrow's obvious humanity, his thoughtfulness, have already filled the pages of local and overseas newspapers. What has been said so often may be described as another variation on a theme that sounded a note of caring and sharing.

The late Errol Barrow was, in many ways, a remarkable person. His was a disarming love that was the pride of Barbadians and the envy of neighbours. Even in the dark days of racial bigotry, he was recognised for his

ability in the legal profession in Britain, but he chose to return to his native land to make a contribution to the upliftment of his fellow countryman. This he did without fanfare.

He was a noble man, but a humble man. He never sought greatness, but greatness radiated from him. When many persons said that free education was impossible in Barbados, he showed that it was possible. When others ridiculed his objective of an independent Barbados, he voiced his intention not to be found loitering on the colonial premises after closing time.

Errol Walton Barrow, the father of our nation, has been a legend in our time, although he saw himself merely as a man in the street, a taxpayer, and a servant of the people.

No doubt, we will hasten to suggest the erection of monuments to his memory. But the greatest monuments are not those which men build with their hands, but those which are established in the social, economic, educational and cultural reforms over which our great leader presided.

My greatest tribute to my very distinguished predecessor is to build upon the great foundation he left us. All of us, Mr. Speaker, must seek to maintain the democratic institutions for which he lived and died. All of us, Mr. Speaker, must maintain the pride and dignity for our nation and its emblems, the flag, the anthem and the motto, "Pride and Industry," for which he worked with selflessness.

Errol Walton Barrow gave his life in the service of this nation. An industrious, committed public servant, he knew that politics was the art of the possible. He knew that vision was necessary for the successful ascent from the level of politician to the level of statesman.

It is, therefore, not surprising that he was called "Skipper" by all and sundry, for the term "skipper" refers to the captain of a ship or team. Errol Walton Barrow was the skipper of the ship of state of Barbados. He knew what kind of ship he was on. He knew where the helm was and where the tiller was. He knew that the ship had left the moorings of colonialism for the challenging open seas of independence. He knew the reefs, shoals and sandbanks which were to be avoided, and he had a vision of the port which would provide a safe haven for his people. 12.40 p.m.

The American sociologist Harold Laswell has indicated that people in society pursue eight basic values or objectives; namely, power, enlightenment, wealth, well-being, skill, affection, rectitude and deference. Errol Barrow was fully conscious of those values. And

he was conscious that the ambitions of people as they pursue those values had to be moderated and held in check in terms of priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I have not spoken of my long association with Errol Barrow, experiences which we shared and the opportunities and encouragement which he gave me along the way. There will be other opportunities for that. I merely wish, in closing, to refer once again to the lines from the poem "Adonais" by Percy Bysshe Shelley, the great 19th century English poet, as it deals with the big question of the meaning of life:

"Whence are we, and why are we? of what scene
The actors or spectators? Great and mean
Meet massed in death, who lends what life must
borrow.
As long as skies are blue, and fields are green,
Evening must usher night, night urge the morrow,
Month follow month with woe, and year wake year
to sorrow."

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our traditions, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS Errol Walton Barrow, formerly of the Royal Air Force, Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics and Political Science of the University of London, Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, one of Her Majesty's Counsel, Member of the Honourable the House of Assembly for the constituency of Saint George from 1951 until 1956, and for the constituency of Saint John since 1958, Premier of Barbados from 1961 until 1966 and Prime Minister of Barbados from 1966 to 1976 and from 1986, died on the 1st day of June, 1987;

"AND WHEREAS this Right Honourable gallant and learned gentleman dedicated his life during the Second World War to the causes of freedom and democracy for mankind;

"AND WHEREAS, thereafter, in his practice of the law and in his service in the political life of our country he espoused and strove for total emancipation and maximum development of our citizens and manifested, in a career unsurpassed in patriotism, in achievement and distinction amongst the citizens of our Country, his commitment to -justice for all and the right of our Country to the highest regard in the Commonwealth of Nations;

"AND WHEREAS he fathered and nourished the independence of our Country;

"AND WHEREAS his vision for our Country transcended the perimeters of its territory and encompassed and comprehended his desire for its contribution to the

integrity of the Caribbean, to regional unity and integration, as was manifested in his initiatives for the creation and development of our major regional institutions; i

"AND WHEREAS in his commitment to the pursuit of his objectives he sought for Barbados and the Caribbean the noblest pinnacle of achievement and respect in the world by the exercise of our skills, by our efforts and by our maturity in our independence;

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House pay the accolade of our highest tribute to the late the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, an exemplar of dignity, courage, nobility and humanity and a leader by example, and lament the deep tragedy of his loss even as, in himself and as Head of our Government, he pursued unswervingly the causes that guided his life.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House express our thanks for his life and convey to his widow, Mrs. Carolyn Barrow, to their children and to his other relatives and friends our feelings of profound grief and regret and our deepest condolences on behalf of our nation and of ourselves at his passing."

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Speaker, it is part of the best traditions of this Parliament for Resolutions of this nature to be seconded by the Opposition, but although that is part of the formality on an occasion such as this, I think I express the regret of each one of us in this House, and of the nation, at the passing of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Errol Barrow.

Very soon after I was notified officially of his death, I made a statement on behalf of the Opposition, the members of the Barbados Labour Party, on my own behalf and on behalf of my family, the contents of which are now part of public knowledge. The sentiments expressed I now repeat, and hope that they will, in due course, be made part of the records of this House.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is a sobering thought that each Honourable Member of this House was at school when the late Errol Barrow entered into Parliament, and when I said that with his death it was the passing of an era, I recognised that those who now have the mantle of Government in their hands, whether on the side of the Government or on the side of the Opposition, come at a time when, of course, the persons who were in the major struggle of our country for independence have now almost all passed to the Great Beyond, and those of us who now sit in this Chamber are obviously people who, as children, would have observed the work of this great man. ^

Errol Barrow deserves to be numbered among the builders of Barbados. I believe that he has contributed

significantly to the improvement of our country and to the respect which Barbados holds in the international community.

Mr. Speaker, he came from a tradition which obviously inspired him to reach for the heights. I do not believe that many people recognise the tremendous influence which his uncle, the late Dr. Duncan O'Neal, had on his life. Only a few days ago I was looking at some of the historical records of the period of the thirties, and it came to my notice that, when Dr. O'Neal died in 1936, the member of the family who went forward to make his funeral arrangements was no other than Errol Walton Barrow, aged 16. He took the responsibility for that occasion, and it underscored for me the fact that the work of his uncle had impressed itself on his mind from an early age, and, no doubt, in those days he made the decision that he would wish to follow in that tradition.

Mr. Speaker, he comes of the school of those who had the best of primary education which this Island had to offer in the thirties. He was educated at one of our best schools in those days, the Wesley Hall School. Later, of course, he went to Harrison College, and then on to the London School of Economics and Political Science. There he came under the influence of one of the great men who believed in democratic socialism and who wrote extensively about it, the late Professor Harold Laski. I think that the time he spent in law was probably not as important to him in those days as was the influence of the people at the London School of Economics. 12.50 p.m.

He returned to Barbados in the early fifties, and very soon threw himself into the struggle with another great man who had been influenced by the democratic socialism and Fabianism of the 1930s, and that was Sir Grantley Adams. And alongside Sir Grantley he first won 4 seat to this House, coming as the Member for St. George. Between the years 1951 and 1955, he took an active part in the promotion of the working class, principally through his association with the Barbados Labour Party.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of record that the breach between himself and the Labour Party came about in 1955. In fact, it is a sobering thought sometimes to read the debates for that period to see the exchanges which took place between those dubbed as the "Young Turks" and the hierarchy of the Labour Party. It is sometimes sobering as well to reflect that among the Young Turks was Mr. Freddie Miller, who is still with us but who in those days would not have been considered as young as Mr. Barrow himself. I think the main difference, certainly as highlighted by A.E.S. Lewis, came over the organization of the party, the lack of consultation between the hierarchy, the elder persons in the party, and the younger members, and, of course, over their different views about the development plans for Barbados in this

year. But what I want to underscore is that after that break, it was part of Mr. Barrow's determination to contribute to the future of Barbados and he was instrumental, along with others, in forming the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, I think that his contribution to the two-party system ought to be recognised. It is part of the democratic tradition of our nation that we should maintain those principles as firmly as we possibly can. Today, therefore, Barbados I believe is singular among the nations of the world in having two parties, both of which have sprung from the same tradition and both of whom have been influenced almost by the same political philosophy. And we have two parties in which the two main leaders of these parties have now passed to the Great Beyond, and, for the first time, those of us who have been their sons, their relatives, their friends, have taken over a tradition which I hope we, both parties, will uphold. I was pleased to hear the Prime Minister stress the contribution which he has made to democracy. I hope that his contribution in this field will be respected by those of us who have come after.

Mr. Speaker, he remained in the wilderness for about five years, and they were five stormy years in the history of our country. It is significant, I think, that in 1956, for instance, he did not win a seat back to Parliament and he again failed in the Federal elections 1958. But Errol Barrow was not a person to take defeat lightly. It seemed to inspire him to try again, as he had his goal ahead of him. He came back with flying colours and won a seat for the parish of St. John in 1958, a seat which he has held continuously up to his death. Twenty-nine years of service is a long time for any one man to give to the nation. In his case, he gave more than 29, because he had also served in the period 1951—55.

People do not adequately, in my view, Mr. Speaker, acknowledge the tremendous contribution which politicians really make to the well-being of this country. It is sometimes because we probably are apt to sell ourselves short. But a person who devoted a lifetime of service, such as he gave to the country, obviously gave much, and it is this tremendous devotion which sapped his energies, finally, and caused his demise only on June 1.

- Mr. Speaker, I first got to know Errol Barrow on a friendly basis when I returned to Barbados as a young man in 1959. I had seen him before that period in the law courts and I admired the tremendous legal skill he had. He was one of the most incisive cross-examiners I have come across. He had a tremendous grasp of facts, and he was extremely devastating with a witness and equally commanding in addressing the jury. I remember the tremendous clashes which occurred at the Bar in that period. There were times, in fact, when cases were adjourned and not heard, when Errol Barrow was lined up

against Mr. Jack Dear or Mr. Hanschell or Mr. Hutson Williams. Always, one could learn from the deep legal knowledge and certainly the court craft and skill which he brought to bear on his performances in those days.

I then, of course, formed an interest in his politics. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in the election of 1961 many of us followed intimately the clash between the Democratic Labour Party, led by Errol Barrow, and the Barbados Labour Party in those days. Once again, one recognised that he towered above the other members of his party. He won his victory in 1961 and became the Premier of Barbados, and I think set about immediately on a crash programme to relieve unemployment and continued with what has now been characterised perhaps as his greatest contribution, going towards free education. In this regard, I believe he had a reasonably good foundation on which to build, but he had the imagination as well, in a dramatic way at that time, to bring free secondary education. I believe that this with his leading Barbados to independence will go down as the two most outstanding contributions of his rather long career here.

Sir, I came into the House some ten years after that, and I have spent the last 16 years in one way or other across the table, sometimes at the receiving end of his lashes, receiving the occasional encomium, but always receiving courtesy from him. He was a formidable opponent. He was extremely resourceful in debate. I agree with the Prime Minister that he had a facility of quoting from the classics, whether Latin and Greek, as easily understood, or from classics in English. He had a tremendous grasp of the political history of our country and he had a firm view of where he was going and where he wanted Barbados to go. 1.00p.m.

I came up against him at the time of the Federal debate and on the issue of the "Little Eight" Federation. In those days, there were many of us who were strong Federalists who believed that Barbados should seek independence, not on its own, but in association with others, because we did not see the Caribbean tarrying at the gate of colonialism forever. I believe his pragmatism told him that if he had waited for each territory of the Caribbean to reach that stage, it would have been a longer process. So he urged and implemented independence for Barbados. .

It was not for him an easy period. There were others, both within his own party and without, who held a different view than he did. The late Sir Erskine Ward, for instance, and Mr. Wynter Crawford, two of his Ministers, left him then over this very issue. But I also recall that in those days, the present Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister went and joined him, one in his Cabinet and, I think, the other as his Personal Assistant, and came under his tremendous influence.

That period is of some significance, because it gave them the opportunity to serve alongside him and with him from the period 1964 and beyond.

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Sir, his achievements in the Caribbean are also now well chronicled. With the break-up of the Federation, he, together with the late President Forbes Burnham and Mr. V. C. Bird, set about finding some way of salvaging the wreck of the Federation, and the idea of CARIFTA and its subsequent successor, CARICOM, was born. We are still in the process of working out the integration movement. What I can draw as a conclusion from his effort is that despite the fact that total Caribbean unity had to be postponed, he recognised and felt quite deeply the need for Caribbean unity.

If those of us who are left wish to carry on the legacy of the two greatest men Barbados has had in the last 50 years — Sir Grantley Adams and Mr. Barrow - we must carry on that legacy by fighting and rededicating ourselves to the Caribbean nation and to Caribbean unity. It may not come in the form of political unity immediately, but we have a duty, Mr. Speaker, to learn from their lives and try every possible avenue to achieve the objective of Caribbean unity. I think that it is within our capacity to achieve, and I am sure their lives would inspire us to reach to their heights.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I once again express my deepest condolences on his passing. Our families were connected in some ways. My adopted mother was married to his father, and for several years after I returned to Barbados, as a young man, I spent several Saturday afternoons at the home of the late Errol Barrow. He was a fine cook. I think he had a tremendous knowledge of the culinary arts. He was a very good host, and he always welcomed everybody of all social classes to his table.

I have gone there on many occasions in the* company of diverse political foes. It is one of the things that one does not always recognise in Barbados. I have seen at his house members of the Barbados Labour Party, members of the Barbados National Party, members of the then Congress Party, when it would appear to the public as though our daggers were so drawn that we would slaughter each other. But the friendship that inspired us on those occasions belied the divisions which some people believe existed in our personal association and lives. I think that Errol Barrow in this respect carried on a tradition that is very valuable in the life of a small country such as Barbados.

I regret very much his passing. In this House we will miss him. Even when you disagreed with him, you showed him, and had to show him, the respect which he so easily commanded. ¹⁹⁹¹

I recall his last years in Opposition in this House. I am sorry that the Resolution makes no reference to that

period, the period of 1978 - 1986. He returned to take charge of the fortunes of his party after Mr. Frederick Smith did not continue as Leader of the Opposition, and I believe that his return played a significant part in turning the scales against the Barbados Labour Party's Government in the 1986 period. There is no doubt that he was seen, certainly by us, as a very formidable opponent. He also re-established the Democratic Labour Party's *bona fides* in the eyes of the public of Barbados and commanded a tremendous amount of respect both from his political adversaries and from the public.

Now that he has passed to the Great Beyond, I would like to think that this country will honour his memory. Although the Prime Minister has said that statues would not be the only way of preserving his memory, I think it is but fitting that, at the appropriate time, this House gives early consideration to the proper manner in which we can have not only his ideas kept firmly before the minds of Barbadians, but to having some public recognition of the contribution which he has made. This is an area of national life on which there ought to be bipartisan agreement. 1.10p.m.

We have national heroes that we do not recognise adequately, in my opinion, and certainly he will be numbered, and must be numbered, among the national heroes, as he is numbered among the builders of Barbados.

I have — I would not like to say great pleasure, because there is never great pleasure at the passing of anyone — but it is my humble and respectful duty to second this Resolution.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES (St. Lucy). Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this Resolution on this particular occasion, let me say I do so with a heavy heart, recognising, of course, that the late Errol Walton Barrow was born in the parish of St. Lucy, the constituency which I now have the honour to represent, into a prominent St. Lucy family, the O'Neals, of whom the late Charles Duncan O'Neal was the most outstanding.

He was born at The Garden in Checker Hall, and one would often hear him, in describing where he was born, say that he was born "in the middle of a cane field". Those of us who know where The Garden in St. Lucy is situated, would recognise what he meant by that statement, because that house is situated in the middle of a plantation field, and, of course, in the heyday of cane sugar, obviously it was surrounded by sugar cane. I think that this statement in itself impressed on us the humility and humour with which he lived, and it certainly tried to impress upon people the way in which they, too, should live here.

He always spoke most fondly of St. Lucy, and he had intimate relations and discussions with a number of families in that parish. It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that the last official visit which he paid to that parish was on the Friday before he died. He made two stops. It was an official visit to the Arawak Cement Plant, but he took the opportunity to stop in Checker Hall, a fairly close distance to the place where he was born, to look at the road which is now being built leading to the Arawak Cement Plant. The other stop was at the St. Lucy's Parish Church corner, where a roundabout is being built. He expressed an interest in seeing what was being done down there, and I should mention that he was baptized at St. Lucy's Parish Church. So it was more or less like a return to home, to the parish of his birth as it were, just before he died. I want to say that the people of St. Lucy feel very close to the late Prime Minister and his passing was of great pain and hurt to them.

There is no doubt that in looking over the life of the late Prime Minister and his contribution to the development of this country, one cannot help but refer to the many interests which he had. His interest in the improvement, for example, of the working class in Barbados, was fundamental, and without going into too much detail, because I am sure that other Members of this Honourable Chamber will refer in more detail to that contribution, I make reference to the institution of the five day work week, the implementation of severance pay and the establishment in this country of the National Insurance Scheme which is hailed as one of the greatest pieces of social legislation ever implemented in Barbados.

I had the privilege, when I served as Head of the Labour College, to have been at the opening of that institution when he delivered the Opening Address. The contribution which he continued to make towards the progress of the Labour College was one which we have always treasured, because of many occasions *v/e* were able to call on him for his expertise and his knowledge to contribute to discussions, whether these discussions were for our shop stewards, for the leadership of the union or, more broadly, for the leadership of trade unions from across the Caribbean. He was never sparing of his time. He was always willing to come and stay as long as we wanted him to stay and to impart his knowledge to us.

This is just one aspect of his interest in education. Reference has already been made to the contribution which he made to education at another level, the implementation of free secondary education in Barbados, the benefits of which we all know very much, but I want to speak just briefly about an aspect of which I have personal knowledge and in which I had personal involvement, the establishment of the University of the West Indies Cave Hill campus here in Barbados in 1963.

I enrolled with a number of other Barbadians among the first group of students who attended that institution. I was a member of the Civil Service in those days, and we recognised that it was going to be very difficult for us to continue studying and working. We made an approach, through an individual, to him about the possibility of study leave for civil servants attending university. I can well recall that, just before the 1966 elections, he intimated to this particular individual who represented our cause to him, that that provision would be included in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party in 1966, and, so true, that happened. As a result, a number of us who were in the Civil Service at that time were able to benefit from that study leave provision and were able to complete our degrees at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, and even to go on to higher studies. I think that this is a very important contribution which should not be missed and should not be neglected.

There is no doubt about his commitment to the regional integration movement. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the role which the late Errol Barrow played in the formation of CARIFTA and its successor, CARICOM, and of course to the regional institutions associated with the regional integration movement. I had the distinct honour and privilege to be present at the Heads of Government Conference in Georgetown last year, July 1986, when he made what can be considered as a most outstanding speech on the whole question of regional integration, and sought on that occasion to instil a sense of pride in Caribbean people. It was a moment of distinct pleasure for us who were Barbadians there to see the way in which he so easily moved on to the centre stage of Caribbean politics and of the regional integration movement. It was, as it were, as if other leaders were waiting for his return to the stage, and they deferred to him.

His speech, needless to say, was greatly received, and he was honoured at the end with a standing ovation. I believe that we ought to preserve that speech and use it as a reference to the whole question of development and to the whole question of instilling a sense of well-being and a sense of dignity for Caribbean people.

I have also had the pleasure to be with him in recent months when we went to Tobago for discussions with the present Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, where matters relating to the Caribbean integration movement and Caribbean unity was discussed. Seeing the facility with which he was able to discuss these matters indicated very clearly that here was a man who was speaking from his heart, who felt very strongly about the positions which he took relating to the Caribbean. 1.20 p.m.

I would like to join the other Members who have spoken so far, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, in saying that we ought to move very early, and not only in terms of tributes in words, to establish some lasting memory — which should be seen and appreciated by present generations and generations to come — of the late Errol Walton Barrow, in my view, one of the greatest Barbadians who has ever lived.

In support of the contribution which he has made, we have to continue his efforts in building a Barbados of which we can all be proud, and one in which we, as Barbadians, can feel and know that we have a stake in this country.

I wish to associate myself with the remarks in expressing my condolences to his family.

We hope that his passing will not be in vain.

Thank you.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS (St. Michael South East): Mr. Speaker, William, Shakespeare in "Hamlet", in commenting on man, makes the point, that some men are born great, others achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. The poet, in his observation makes the point, that full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its fragrance on the desert air.

Fortunately for us in Barbados and in the Caribbean, and, indeed, in the Third World, the flower, Errol Walto'n Barrow, bloomed, and its fragrance was spread in the Caribbean and in the Third World. We, in Barbados, and in the Caribbean, are much richer and more enlightened for his life.

There may be some question as to whether he was born great - we have heard before that he was born out of a traditional family, in which there was always a great concern for the underprivileged — but no one can question the fact that he achieved greatness. He was brought up at the feet of Dr. Duncan O'Neal, and was a student of Marcus Garvey, who, incidentally, was born exactly 100 years before Errol Walton Barrow died - he was born in 1887 and Errol Barrow died in 1987.

Our late Prime Minister was a man of exquisite intellect. Because of my background, I have had the opportunity to meet people of all kinds of intellectual capacities, and I say, without any fear of contradiction, I have never met an individual who had the intellectual capacity of Errol Walton Barrow. He was a man who could engage in conversation on any topic which you chose to engage him on, and that included medicine.

But the most important thing about Errol Walton Barrow was his character. He was a man of simplicity and humility. Probably the most touching story that was ever told about him in terms of his humility was told to me a few years ago when I visited Trinidad. I was talking to some members of the Trinidad Coast Guard and they related the story of having come to Barbados on a Coast Guard ship and being told that the Prime Minister of Barbados would be boarding the ship that afternoon. The members of the Coast Guard were standing at ease on the Coast Guard boat waiting for the Prime Minister to arrive, and a man drove up in a little car, got out, walked up the plank of the Coast Guard and went on board the ship. It was only after he was fully on board the ship that they recognised that that was the Prime Minister of Barbados. To those Trinidadians, that was the most impressive thing they had ever seen from any Prime Minister in the Caribbean.

But the Trinidadians did not have to tell us that story. The nutsellers, the people who sell vegetables, the people who work in the supermarkets in Barbados, are testimony to the humility of Errol Walton Barrow, a man whose example not only politicians, but all Barbadians and Caribbean people, should emulate.

He was a versatile man, as we have heard before, a man who was at home whether he was flying a plane, horseback riding or sailing. And sailing is a major characteristic of Caribbean people. We are a community of people connected by water, and if, indeed, you must be a true Caribbean spirit, it must be part of you that sailing comes naturally. To Errol Walton Barrow, sailing symbolised what his ashes will symbolise when they are scattered from here to the Tobago Cays.

Mr. Speaker, he was a Caribbean man, and he was a Caribbean man sought by other Caribbean leaders. I recall that, less than a year ago, he was invited to address the ruling party's convention in St. Vincent. He asked me if I would go along with him, and, of course, I consented. The people of St. Vincent and Bequia were rather surprised to see that the Prime Minister of Barbados would grace them with his presence, and that he would, in open air, under the almond tree on the beach, address them in terms that they could understand. That was what was significant. He felt that no task, once it involved the building of the Caribbean people, was below or above him. These were the traits in the man that made him the greatest man ever to have come out of this 21 x 14, and one may question whether or not he is not the greatest man to come out of the Caribbean.

We may compare him with a man like Marcus Garvey. But Errol Barrow had something that I think he did not have. Errol Walton Barrow was exposed to a secondary education, to a colonial thinking which Garvey was not exposed to.

Yet Errol Walton Barrow never forgot his roots. He stayed with his people, because he recognised that the salvation of the oppressed peoples in the Caribbean must rest with those of us who have been able to make contacts with the developed world and still keep their feet firmly rooted on their own soil.

Mr. Speaker, he was a plain speaking man, a blunt man, he was a man who was not afraid to say exactly what he felt, and he was not afraid to speak back to those who offended him, and it would be remiss of me if, on the floor of this House, I did not make some mention of some of those episodes. 1.30p.m.

He had a thing with the Press, and, quite rightly, he should have. I well recall in 1976 that the Press of this country carried articles stating that Errol Walton Barrow was one of the richest black men in the world. He never answered them. On his death we find out that all he owned was a board and shingled house in Black Rock.

Mr. Errol Walton Barrow will continue to live in our memories. But if there is one thing I must recall, it is that ; standing over there, obliquely opposite where I stand, he mentioned on the floor of this House that he was proud to know that in this Chamber he had the greatest collection of brains ever to sit in a Parliament in Barbados, and I am thankful that at his parting he knows that he has left in this Chamber the people who have got the unity and the ability to carry on the fight which he so proudly started.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituency of St. Michael South East, I give my condolences to the family and relatives of Errol Walton Barrow. It was in that constituency that they held a candle light service the night he died, and I want to say on the floor of this House that, as Errol Walton Barrow would have wanted us to do, I pledge my unswerving support to our present Prime Minister, whom Errol Walton Barrow thought was a fit person to walk in his footsteps.

I thank you.

Hon. C. V. WALKER (St. George North): Mr. Speaker, when the honourable Member for St. Lucy, (Hon. E. E. Greaves) spoke, I thought that I should - follow him, if for no other reason than that in some way we would be tracing the footsteps of our late Prime Minister, Errol Walton Barrow. We all know that he was born in St. Lucy. We also know that his connection with the parish, and indeed with the constituency, which I now have the honour to represent, goes way back to his days as a youngster a few months old. Indeed, when one casts one's mind back to those days — he being connected with Charles Duncan O'Neal, and his father being the Curate of St. George's Parish Church - when we had a centre of plantocracy worshipping at the church of which I am also a member, his father and Charles Duncan O'Neal had set

that kind of stage. Therefore we could have expected nothing less than what we had, and what we indeed have cherished and we have now missed, in Errol Walton Barrow.

I am sure I can speak on behalf of the residents of the constituency of St. George North, because, as we have heard earlier, his connections there have always been dear to him, notwithstanding the fact that in 1956 he failed to hold a seat there. Senior members of this party would recall that just before his death he had occasion to point out to them how well he knew the Valley Land and Parish Land in St. George. Indeed, I think some civil servants made a point to call me to check with me whether the late Prime Minister was indeed correct.

He believed in St. George. He maintained his relationship with the people in St. George, and from time to time he would mention names to me, and he would ask about people who went back to 1951 with him, albeit some of them were strong supporters of the Barbados Labour Party. He never forgot them. He would mention names like Anson Thornhill, he would mention Cassie, and I could go on and on, and as the Leader of the Opposition would know, he even mentioned Nola Jordan, because he was indeed a man of the people.

Errol Barrow came to St. George in 1951, and I had the pleasure and the honour of meeting him on a Friday night down Walkers Hill just before the meeting. I think I can safely say that I probably knew him before any other Member who is presently in this Honourable House. We spoke, and it was at that stage that he told me and another cousin and a good friend whom we know — the Leader of Opposition, I know, will be smiling — who did pay respect to Errol Walton Barrow, that he thought that we, as youngsters, should be interested in the politics as they were then in St. George.

He went on in 1951 to become Senior Member for St. George as a parish then. He served, and we know exactly what happened in 1956. This was the Errol Walton Barrow of 1951, a young man of 31, who had decided that he would put his life on the line, so to speak, on behalf of the masses of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, we met from time to time after then, and I recall that he would have discussions, being an old army man, about the Marshall Plan. Those of you who followed history after the war would realise there was the whole question of the reconstruction of Germany. He would often say to me, "My Marshall Plan for Barbados is that, one day, the sons and daughters of the people who work even in the fields of this country will be able to advance, to achieve the technological advances that I pursued, and those that I hope and believe will come in the not too distant future." That was the man.

Mr. Speaker, he used to say that a good politician is one who tasted defeat, and he would also say to me that he lost in St. George. But indeed it was probably not the best thing that had happened to him.

Having decided that he would go back to run in St. John, it would serve to reinforce his commitment to the people of Barbados. He went to St. John, as we know, and that is now history. Mr. Speaker, I am giving you the feelings of a man who had the people of Barbados at heart, and I know.

Only two Sundays ago, I had the pleasure of speaking at the same church. We had to wait 15 minutes before the service could go on, because this man, although he was turned away by the people at one stage, is revered by the people of St. George. 1.40p.m.

He once said to me on a visit to New York, "When you come back to Barbados some time, you will notice what has happened in Broad Street." In his jocular mood he said, "You will notice that the banks have gone dark." I thought at that time that he was talking about the electricity. I think it was a year and a half later when I came back to Barbados and I walked Broad Street that I realised what he meant. This, again, was part of his development, as he saw it, for the youngsters of those same people he knew who toiled in the fields of this country.

Only two months before he died, Mr. Speaker, he and I drove from this yard to a funeral at the same church. On the way up he spoke about Gun Hill, about the school, about the people in the houses, again going into the districts and the details of the families. It was as though he had a premonition of his death, because he turned to me and said, "I hope you have some plans for all these people to carry on the things that I have started."

Errol Barrow had a vision. Errol Barrow had a vision in 1951. Errol Barrow had a vision in 1955. Errol Barrow had a vision in 1961, when he came back to lead this nation. Errol Barrow had a vision in 1966 when he led this country to nationhood. Indeed, he came 20 years later, and we can say that Errol Barrow again had a vision with his restoration of this country in 1986. In 1987 he has gone — we can only say, we hope to meet his Master.

We have heard talk of a great man, Mr. Speaker. I can only say that Errol Barrow, the one we now miss, was Errol Barrow, the scholar; Errol Barrow, the pilot; Errol Barrow, the lawyer; Errol Barrow, the politician; Errol Barrow, the Premier; Errol Barrow, the Prime Minister; but, above all, Errol Barrow, the humanitarian, and Errol Barrow, the Caribbean man.

From alley to terrace, from village to heights, on behalf of the people of St. George North, I associate myself with the Resolution and say: May he rest in peace.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE (St. Michael North East): Mr. Speaker, however small it may be, my tribute to the life and work of the late Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, whom I consider the greatest hero in the history of this country, is to the memory of a man who has been able to earn the love and affection of the majority of people with whom I have come into contact. Indeed, Sir, this tribute stems from a great love and respect on my own behalf, and on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael North East, whom I have the honour to represent.

It is probably fitting, Sir, that the funeral service which was conducted for our late Prime Minister was conducted on the grounds of the National Stadium, as it is set almost in the centre of the St. Michael North East constituency. At that same National Stadium, as I looked at some of the stands, I had a reflection of the night that Barbados became independent, as part of that structure at the National Stadium was part of the seating accommodation at the Garrison Savannah. Then, as I listened and took part in the singing of the National Anthem, I came to a point that I remembered, and it was the second time in my life that I shed a tear at the passing of someone — the first was when a very young member of my family, to whom I had become very endeared, died - because I remembered very, very clearly what was my impression of the attainment of independence for the people of this country and the contribution that our late hero had made to make this a reality.

Mr. Speaker, my consciousness of the selflessness and the untiring effort of our late colleague brings me to a point where I seem to *look* very closely at the development not only of Barbados, but the development of people-oriented persons. I can think of the Old Testament Moses who had been chosen to lead his people and at times being criticised, at times being abused, but our dear comrade and leader never faltering, determined that he should make the journey and that he should carry out the task to which he had been called.

Mr. Speaker, the quality of a leader is not only realised in the flowery speeches that are made the last time that one may make such a contribution to the memory of such a person. But certainly, as in the case of the late Errol Barrow, the significant and impressive list of achievements and progress he pioneered on behalf of the people, not only of this country, but of the region in which we as a country are set, are part and parcel of the tremendous and unquestionable benefits which we today can claim to enjoy. I believe that constraints of time, Mr. Speaker, would not allow me to list the number of achievements which this great hero has pioneered, many of which have been spoken of not only today, but in the period since his passing. 1.50 p.m.

He has laboured, Sir, in such a manner that he has led us to understand that a commitment to the people among whom we live is of greater value than seeking your own commitment to yourself. He has taught us, by his actions, that if you expect love from people, you must first show them that love. If we follow that example, as persons who are chosen by the people of this country to represent their interest, to whatever political persuasion we belong, we can rest assured that people will regard us as persons who have made our contributions.

I am sure, Sir, that all of us may not measure up to the standard of those who have passed on, but if their lives meant anything to us, we would wish to dedicate the rest of our effort in public life not only to maintaining what they stood for, but also to continuing to build on the foundations that they have laid. In this regard, Sir, the foundations laid by our late comrade and leader are unquestionably those which have been set in train by the more progressive thinking in our country over a number of years. Indeed, I have become taken up with the history of the work that I learned of of Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neal, and it seems to me that the burden of carrying on that work fell very surely and squarely on the shoulders of our late Errol Walton Barrow. He took this responsibility, he shouldered it manfully and he led his army from the front. And the people of Barbados, the people of the Caribbean have been, and I believe will continue to be, the recipients of any benefits that may be derived from the efforts he has made.

Our tribute, Sir, need not be lengthy in words, but as long as we live, we need to see ourselves as persons who, having had any association whatever with the life and work of Errol Walton Barrow, must, in humility, must, in sincerity, dedicate our life's work to those around us who need our help. If this is what he has left with us, Sir, and I am sure that he has, I think the future of our country, the future of the Caribbean, through the help of God, will be in very sound hands.

Permit me, Sir, to quote a very heart-warming passage. It is from St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, and it is intended, Sir, to invite all Members of this Honourable House to see their responsibility not in terms of partisan behaviour one to the other, but to look very seriously toward the building of a Barbados of which we can all be proud. I think that is the greatest tribute that any of us can pay to the life and work of our late departed Prime Minister and friend. These are the words:

"Whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

As our comrade Errol continues his journey, we can be assured that, in God's spirit, he is with us, and that

the light that he has set will continue to glow to illuminate the path that we should all follow.

Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I shall take the opportunity to move the suspension of the House for lunch.

Before I do so, I shall seek to suspend certain Standing Orders, so that when we return here, we will revert to the point where we left and continue with tributes to the late Prime Minister rather than have an interruption.

I now move, Sir, that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16(4), 18, 20, 42(5), 43, and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I now move, Sir, that this sitting be suspended until 2.55 p.m. today.

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

The question that this sitting be suspended until 2.55 p.m. today for lunch was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.00 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the honourable Member for St. Joseph had indicated her intention to speak. The honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Resolution laid by this Government, I would like to pay tribute to the late Errol Walton Barrow.

I met him first in 1952, when I was introduced to him as, believe it or not, the teacher of my husband. I did not know at that time that I was in the presence of the greatest Caribbean man of this century. I then became very interested in the party, and realised that Mr. Barrow had tremendous dreams and vision for Barbados. I realised that he would stop at nothing to carry out the ideals and

objectives as stated in our Constitution, the Constitution of the Democratic Labour Party, which he founded in 1955.

I was able, thereafter, to watch the progress of the man, politician and statesman, Errol Walton Barrow, and it was with great rejoicing that I witnessed his plans unfolding. I know that I am speaking for all the women in Barbados who care about their families when I say that the late Prime Minister did not go about flaunting banners, he did not have any gimmicky speeches about women but he cared so deeply that he instituted the sort of legislation that would make the women of this country very happy.

When you feed a woman's children, you are feeding her. When you make school books available to them, you are helping her. When you give free education, you are making all the women of Barbados know that their sons and daughters can achieve and aspire to the great heights of the politicians and the statesmen of this country. I remember very well how some people did not believe it could have been done, but he knew, and today we are reaping the benefits when we watch the engineers, agriculturalists and all the various professions of the young Barbadians.

I do hope that a lot of them, most of them, who do not yet know about this man, will be able to read about him. I feel we should commission people to write books, books so that the smallest child can understand, so that instead of reading "Dan is the man in the van" from some outside source, they will read about Errol Walton Barrow, a hero of Barbados.

Whilst I agree with our Prime Minister that statues are not all, and that we must remember him in our lives and our work, yet I know the value of the visual, as a former teacher, and when you have a statue or so much other memorial to a great man like Errol Walton Barrow, it will be there for all the island to see and all the school children to remember.

I scarcely am able to finish the National Anthem these days — I usually sing it on occasions when it is played — but every time I sing that National Anthem, I remember who caused us to have that National Anthem — I remember the father of our independence. And so, it is with humility, but still a very great pride, that I, too, pay tribute to this great man.

I would like to offer condolences on behalf of my constituents, and especially to those that he has bequeathed to me, because by the cutting up of the boundaries I now have several parts of St. John that formerly belonged to the great Errol Barrow, and I do hope that I will in some small way, Sir, be able

to capture the imagination and the trust of those people as he did.

I remember, too, his great concern for women, in that he was a little impatient with women's organisations because he did not see them as drawing in all of the women, he saw them as a sort of middle class institution, and in my eagerness to, what shall I say, talk for the cause of women's organisations, we had several arguments. But I had to admit that he was right. A lot of time that is spent in just socialising could far better be spent in making sure that the women of all walks of life are drafted in, that their suggestions are sought, that they are brought up with all of those others who already have had an advantage.

Words are not enough, and several things that have been said have been said over and over again. There is nothing wrong with that, because a man like Errol Walton Barrow deserves those things to be said of him.

I also respect him as a great Caribbean man, and it was the measure of his influence that even though he was in Opposition, the leaders of the Caribbean and the politicians of the Caribbean still listened to him.

I send my condolences to his family and relatives, and I hope that he will rest in peace.

I thank you.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, in rising to pay tribute to our late beloved Leader, Errol Walton Barrow, I am mindful of the opening lines of William Shakespeare's Sonnet No. 71:

"No longer mourn for me when I am dead
Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell
Give warning to the world that I am fled
From this vile world,.....
....., for I love you so,
That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot, If
thinking on me then should make you woe."

There is much sadness in thinking of the passing of our esteemed Prime Minister, but there is also some cause of celebration for what his life has meant to those of my generation, and to me personally.

Errol Barrow had myriad qualities that made him a role model for persons of my generation, but the one attribute that set him apart, in my estimation, was that he dared to choose a political philosophy that was controversial in his time. He espoused that philosophy in whatever forum he found himself, and in his practice as a politician he tried, with a great deal of success, to embody that philosophy in practical action.

Errol Walton Barrow was a democratic socialist. He was aware of the negative stigma attached to the word "socialism" and the constant attempt to portray socialists as rabble-rousers and, generally, destructive persons, but he was not afraid to assert that there are variants of socialism, including the one which he personally espoused and made the philosophy of this Democratic Labour Party, which puts the masses at the centre of a development strategy while at the same time emphasising an integrative and holistic approach to our society.

Like his uncle before him, he was an instinctive socialist, but his feelings were strengthened by his life experiences and the education which he received in Britain at the London School of Economics. The greatest tribute that can be paid to him is to say that he remained unwaveringly faithful to the philosophy he espoused in the practice of his politics and, indeed, his life.

His commitment to socialism must be distanced from the unctuous, time-serving support for such a faith espoused by apparent latter-day converts to that philosophy. Certainly there are leaders of the other party who have not called the term "democratic socialism" even by accident.

As a point of interest, I read Errol Barrow's maiden speech delivered in the House of Assembly on February 7, 1952. He spoke on the Bill entitled an Act to make provision for the protection of third parties against risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles and for purposes incidental thereto. He made a lengthy and useful intervention, full of practical advice based on a clear grasp of the law, but the two following extracts from that speech are in the vintage Errol Barrow tradition, placing full concern on the interests of the masses. He stated firstly:

"The interest of the community must be considered, and will always be considered, by members on this side of the House."

He went further:

"I hope that since the recovery of damages under this Bill depends upon the success of litigants in the courts of this island, the cost of litigation in the higher courts of this island will soon be made less burdensome to the average citizen than it is at present."

That is the kind of concern that was expressed in Errol Barrow's maiden speech. . 3.10pm.

On conclusion of the address, the then Speaker, Mr. K. N. R. Husbands said:

"The honourable Senior Member for St. George has really risen to great heights, and, in his dispassionate manner and clear and lucid style, he has kept this debate on a high standard."

Mr. Speaker, there are some of us who would maintain that he never descended from those heights.

Whenever Mr. Barrow spoke, and wherever Mr. Barrow spoke, there was much to learn from what he had to say. His wide intellectual grasp, his facility with language, his turn of phrase, were a virtual laboratory of learning for those who had an equal concern for form and substance.

There is much to be said of this colossus, whom I revered from the time I was a third former at the Boys' Foundation' School. There could not have been close personal contacts between us, because of age difference and other considerations, but such as there were, I have always treasured them. Certainly, my first contact will always be a memory for me. To be called at home by a Prime Minister returning a phone call on a Sunday afternoon to a research student whom he did not know, and then being given a wide interview at his home, did not seem a normal occurrence to me, and it gave me an early indication of the mettle of the man.

I recall two recent conversations with him on the occasion of May Day 1987, when he seemed determined to share some of these thoughts. He spoke then of two occasions when he deliberately stayed away from school. One was to hear Marcus Garvey, when he spoke in Queen's Park in October 1937. He recalled Garvey wearing a full-length coat, a fur coat, with a felt hat, in spite of the heat, and commented on the fact that Garvey understood the attraction of novelty and the unusual. I think, perhaps, that is why he rode his horse and went into the aeroplane. He understood that.

However, he stressed a statement which Garvey had made which had impacted on his own life. He recalled that Marcus Garvey said that the difference between black people, like ourselves, and white people was that blacks went to sleep early and woke up late while the whites did the opposite and continued to maintain their lead in vital areas of our endeavour. This was not said in a pejorative way about the race which he loved, but it was said in the same vein that Garvey spoke in, that they both wanted the best for our people, and he realised that the best could only come from discipline and self-reliance. We have heard him on those themes several times.

He then said that the second time he deliberately stayed away from school was to hear evidence being given

before the Moyne Commission in Queen's Park. The experience of the unbaring of the social, economic, and political realities of the lives of the masses of the country was to leave an indelible impression on his mind.

Errol Barrow was very conscious that he stood in a great tradition, in the line of Marcus Garvey and Charles Duncan O'Neal. He took up the standard and carried the banner further than his illustrious forbearers. He piloted the education revolution, which is still in process. It is not completed. He created social legislation second to none in this area. He gave us infrastructural development and he diversified our economy and, of course, he did a great deal of work in terms of continuing the task set by others in regional integration.

More important than all these, however, was a vision of teleological change towards a better living in the future for the masses of this country, to be achieved through revolutionary, but peaceful, means. He saw housing as the next stage of the revolution, houses for the masses of the people in this country, and then, some- *, where in the distant future, more equitable distribution of economic power in this country, which must be our final goal. His mantle is now to be borne by all of us in the Democratic Labour Party, who will unite behind our leader and the visions of that great man.

Errol Barrow was one of my constituents, and his close relatives are also members of the constituency of Christ Church East Central and we, therefore, know that not a limb, not a branch, but a trunk has been cut away from our constituency.

I remember that on the morning of the last elections he was one of the first persons at the Randal Phillips Poly clinic to cast his vote. I remember he had a very difficult time in getting his name on the list of electors, but he looked at that in his customary way, with * humour. He bore no anger against anyone.

From the constituents of Christ Church East Central, we say that we have lost a leader, a brother and a friend. We share that loss with the world. He was not a man of the region or of Barbados, he was a world figure.

In closing, I must again say, in the words of Shakespeare, of another mortal genius:

"Farewell! thou art too dear for my possessing,
And like enough thou know'st thy estimate:...."

My deepest sympathies to his relatives and those who were close to him. May he rest in peace.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, some months ago, during the debate on the O'Neal Resolution, I urged all honourable Members in this House to

be circumspect in respect of our assessment of political figures whom we have known, and who have passed on. I urged then that we should not seek to tear down each other by baseness or mischievous comment, but, rather, to acknowledge the gifts of those who have made fundamental contributions to the development of our people, and, at the same time, to be objective, critical and fair. So today, Sir, I pay my tribute to Errol Walton Barrow, mindful of those precepts which I expounded during the O'Neal debate. I will have to be objective and critical, because I believe, Sir, that in all things a balanced view ought to be given, free from sentimentality or sycophancy.. 3.20 p.m.

There is no doubt that Errol Walton Barrow, as a political figure in this island, proved himself to be a very great Barbadian worthy of a ranking as a national hero. Far be it from me to play down his role in Barbados or in the wider Caribbean. He was a courageous and outstanding Barbadian and Caribbean leader. In many respects, of course, he was fortunate to have been in the right place at the right time to build on the foundations of his predecessors. I shall return to that in due course.

I got to know Errol Barrow in the middle Fifties, when he was a regular visitor with his family to my parents' home, when we were then living in St. Philip. His cousin, Gerald O'Neal, and Gerald's wife, Eugene, lived at River Plantation, in St. Philip, in those days, and Errol Barrow was a regular visitor to River Plantation. The O'Neals were very close with my parents and frequently they met at the house at Dodds.

In those days, I was a school boy at Lodge School, and he was very interested in my development and that of my brothers, and also took a keen interest in what we were doing and how we were getting on.

After he became parliamentary representative for St. John in 1958, by virtue of that parliamentary position he was on the Board of Governors of Lodge School, and so I saw quite a bit of him when he visited Lodge School regularly.

I said in a tribute on CBC radio, I think the day after he died, that he was one who introduced me to alcoholic beverage, in the sense that one Sunday night in August 1960 while I was preparing to go to England to study, I met him at the then Seawell Airport, and I told him that I had been accepted for the London School of Economics. He warmly congratulated me, because, of course, that had been his university, and he took me around the airport, and then we went to a bar upstairs, and he bought me a beer, and I- had never had a beer in my life before. I was then age 20. I believe I got home on rather unsteady feet thereafter, but I suppose we spent about half an hour or forty minutes together. It is a time in my life that I treasure, because he was

then an established political and parliamentary figure in Barbados, a man who was destined to lead this country, and he gave me valuable insights into life in London as a colonial person, what to expect, what to avoid and how to study for my law exams. I am eternally indebted to him for educating me as to how I should pursue my legal studies and the approach I should bring to bear on them in the succeeding years.

I left in 1960, the 8th September, and next met him during the Constitutional Conference of 1966 leading to independence. I was covering the conference for Barbados Rediffusion and the *Daily News*, and that brought me into regular daily contact with him and some quite substantial skirmishes and clashes. He showed a certain intolerance of the Press and a certain unwillingness to accept criticism. But there was an aspect of his character that I have found since we became political colleagues in the same Parliament, and that is that, even though he may have been quick to anger at times, he was also conscious of the need to build bridges and reconcile.

I remember one afternoon I approached him and said to him, "Mr. Premier, on lobby terms, could you give me a statement about today's proceedings?" Cameron Tudor was with him and he said: "Cammie, you see what David wrote in the *Daily News*; 'Uproar in Lancaster House'?" He had got a copy of the *Daily News*; whose headline was "Uproar in Lancaster House". Of course, I was writing from London and had no control over the headlines, and I drew to his attention that he ought to have known that the headline really is a matter within the purview of the sub-editor and not the author of the story, and even though he appeared angry at the headline, that same evening he invited me to bring my wife to the Hilton Hotel for drinks with him, and the whole matter was forgotten, and I have found that that attitude carried through in other dealings with him.

As a political opponent, our parties were against each other when I was a candidate in 1971, '1976, 1981 and 1986. In the 1976 by-election in St. Philip North, when it became fairly apparent that I was going to win the seat, he drew me aside and he said to me. "I wish to congratulate you now before the Press. This is a great personal victory." Then he left me and he repeated those words for the press subsequently, and I found a certain magnanimity in his relations. Members on the other side tease me and suggest that I was a favourite of his. I do not know about that, but we have always got along well for politicians on different sides.

I did not know him at all as a legal opponent and never came across him in practice in the courts, although I have settled cases with him. I found that in his disposition of legal cases he was very amenable to reason and a spirit of compromise. 3.30 p.m.

Politically, I have suffered, like so many in the BLP, from the sharpness of his tongue, from his effusions of fact and, sometimes, fiction on political platforms. I recall two instances. The most recent was when he told a crowd in Church Village in late 1985 or 1986 that I was working for the people who owned the Crane Hotel, seeking to bring casinos into the island. That was a tall story that had no basis in fact, and the Honourable Attorney General would find my comments on the file in the Ministry of the Attorney General when the transcript was shown to me.

Mr. Barrow led the Democratic Labour Party with great distinction from 1955. It is true that, in the last year of his life, I think all of us who had known him in the parliamentary system before would have realised that he had changed. He was less combative, and many comments and statements which passed without rebuttal, in the ten years prior to that would have evoked a cutting comment from Mr. Barrow. He was incisive, but he could be erratic and, indeed, enigmatic.

I do not believe that in his last few months he was on top of the work in his Ministry, which was a result, clearly, of the wear and tear of office and the many years of unselfish service that he gave to his people in Barbados.

He was essentially a charismatic personality. He had a presence like the two Prime Ministers who preceded him, Tom Adams and Sir Grantley Adams, that if you walked into a room, you knew that Errol Barrow was somebody special. He stood out. Apart from his physical stature, there was that mien which he had that betrayed the attributes of leadership, outstanding leadership. That he was charismatic and succeeded so well in politics is only reflective of a view which I hold, that Caribbean politics, certainly up to Errol Barrow's era, has followed a historical pattern of personality dictatorship. I do not use the word "dictatorship" in a pejorative sense. What I mean is that if we look at Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, wherever, there has been an outstanding personality in Caribbean politics in these various countries who has dominated the scene, and the Party has tended to follow him in a role secondary to the leadership given by the personality.

He was a patrician, he liked the finer things in life, he could posture well and he understood the psyche of the Barbadian people. Others have spoken of his ability as a yachtsman and as a pilot of his own private aircraft. Some may find an incongruity in the fact that while at the time he was flying an aircraft, the Mini Minor and the donkey cart were more the order of the day. He could posture, but he succeeded because he had that character that allowed him to convince the majority of Barbadians, from time to time, of the correctness of his policies, and they were prepared to forgive or ignore the particular personal idiosyncrasies.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition has described Mr. Barrow as a builder, and with that I would agree. He was a builder on sure foundations. Philosophically, as a young man, during the height of the anti-colonialist period of the late 1940s in following the UN Declaration on Decolonisation, he was caught up in the milieu of philosophy that was current at the time, and which attracted personalities like Forbes' Burnham and Michael Manley. When he came to Barbados, he found a mass party, a working class party, in existence under the leadership of Grantley Adams, which had roots in this country, and he joined the Barbados Labour Party to launch himself on a political career. A platform for political leadership was there in the shape of the Barbados Labour Party and, similarly, when he became Premier of Barbados in 1961.

I agree with all those who, without going overboard, have paid tribute to the stimulus which he gave this country for free secondary education. But, objectively, it must be said, Mr. Speaker, that in 1951, the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party envisioned the implementation of >. free secondary education, but said that it was necessary to build the secondary schools first, the physical plant. So in 1962, when free secondary education became a reality, Mr. Barrow and the Democratic Labour Party found in existence, St. Leonard's Boys' School, 1952-? Princess " Margaret School, 1955; West St. Joseph School, 1955 and the Parkinson School, which was opened on February, 22, 1961, as schools offering secondary education free. Thereafter, the Democratic Labour Party under Mr. Barrow expanded the system of non-fee paying to embrace all students at all secondary schools, rich or poor.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the National Insurance Scheme, the preparatory work for the introduction of the National Insurance Scheme was done by Mr. H. W. Stockman, an ILO expert, under the Barbados Labour Party, but in December, 1963, the Democratic v Labour Party set up the Layne Committee to prepare a scheme to implement the Stockman Report. The mandate to the Layne Committee was to prepare a plan for Social Security for Barbados based on the Stockman Report. That appears in the "Foreword". The Democratic Labour Party introduced the National Insurance Scheme, and no one wants to derogate from the role played by Mr. Barrow and the Democratic Labour Party in bringing that scheme to fruition. All one wants to do is to say that the wicket had been rolled before. 3.40 p.m.

Undoubtedly, he will go down in history as the father of independence. It was he who led Barbados into independence on November 30, 1966. Barbados had by that time attained full internal self-government. The Cabinet system was in place and, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has indicated, there were two choices facing Mr. Barrow — independence alone or as

part of a larger grouping. To his credit, he was determined that Barbados should become independent on its own. He succeeded, and we Barbadians have been none the worse for that decision. He gave us in 1966 the ability to hold our heads high and proud as Barbadians, and I will always revere him and his name for what he stood for — even though sometimes he expressed himself erratically - that desire to see black people hold themselves erect and proud as people worthy of respect in this world.

He tried to instil in us Barbadians a sense of self-reliance. Honourable Members are aware of his frequent comments in here that we must not be a nation of mendicants, and that is a legacy that we should carry on in his memory and pass on to those who follow us.

He enhanced the image of Barbados and its people regionally and internationally, and his contribution in this island and in this region will not be diminished by the passage of time.

He has passed on, Sir, and we have lost a colleague who, particularly in his private life, was one of the most friendly, charming, and even disarming people that you could meet.

I wonder what lessons can be drawn from the fact of his death in office, at not an excessively old age of 67, and that of the other Prime Minister, Tom Adams, at 54. I think that it is not realised by the general public how burdensome an office is that of Prime Minister. The time will come when all of us in here will have to stop playing cheap politics with our roles as parliamentarians and adopt a bi-partisan attitude and policy to a number of the matters which affect us all as parliamentarians. I do not know if it would be inappropriate to consider limiting the period of office as Prime Minister to a fixed number of years. That is a matter that will become more and more a subject of debate in the years to come. But I do know that it is most regrettable that his death means that whereas one would have preferred for someone of his stature, and indeed that of Tom Adams, to have retired and been available to give of his practical experience in politics, to the university, for example, we are prevented from having those practical experiences shared with the fairest in the universities. One would look forward to the day when persons of that eminence would be able to adorn a chair at a university and to enrich the learning of the university and the students.

I have already tendered my personal condolences and those of my family to the late Prime Minister's family. I repeat them today, Sir, and as the representative of the constituents of the parish of St. Thomas, on their behalf I tender sincerest condolences to the family and close relatives of the former Prime Minister.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Speaker,, for many of us who were alive at the time when Errol Barrow assumed the reins of Government in 1961, one of the characteristics of that time was the air of freshness which he breathed into the political life of this country, and not only the political life, but the social and economic life of this country.

It was not necessarily a matter of his being around at the right time and the right place. True, that was so, but what is also important is that when he came into office at that time, one has to remember that he came into office against the background — and he has stated this so often, and it has been recognised by others as well — of a political, economic and social situation where he conceived that all the policies and programmes which he attempted to articulate for the masses of the people of Barbados had not, in fact, been given the momentum which he, and those who were with him, saw was necessary. So although things like Social Security may have been conceived earlier and there was the Stockman Report, and there were other reports dealing with important matters relating to Social Security, reform in industrial relations laws, the whole question of education for the masses of the people of this country who could ill-afford it, although these things had been articulated — and we know that if we read history, as I think the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) could tell us, many of the programmes that were given impetus by the late Errol Barrow had, in fact, been articulated long ago by his uncle, Charles Duncan O'Neal. One of the problems in this society was that in relation to all the progressive measures that were needed for the advancement of the masses, of the disadvantaged and the underprivileged in this community, there had not been much progress being made. So when Errol Barrow came on the political scene, it was important for the masses or underprivileged of this country, for we saw a new dimension, a new breath of life being breathed into everything that Barbadians wanted and desired for themselves and for their children, and that is why the whole concept of free secondary education was so vital and important at that time, because here we saw for the first time, in reality, the vistas being opened to masses of people, who really needed the support and the direction which Errol Barrow desired for the masses of the people in this community. 3.50 p.m.

His presence on the political scene was of tremendous importance to the people of Barbados, and it took us, as a country and as a people, to the heights which we have now reached in this country in this year of grace, 1987.

It is perhaps academic now to argue whether we would have achieved the progress which we have achieved as a nation today in education, in the social services, in the whole development of the social and economic programme of this country, had he not come on the scene at that time with the dynamism and thrust which he put into it, and whether this country would have advanced in the way in which it has advanced.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, the emphasis which he put in his own pragmatic way on the development of the economic climate of this country. You had a number of industries coming into the country, foreign investment. Although he was an ardent nationalist — and no one can deny this — yet he recognised the value of foreign investment in developing the country if the people were to prosper. So there was an element of pragmatism in his whole approach to political life.

The honourable Member for St. Lucy (Hon. E. E. Greaves) has spoken on some of the programmes which he sought to foster for the advancement of the people of this country, and it is worth repeating a few of them, bearing in mind that all of these programmes were basically programmes which were oriented towards developing people as persons, developing total human personalities.

Programmes for free secondary education are an outstanding example. There are also, the measures which he ushered in modernising trade union legislation, modernising holidays with pay legislation, the enactment of legislation for National Insurance and Social Security, severance payment for workers, workmen's compensation, which comes under the National Insurance and Social Security legislation, the Sugar Workers (Minimum Wage and Guaranteed Employment) Act, and a host of other bits of social legislation all designed to advance the cause of the economic and social conditions of the disadvantaged people in our society.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) has spoken of the socialist thrust of the programmes and the policies of the late Errol Barrow. Mr. Barrow, himself, always made the point that he was not a doctrinaire socialist, but that he was a very pragmatic socialist. In saying that, he recognised the society with which he was dealing. He recognised that, in small societies like this, and against the background in which we lived, a doctrinaire approach to politics would not necessarily be the best way to deal with the problems which faced the community, and, therefore, there was this element of pragmatism in his whole approach to politics. It also meant that he looked at the real political situation, and that all of his policies were designed towards dealing with the issues as they confronted the people at the particular point in time.

From the perspective of his care and concern for the masses of the underprivileged people in Barbados, the community which he loved so much, we find that that same concern spread right into a concern for the peoples of the Caribbean. We saw that in relation to his whole Caribbean approach, he always thought, for instance, to promote the development of institutions within the Caribbean which were totally relevant to the problems of the Caribbean as they existed, and to the solution of those problems from time to time.

In recent times, particularly, we have been hearing of his very strong statement in support of the University of the West Indies, for instance, as a Caribbean institution of learning. We have heard of his hopes for the Caribbean area, for the control of our maritime economic zone, protecting it against exploitation by non-Caribbean peoples and against abuse as an area for the trans-shipment of illegal drugs. These were all very practical concerns which he had for dealing with the problems which we had confronting us as a people and as a region.

We heard him articulating and re-articulating his hopes for the establishment of a Caribbean Court of Appeal, which would replace the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as a final court of appeal for the whole region. This is in recognition of the fact that we have a Caribbean jurisprudence, that in this area we have to begin thinking in terms of our own judges, lawyers and jurists commanding the jurisprudence of our region and as being better able to deal, in a juridical sense, with the problems which face us as a people rather than taking our problems far afield to some other jurisdiction, where those who preside and give judgments in matters relating to our issues are not necessarily attuned to the concerns which we as a people of this region have. So the whole direction of his life and work gravitated towards a concern for the peoples around him and for developing strategies and programmes which would deal with the problems of people as they exist.

I have had occasion to pay tribute to the late Errol Barrow in other places, and I have spoken of his ability as a lawyer, the work he did in the law courts. This is not the place where I want to spend too much time on that, except to make the point that my earliest contact with him was just before he won the 1961 General Election. I had returned to this country from studies abroad in the late 1950s and had followed the election campaign quite closely, and I remember that after he had left James Street, I noticed that I began getting a lot of clients from St. John — a lot of them who did not necessarily have the funds to pay, mark you, but there were a lot of clients from St. John. And then he called me one day and said — I was not then in the Chambers which he occupied; my colleague and friend, Asquith Phillips, was occupying those Chambers —: "look, you are having all these problems with the St. John people; why don't you

go down and join Asquith in the Chambers so that things would be easier from the point of view of communication?" 4.00 p.m.

So I joined my friend Asquith in the Chambers. We had a long relationship in those Chambers, and until we won the Government I was still in that same place he had vacated. What was important was that in relation to his own work he was always free and available for consultation on the problems which affected his people, and, naturally, when you could assist in helping him out with the problems of his own people in St. John, that meant a great deal.

The important thing was that at that level a very close personal relationship developed, and I believe that throughout his political and legal life we had a respect for each other. I do not think we ever particularly had occasion to cross swords at any great depth, but persons being what they are, we would have had differences of opinion, and it was important that where differences existed, as reasonable persons we could talk those differences out and come to reasonable conclusions on them.

One of the characteristics I noticed about the late Errol Barrow was that law was an area which he loved. He tended at times in his political life to rail and inveigh against lawyers, but I think those of us who knew him well understood why he did that. A lot of his political opposition contained members of the legal profession, and they were, in many cases, very articulate persons, and he obviously saw that their utterances and decisions did not always necessarily coincide with the direction in which he wanted to see the policies and the programmes of the Government for the development of the people of Barbados go. So his invective was directed against the lawyers as a profession, but at the root of it all he would always tell you, "But I am a lawyer as well", and the significant thing was that he clearly loved the law and he had a total respect for the rule of law in this community.

One of the other major characteristics about him was that he had a total respect for the concept of an independent judiciary. That is why we found that even at the height of his power as a very strong political leader of this country — no one could deny that he was one of the strongest political leaders that this country has ever had — and despite his strength as a political leader, as head of the Government of Barbados he never at any time sought to influence or interfere with the administration of justice. And that is to his eternal credit. That is why, also, despite those very controversial political constitutional amendments in 1974, he never in a single instance misused or abused his authority in making judicial appointments. I think that when you look at the appointments for which he has been responsible in the legal and

judicial field, you will find that those appointments bear testimony of the fact that he was a man committed against the abuse of power in areas of this kind.

In relation to the courts, he was always concerned about the inconveniences which witnesses and litigants had to suffer when they had to wait long and uncomfortable hours in the courts without facilities for their comfort. All of these were areas" which he, as a political leader, was minded to address. But, of course, in a small community like this where funds for so many developmental purposes are limited, it is not always possible to deal with all the problems which one perceives at one single point in time.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that one of the greatest tributes we can pay to our late departed friend and leader is to ensure that the socialist programmes which he articulated and had formed as the basis of his whole political life and orientation continue in this country unabated. Let us not deny it, there is still a lot to be done as far as the housing needs of this community are concerned, because the masses of the poor and underprivileged out there still need housing. We have a duty to ensure that education remains forever available to all the underprivileged people in this country who cannot afford it. We have a duty to ensure that, wherever possible, all our programmes and orientation are directed towards the upliftment of those in this society who most need that help and upliftment, and we must ensure that we follow in that path. I suggest that that can be the greatest tribute we can pay to our late departed leader.

I join with others, therefore, Mr. Speaker, in extending to his family and friends my deepest sympathy.

Mr. E. BOURNE(Christ Church East): Mr. Speaker, I rise, like my colleagues before me, to pay tribute to a most illustrious son of the soil, a statesman *par excellence*, a man steeped in the tradition of loyalty and pride for his country, a man with a dream, a man with a vision, to make this island home of ours the dream of the Caribbean, in all its aspects — political, social and economic. I refer to our late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow.

Many have been the tributes emanating from honourable Members in this august Chamber and the Upper House, and, indeed, from politicians in the Caribbean countries, testifying to his personality, the statesmanlike qualities of Mr. Barrow, his foresight, his leading the country into independence and his efforts to build a just and egalitarian society. It was Mr. Barrow's concern for the poor and underprivileged in this country, his philosophy of an egalitarian society and his burning desire to improve the lot of the underprivileged and the conditions of the poor to which I wish to allude and to be the focus of my tribute to him. 4.10 p.m.

The late Prime Minister was a man of vision, he was a man with a dream, and like dreamers of the calibre of Moses and Martin Luther King, he saw himself as the saviour and leader of his people. Mr. Barrow's vision encompassed a Barbados in which every man, regardless of status or ethnic origin, could achieve his hopes and aspirations. It is for this pursuit of an egalitarian society and his humanitarianism that he will forever be remembered.

From an early age, he followed his proclivity to serve humanity. He risked his life in the service of humanity, the concept of freedom and the rights of the individual when he voluntarily gave up his prestigious Island Scholarship to fight in World War II. How many of us, Mr. Speaker, would have the courage, the will-power, the tenacity of purpose to effectively demonstrate the power of our convictions by making such a sacrifice? How many of us in this Chamber?

It has been said elsewhere that the late Prime Minister took this country from a village to a country. His entire life was dedicated to the building of a just society in which equal opportunity, justice in social relations and justice before the law would prevail. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we in this country live up to his ideals.

To achieve these objectives, he introduced policies which were termed revolutionary. I remember quite well that in 1956 the late Sir Grantley Adams, at the height of his power in this country, was saying that these concepts were revolutionary and they could not be implemented, but whenever something seems to threaten the *status quo*, you will get all types of criticisms.

The thing that drew me very closely to the late departed Prime Minister was free secondary education. If the late Prime Minister had done nothing in his lifetime as a politician other than to introduce free secondary education to this country, this alone would have given him a place in history, for when you have provided free secondary education for all and sundry from the primary to university level, you have paved the way and opened the floodgates -for the people of humble birth, the impoverished and those who have talent capable of development. You would have released the energy and the creativity of those from the masses into the mainstream of decision making and would have provided them with the opportunity of upward social mobility.

I implore you, Mr. Speaker, to reflect on the period 1960 — 1970, which I shall term the golden age of this century as far as we in Barbados are concerned — reflect and you can see the result of the implementation

of free secondary education and the concomitant progress of the underprivileged. The colonial concept that higher education was only suited for 20 per cent of the population while the others were to be considered hewers of wood and drawers of water was not for this great man. It is to the eternal credit of the late Prime Minister, though he had sprung from a Barbadian middle class stock, which had all its snobbery and class prejudice, that the policies he introduced were aimed at improving the lot of all, including the poor, the underprivileged and the under-classed.

The late Prime Minister was a man with a keen sense of humour. I can remember that a few months ago, at 5.30 a.m. he was calling on me, and he remarked that I was the only fisherman who had been in bed at that time, and that it was no wonder I defeated my opponent, because he did not understand me.

I shall now, Mr. Speaker, compare him with two *• great statesmen long since passed away. Earlier today, he was compared with men like Marcus Garvey and Sir Grantley Adams, but I wish to compare him with a Roman legislator and an Englishman. This Roman was Tiberius Gracchus and this Englishman was Henry VIII. Tiberius Gracchus, in his agrarian reform, had uplifted the peasant class in Rome, and Henry VIII, in his dissolution of the monasteries, had created an English middle class. The late Honourable Errol Barrow, with his free secondary education, is responsible for our modern-day, Barbadian middle class society and the upward mobility of the masses.

The reaction of the populace of Barbados, particularly the poor and the ordinary folk, the man in the street, reflected the high esteem in which he was acclaimed. It was an expression of a genuine loss of one who would forever champion their cause. Compared with the reaction to the death of predecessors who held high offices, this expression of sorrow and grief was nothing orchestrated or partisan.

His mission was to lead Barbados to the promised land. To a great measure, I feel he achieved his objective. He can say like Simeon, "Lord now let thy servant depart in peace for I have seen Thy salvation."

On behalf of my constituents of Christ Church East, my family and myself, I tender sincere condolences to the Barrow family and his sorrowing relatives.

I thank you.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN (St. Michael East): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the speaker who just sat down, the

honourable Member for Christ Church East (Mr. E. Bourne), put his hands on the problem in the assessment of the late Errol Walton Barrow. To make a proper analysis of the contribution made by Errol Walton Barrow and the legacy which he will leave to Barbados, particularly when the period that he influenced is analysed with some degree of objectivity, you will see that the factors of class and the question of the role of leadership in social transformation are central.

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While it is tempting for me to recite the individual contributions which he has made during his lifetime, I shall not stray down such anecdotal paths, but shall attempt to deal with those two questions as concepts, which I believe will shed some light upon the contribution of the late Mr. Barrow. 4.20 p.m.

Implicit in a contribution made here this afternoon, I think by the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons), is a view of history as nothing more than an aggregate of the biographies of great men. The great men thesis in history is the belief that all human activity, when examined from a historical standpoint, is reducible to the activity of one great man during that period. Modern historians reject such an approach to historiography. They believe that reality is far more complex, and that single individuals are influenced by, and, in turn influence, existing institutions, conventions and the whole panoply of culture into which they were born, and it is clearly unrealistic and absurd to postulate a view of any man as being the sole actor, and the only significant actor, at any given moment in the history of a country. Anyone who would make such a claim for Mr. Barrow or any other world historical figure is clearly distorting history. The paeans of praise which have been heaped upon Mr. Barrow as a person and as a statesman merely enumerate certain qualities that go to the issue of leadership.

Now in a society like Barbados where the majority of the people are of working class origin, historically such societies and peasant societies have been led by men from other classes. The Russian Revolution in 1917 was led by a petit bourgeois lawyer called Lenin, who brought transformation and wrested political power for a large number of peasants and a small proletariat. In Cuba, if we want to identify the Caribbean, the revolution was again led by a petit bourgeois lawyer, Fidel Castro. And the reason why middle class persons lead the fight to transform the dispossessed in any community is because, more often than not, the oppressed class cannot throw up the leaders with the skills and the organisational ability to effectively lead.

One has to understand Mr. Barrow's role in Barbados, as a petit bourgeois lawyer himself - and let me explain what I mean by bourgeois - I refer to the historical bourgeoisie, that class that carried through the

Glorious Revolution of 1688 in England, as it is called, and that class that brought about the French Revolution. It was made up of industrialists seizing power from landlords, and at the bottom end of that class you have independent shopkeepers, doctors, lawyers, teachers. And it is almost, invariably, from the lower end of that, the bourgeois class, that you get the leadership of the lumpen, the working class, the socially disinherited, the disrespected and the dispossessed. Mr. Barrow came not from the working class in origin, but from the Barbadian petite bourgeoisie, and what people see as a contradiction in certain characteristics of Mr. Barrow represents nothing more than the fact that for a greater part of his life in the politics in Barbados, he was acting against his class interest. That distinguishes him from certain ineffective leaders who have led Barbados, and that explains, to a large extent, why it was possible for him to wrest power from the Barbados Labour Party in 1961.

I opposed the formation of the Democratic Labour Party because I felt at the time that those persons who left the Barbados Labour Party and formed the Democratic Labour Party were splitting the working class in Barbados, that they were creating divisions within the working class in Barbados and consequently would create a situation where the oligarchy that controlled Barbados would perpetuate its power. With the benefit of hindsight, it is now clear that a leader, a middle class, petit bourgeois leader, like Sir Grantley Adams, appeared within the Barbados Labour Party with a more relevant and a more dynamic programme for the working class in Barbados. And since a single party dominating a state, a party that represents over 90 per cent of the population, is bound to be monolithic in character, this monolithic character is what Mr. Barrow and those persons who left the Barbados Labour Party struggled against. There was a more relevant programme for the working class struggling against an ossified social programme by the older men who had become tired within the Barbados Labour Party. So with the benefit of hindsight, it is now crystal clear that the emergence of the Democratic Labour Party has strengthened and energised democracy in Barbados.

Mr. Barrow has been described as having patrician qualities. I take such characterisation as meaning nothing more than he evinced certain middle class characteristics, certain bourgeois characteristics. There is nothing unusual or startling about this. This is the class into which he was born. But his importance and significance to Barbados, and what sets him apart from other limited, sterile and boring people that inhabit that class, is that he was able to transcend the limitations of that class because of the egalitarian philosophy to which he subscribed, an egalitarian philosophy grounded in humanism, that a man is man whether he was born in a hut or a palace, and such a man was entitled to the best that life had to offer. It is this view, which he consistently practised in politics, which made Mr. Barrow a successful leader in a country

such as Barbados. It is something that makes Castro a successful leader in Cuba.

Any man who has been in politics for over 30 years, and who remained as durable politically as Mr. Barrow, is obviously empathising with the masses whom his programmes represent. To assume that there is some mystical quality in Mr. Barrow called charisma, or whatever it is, and that the people in Barbados voted for charisma, is to assume that the working class people in this country are profoundly ignorant. Nobody carries charisma to a shop, nobody wears charisma, nobody eats charisma, nobody lives in charisma, and to believe that any man born of woman can present himself, no matter how attractive he looks and how attractively packaged he is, and that the black working class people of this country would swallow him because he has these mystical qualities, is to assume ignorance on the part of the people.

My association with working class people, having sprung from that class myself, a fact of which I am extremely proud, tells me that to believe that is to assume that my people, my antecedents, the people who formed me, are idiots and do not know how to evaluate politicians who present themselves before them. So 'the point, therefore, for all future leadership that subscribes to petit bourgeois values, is that if it wants to survive and be successful, as 'Mr. Barrow has survived and has been successful, it has to be able to transcend the narrow and constricting confines of its class, because the people from the working class in Barbados know what their interests are, with the same certainty that the people from the bourgeoisie know what their interests are, and are not going to be fooled. 4.30 p.m.

Therefore, Mr. Barrow's success as a petit bourgeois leader in Barbados is not any subject for mystification. Any cursory reading of leaders produced from other classes, and their ability to survive when they are representing a country numerically dominant in another class, is based upon one central historical fact, and it is that that leadership has to transcend its own class. If it cannot transcend its own class and be relevant to the numerically dominant class, It cannot survive, and this was the essence of Mr. Barrow's political genius. And all petit bourgeois leaders who follow him hereafter must take a leaf out of his book, otherwise they will not be able to survive as long as what Barbadians refer to as the proverbial snowball .in hell.

This brings me on to another facet of the question of leadership of which Mr. Barrow's life was very, very instructive. It has been averred here this afternoon that Mr. Barrow built on foundations. There is nobody who did not build on a foundation, except Adam and- Eve, who were the first persons on earth. It is a trite and tautologous observation to say that a leader built on a foundation, because the only people who did not have to build on foundations were Adam and Eve.

The question of building on a foundation, therefore has to do with real and effective leadership, and again I go back to the Russian Revolution. The ideas that -4 motivated the men who formed the Russian Revolution did not originate in Russia. They originated in Germany. But the conditions and the existence of a different kind of leadership made it impossible for those ideas to be implemented in Germany. On the other hand, the conditions in Russia at the time, and the kind of leadership that existed in Russia, made it possible for the implementation of ideas that originated in Germany.

It is irrelevant, almost puerile, to talk about who thought of an idea first. Nobody knows who thought of anything first. The whole question of National Insurance did not come into Mr. Barrow's mind first. National Insurance and Social Security programmes were implemented by Bismarck in Germany in the 19th century. So the question is never who thought of anything first in politics.

I have never had a single idea which I thought of first, and I do not know of any man who is alive today who thought of- anything first. What scholars do when they formulate theories that are considered new is to take pre-existing theories, and this is so whether it is in physics, chemistry, philosophy or sociology, modify them and work them around in the light of new conditions.

Humanity, since its existence, has borrowed from the past, and we have been on this earth for a very, very long time. Some people think that we came on this earth in 1950 or thereabouts. Human beings, homo sapiens, have been on this earth for at least 200000 years, and during that time a great deal of folk wisdom has been accumulating, and many things that people believe are new have been thought of even in the daysv of so-called prehistoric men.

So the question is not who thought of anything first. The role of leadership is to do what has to be done, and that is precisely where the parting of the ways came between Mr. Barrow and the Barbados Labour Party, because he understood what had to be done, and he did it. That is the difference between leadership and an absence of leadership. Read the Latin American political historians. The Latin American political historians spent a considerable amount of time analysing social and political movements by looking at the role of leadership, because they know that effective leadership means the difference of doirfg or not doing certain things. There can be no doubt that Mr. Barrow was a prolific doer, and it is precisely within this context that his leadership has to be assessed, the ability to identify what is relevant for "**** the working class of this country and do it, rather than sit down in a reverie and reflect upon what has to be done or to talk about it.

Mr. Barrow was no mere rhetorician. He acted like a man of thought and thought like a man of action. He subscribed to the doctrine of praxis, uniting theory and practice. He was unlike some other leaders I know, who, in the language of Alice in Wonderland, believe that when something is said it is done, "I say it is an egg", therefore an egg mysteriously appears. There was no confusion in his mind between words and deeds, and this is the quintessence of effective leadership. The leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the days of the New Deal is the difference between effective leadership and the leadership of Hoover, who dithered and theorised while millions of Americans were on the bread line in the depression. 4.40 p.m.

I am submitting, Mr. Speaker, that when all of the many things he did — his able advocacy at the Bar, his kindness to individual people and so on have been long forgotten by a generation who did not know him, what will always endure is the example he set as a leader in being able to transcend the values of his class which at many points were antithetical to the values of the working class.

I know there are people who are fond of saying we are all Barbadians, and with this universalistic statement they try to put a fig leaf over the particular and fundamental differences that exist between class and races in this society. He was able to pierce the veil of shallow generalisation, he was able to tear off the fig leaf of a spurious universalism and deal with the serious class differences that exist in Barbados, and his success, I repeat, is measured in terms of his durability as a politician, because to the very end of his life he remained relevant to the masses of Barbados. If you doubt me, go out there and ask ordinary men and women. He remained relevant to their concerns, and that is the acid test of a petit bourgeois politician who is the leader of a numerically predominant working class nation such as Barbados. That is the acid test of success, not whether at times he behaved like a middle class man, which is his socialisation, and at other times he walked down the streets like an ordinary man.

A man who is socialised in the middle class cannot erase the socialisation process to which he was subject. But he can transcend them by being wise, he can transcend them by being humanistic, and he can transcend them by being respectful of the values that the other people in the under-class have, and this Mr. Barrow was able to do. If you understand that, the historical role of leaders of a mother class leading the working class people of this country, then there is no mystery. There are no contradictions. All the contradictions disappear and all the mystery disappears if you use what is basic sociological and political analysis of this given situation.

In conclusion, therefore, I say, together with the honourable Member for Christ Church East, that Mr.

Barrow was leader *par excellence*, and when we get more serious political commentators in Barbados, probably in the next generation, rather than paid political hacks who walk around in fear and trembling about their jobs, when we will get independent and fearless political commentators, maybe these issues will be analysed in the way in which they should be, rather than the superficial accounts with which we have been regaled in the past couple of weeks.

The assessment of that leadership cannot be determined by whether some idea came to Mr. Barrow first or who thought of what first. The essential thing is who did it, and who did it when they had the opportunity to do it, not who thought about it, or who talked about it, or who wrote about it. If I write about giving a man food and I give him food, they are two different things, because if I write about it only, the man will certainly starve to death. If I do it, he will survive, and that is how we look at effective leadership.

I salute, Mr. Speaker, the late Errol Walton Barrow, a leader *par excellence*, a man who, because of his renaissance orientation, a man of many parts, was able to go beyond the narrow confines of his class to improve the lot of everyone in Barbados.

Mr. R. P. BYER (St. George South): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I want to associate myself with the very positive remarks that were made and were said in tribute to our departed leader.

It was unfortunate, to my mind, that for some time this afternoon the tributes that were being paid to our honourable, late departed Prime Minister smacked of cheap politics. I was hoping that the tributes that were being paid would be free of this kind of thing, so I was very sad when I heard the Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) make some remarks which I thought were inappropriate and unfortunate on an occasion like this.

Those remarks have in large measure been destroyed by the person who last spoke, the honourable Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. Blackman). I think that the remarks made were based on a very unclear view of what the real situation was in Barbados when the Democratic Labour Party assumed office in 1961.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Do not bother about how old I was, I can read and I can understand. Keep quiet, man, I did not interrupt you. It does not matter that I am on television. If he says anything, I will ask him to keep quiet. I will seek the protection of the Speaker. 4.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, to my mind, and as far as I know about it, the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party in 1961 reflected the views of a document Mr. Barrow prepared called "Labour Marches On" when he was a member of the Barbados Labour Party. To suggest that those views had their genesis in the Barbados Labour Party is quite unfortunate, but I will depart from that and I will pay my very small tribute to the one whom I refer to as the *numero uno* amongst politicians in Barbados and the West Indies alike.

I do not want to delay this Honourable House with a recitation of what has been said before. I believe I am one of the youngest Members in here, and I can only speak from the perspective of what I understood the man to stand for, and, Mr. Speaker, the greatest tribute I can pay to Errol Walton Barrow is to say that he had the foresight, the vision, to introduce free secondary education. That facility allowed me and persons like myself, and the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) and also the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur), to proceed to Cave Hill and enjoy an education there that could prepare, and that did prepare, us for entry into this Honourable Chamber. I was very glad that I had the opportunity to tell him that before he died.

I well remember chairing a public meeting in the constituency of St. Philip North when I made those remarks. I thanked him for providing that facility to me, because at the time when I entered High School, it was a choice between going to the Barbados Foundry and getting a job or going to high school. My father did not have the resources at the time to provide me with that education. Fortunately, at that time Errol Walton Barrow came along, and it was only a question of delaying for a couple of years before the facility could be introduced. I benefitted from that, and I think that that is the greatest tribute that I and people from my generation can pay Errol Walton Barrow. I believe it is fair to say that if free secondary education were not available at that time, then I, like most people from my generation, who would have been working at the Foundry at the time would now be redundant, because we know that that institution was closed.

I can also say, Mr. Speaker, that the late Prime Minister also provided me with a political party to join. The Democratic Labour Party is the only political party that espouses principles of democratic socialism, contrary to recent utterances coming from the other side.

Mr. Speaker, as a very young politician I had a lot to thank him for. At the height of the electioneering in the last General Election in 1986, I well remember going to his office one morning to discuss something with him, and as I entered his office, that is when he was Leader of the Opposition, he said to me, "Ah, I wanted

to see you." Well, I was surprised. I did not think that there was anything that he wanted to see me about, but he told me that he was getting some very disturbing ^ comments coming out of my constituency about certain people to whom I had aligned myself and then he lectured me about what it takes to win a seat. His advice was very simple, and I believe he recited it to other people as well.

What he said to me was that if I wanted to win, I had to wear out about three or four pairs of shoes. I was on the third pair of shoes when the elections were announced. I followed his advice, albeit losing 22 pounds weight in the process, and I made sure that I won. It was very simple advice, and it is very sad that he has gone at this stage, at a stage when I am a very fledgling politician and when, certainly, I would have been able to learn something from the great one.

I well remember the last time we spoke, which was after the meeting in Independence Square. On that occasion he sought my opinion as to what I thought of *' the meeting that had just finished, and I told him .that I thought that it was a very good meeting.

One aspect about his character that I particularly liked was that I always thought that he espoused a certain mischievous kind of conceit, maybe you could call it vanity. I remember that, on the occasion of his address to the party's Annual Conference in 1985, when we broke up for lunch I went over to him and I congratulated him on what I thought was an excellent speech that was delivered. He told me, with that mischievous gleam in his eye, "Now, tell me, what did you expect?"

Those were the lasting memories that I would cherish of the Prime Minister. Brief as they are, they tell me a great deal about the kind of leader that we had, a.. leader, as we heard, who could transcend the class that he came from and, at the same time, walk with princesses and the common man.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to express the condolences of my constituency, St. George South, myself and numerous people who have met me on the street offering me condolences as well, as though they thought that I was some relative of his. I use this occasion to pass on those expressions of sympathy to his family, immediate and extended, and I would also like to use this opportunity to pledge my support for the new administration of the Democratic Labour Party. I do it publicly to the leader of this party, the Prime Minister of this country, as well.

Thank you very much.

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Hon. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Speaker, in paying tribute to our late Prime Minister,

I know that the residents of St. James South will want me, as their representative, to express their sympathy to the family of our late and beloved leader. His passing has been a shock to us all and will leave a vacuum which will be difficult to fill. Words will never convey or express my gratitude and appreciation for what he has done for so many Barbadians of all walks of life. 5.00 pm.

The two characteristics of our dear and late leader which impressed me most were his humility and humanity. If we as a people, indeed, if the politicians of this country, could try and emulate him in these areas, whatever our achievements or whatever heights we reached, then his living would not have been in vain. For me, Mr. Speaker, I will strive to follow him in at least those two areas.

From all the tributes that have been paid, one can only conclude that he was the greatest Barbadian, if not the greatest West Indian, to have lived, only, of course, rivalled by Marcus Garvey. I hope that the educators will find it possible to write some history about our great leaders, whether it be Sir Grantley Adams, Errol Walton Barrow, Marcus Garvey or Charles Duncan O'Neal. It is about time our children know about our leaders, rather than think about people with whom we have no relationship whatsoever, or even understand the social context in which they lived.

Mr. Speaker, when I reflect on the life and work of this great man, there is a nagging and sorry story which always comes to mind, and I feel that at this time I must mention it. It has to do with the fact that the Barbados Labour Party, of which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was the Attorney General at the time, tried to destroy, and this saddens me, the greatest Barbadian, following their election victory in 1976. It was the most vicious, wicked, malicious and uncalled-for act, and I say in all sincerity that no Barbadian should ever be allowed to forget it, because it was designed solely to remove from history's pages anything that Errol Walton Barrow did, and they went around this country and said openly that they wanted to destroy Errol Walton Barrow and the Democratic Labour Party for good.

I do not believe that we at this time should allow people to forget it because what they would have done was to erase from the minds of all those who followed, all our children and grandchildren, what he did. But although they thought they were mighty, there is somebody who is almighty, and 1986 should always remind us of that. I make no apologies for it, because I think it must be said, and we must never forget it, and in all of our tributes and in all of our thinking about Errol Walton Barrow, we should always remember those who tried to destroy the man and his works.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to continue in this vein, but I felt obliged to say that, and I know that all thinking Barbadians will remember it. There will be another time and another place at which I will elaborate on that.

I had the privilege of working with him in 1975/76 and I can say that in that period, because of the special project, I would get to work at 7 o'clock in the morning and he would be there in socks, no shoes, and when I left at 8 in the evening he would still be there in socks, no shoes. That was the dedication and commitment which that man had for this country.

Suffice to say that our departed leader has been acknowledged as one of the persons who revolutionised this country, to the extent that all of our people now have equality of opportunity, whether they come from the Scotland District, from the Orleans, Pine Hill, Navy Gardens or Hanson Plantation, and for this I shall be eternally grateful. The people of St. James South share these sentiments with me.

We know in this party that at least we have some aims and objectives, and whenever we sit around and talk, we can remember what Errol Walton Barrow tried to do for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE (St. James North): Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I rise to pay tribute to the late and departed Prime Minister, the Honourable Errol Walton Barrow. Mr. Barrow entered Parliament the year before I was born, and I came to learn much about him as a boy at school. Like the honourable Member for St. George South (Mr. R. P. Byer), I happen to be one of the beneficiaries of free secondary education which was introduced by his Administration in the early Sixties. My parents had eleven of us, and you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, in those days what a burden it was on their shoulders to send all of us to school, and at the time many of us were attending secondary school. So it struck me very early that here was a man who was making an indelible mark and a valid contribution to the people of Barbados, because by introducing free secondary education in this country, I and many other Barbadians have been able to benefit from this particular piece of social development.

I came to meet Mr. Barrow sometime in 1971 during the General Election. There was a public meeting held in Sion Hill near Chris Sobers's shop, and he gave a very impressive performance, to my mind, on that occasion. At the time Mr. George Moe was the candidate for the Democratic Labour Party, and I remember Mr. Barrow came and spoke for one hour and a half without making reference to any notes or reading his

speech, and there I came to recognise him as something like a walking encyclopaedia. He made a speech reciting many pieces of information which I think many persons in this country would not have been able to do without referring to notes or reading the speech, and I immediately became impressed with the man and his performance, and I began to follow him and the party very closely from about that time. 5.10 p.m.

He became Leader of the Opposition and I got to know him much more closely, because in 1976 I was admitted to the Bar as a lawyer, and while in Opposition he was working as a legal consultant. In those days I had to meet with him occasionally to settle certain matters. I was 23 years old at that time, and Mr. Philip Greaves — he is now our Deputy Prime Minister

Aside.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: The Deputy Prime Minister, the honourable Member for St. Michael North had on one occasion to come in and give some opinion.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most striking characteristics of his personality was driven home to me when he demonstrated his humility, and this happened some time just before the 1986 General Election. He agreed that one Sunday morning he would visit my constituency and make some rounds, and we agreed to meet at my constituency headquarters at 8.00 o'clock. I arrived there about ten minutes to eight. I saw a blue Subaru, and there was a man sitting under a coconut tree reading a newspaper, and, to my great surprise, that man was Errol Barrow. Fortunately, I was ten minutes early. He said, "Come Joe, let us go." We spent a considerable time in the constituency on that occasion. On that occasion he visited my home and he had a long and interesting conversation with both my parents — my father was alive at the time — and everyone who got the opportunity to talk with him could recognise that in him was a man who had a lot to give to others.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that when we look back on his life, there is much that can be said which persons here have not already said. I do not wish to repeat anything that has been said here today, but we cannot pay tribute to him without making reference to such things as Independence, the Constitution and various matters of that sort which he has brought to this country.

If there is one thing that can be said about our late departed Prime Minister, it is the fact that he upheld the fundamental rights of the people of this country at all times when he had to administer the affairs of our people. Our Attorney General has made reference to his non-interference in the administration of justice. But I would go further and say that even though there were

periods when he had a two-thirds majority in Parliament, he never tried to introduce laws which were oppressive to the people of this country, or which violated any of the rights of the people of Barbados. I think, Mr. Speaker, that is one of the hallmarks of his service to the people of Barbados. He never fell short of the high standard which was expected of him in high office.

After his defeat in 1976, a Commission was set up to investigate his Administration, the Duffus Commission, and the report found that there was nothing which could be questioned in respect of his service during the period 1961 - 1976.

Whenever he had to address the people of this country, his speeches were directed towards the upliftment of the poor and the underprivileged sections of this community. He always talked about bringing the women out of the canefields and that sort of thing.

And when we reflect on his life, Mr. Speaker, it really shows us that he was a true fighter, a fighter in every sense. In 1956, he suffered a defeat, and he came back and won in 1958. In 1976, he suffered a defeat, and he came back and won in 1986. He was a fighter. Even when you knocked him down, he was prepared to get up and fight again. That example which he has brought to us is one I believe that we should all try to emulate.

Many have spoken about his role in the Caribbean, but I believe that one of his great contributions in the Caribbean was his role as a peacemaker. I believe that we can refer to him as "Errol Barrow, the peacemaker."

During the previous Administration, there was a trade war developing between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Barbados led by the late departed Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams. Mr. Barrow used quiet diplomacy, by meeting with the leaders of the business community in Trinidad, and was able by this means to improve the trade relations between the two countries, and his contribution in this regard must also be noted.

I believe, though, that the greatest tribute which we can pay as a people is to try to emulate him for the principles for which he stood and the principles for which he died. It is in those terms that I support this Resolution in speaking on behalf of all my constituents of St. James North.

I should like to offer my condolences to the members of his family and his wife.

I have already pledged my support to our new Prime Minister, the Honourable Erskine Sandiford, and I take this opportunity to do so again.

With those, brief words, Mr. Speaker, I wish to give my support to this Resolution.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of St. Peter, in whose name I have the honour to speak this afternoon, I rise to join in the tributes that have been paid to Mr. Errol Barrow and also to express my sincere condolences to his family and his immediate relatives.

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I very much regret, Mr. Speaker, that, unlike many other Members of the House, this evening I am not in a position to speak about Mr. Errol Barrow in a personal capacity. The truth is that our social paths never crossed. This evening I can only share -with the House the perspective of a young person whose experiences with Mr. Errol Barrow are the experiences of a young adversary, not necessarily of his generation, who had the opportunity to observe him as a parliamentarian, as an economic thinker and as a nation builder from the other side of the floor.

I want, first of all, Sir, to say that Mr. Errol Barrow's career in public life, in public service to this country, stretches virtually across the entire span of my lifetime, and that, Mr. Speaker, in my view, is a testimony in itself. We live in days when the sheer capacity to render service is not valued as much as it ought to be. And when one contemplates the life and times of a man who devoted over 35 years of service to the people of a country, I say, Sir, that Mr. Errol Barrow, therefore, needs not be enlarged in death beyond what he was in life. His life was a testimony in itself. One obviously would have to search carefully the annals of this country's history to find a parallel of a person who over such a durable and long period has performed in the public service of this country. 5.20 p.m.

I want this evening, Mr. Speaker, to remember Mr. Errol Barrow in the three capacities that I knew him. I did not know him as a man — as I said, our social paths never crossed - but I had more than ample opportunity during the three years that I have known him in the House of Assembly to observe him as a parliamentarian, an economic thinker, and a nation builder.

As a nation builder, I think that one of the geniuses of Errol Barrow, a genius that he shared with many people before and a genius which, I hope, he shall share with other persons to come, was his sense of classlessness, his ability to elicit the support of persons of all classes and walks of life in this country and to fuse that support into a working coalition in the interest of this country's development. I therefore believe that if we are to draw any inspiration and any meaning from the life and times of Errol Barrow, that inspiration and meaning will not

stem from any attempt to classify him in terms of petit bourgeois or any other form of class characterisation,' but in understanding that he understood that Barbadians, despite their various differences politicalwise, socialwise, and otherwise, are of one people, and that there is a basic desire on the part of all Barbadians to work towards the 'advancement of this country that belongs to all of us.

If I were to pay a tribute to him, I would pay tribute to his 35 years of service to this country, and say that those 35 years of service to this country were, in some major respect, made possible by his extraordinary sense of classlessness. He was a difficult man to classify in terms of his class orientation, and, in that sense, even though I am not part of his party, Errol Barrow, perhaps, belonged to all of us. As an economic thinker, he was also a difficult man to classify. At the end of his days, he declared his unrepentant commitment to the principles of Keynesian economics, a school of thought, Sir, that grew out of the depression of the 1930s, a school of thought that made possible some of the recovery in the North Atlantic economies after the war, but a school of thought which has not found a universal support among Caribbean thinkers, a school of thought which, to some extent, has come under very critical comment from the University of the West Indies, in which tradition I proudly stand.

Mr. Barrow, despite his unrepentant commitment to Keynesian economics, had, perhaps, a very curious contempt for economic theory. He was a pragmatist. He had a capacity, if any, to reduce difficult economic issues to bread and butter matters, and to draw from economic theory not so much the sterile aspects of theory as theory, but the working precepts that could inform economic strategy and also inform the country's development path.

I remember Mr. Errol Barrow, therefore, not as he would wish to be remembered, as an unrepentant disciple of John Maynard Keynes, but as an economic pragmatist who, like so many other Barbadians, had the -genius of being able to reduce difficult economic issues to their most simple dimensions, to sift out the bread and butter issues of a particular matter, and to be able to work to the country's advantage by maintaining the clearest possible grasp of the bread and butter issues.

He was not an ideologue, in my view. I have had the opportunity in Jamaica to work with a person who was also a product of the Laski School, which informed Mr. Barrow's initial intellectual socialisation, and one was struck really by the tremendous difference between the statements by persons in Jamaica influenced by Laski and the statements by Mr. Errol Barrow.

For some persons, Sir, democratic socialism is an ideology which has more to do with the broad transformation of societies, massive changes in the social relations of production, movements of modes of

production from one mode to another, and the understanding of democratic socialism as a theoretical concept which can only explain the movements of society in very broad terms. I call those persons ideologues.

Mr. Barrow, although having been exposed to the same Laski influence, was not an ideologue. We hardly in this House of Assembly heard him ever speak of democratic socialism as an ideology. If I arouse some feathers, I really believe that there was not a very deep ideological commitment on the part of Errol Barrow to democratic socialism as a political theology, that if there was anything, there was a pragmatic commitment on the part of Errol Barrow to socialism as a working way by which to approach the problems of poor people.

As a parliamentarian, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Errol Barrow, of course, enlivened this Parliament with many great parliamentary gifts, some of which I have had to suffer from. He was a formidable opponent, blessed with a tremendously long memory and a wonderful sense of anecdote, which he could use with devastating effect. He understood, of course, the use of syntax, and in his way might have elevated syntax and the language to the highest place in the land. He had a sharp turn of wit, and he understood, as was mentioned earlier, the use of Latin phrases, Biblical phrases, and so on, as wonderful weapons to be used in parliamentary debate. He also knew, Mr. Speaker, how to avoid being concerned in parliamentary debate. I so very well remember, Sir, his use of Psalm 131, that he did not want to get himself involved in great matters or things that were too high for him, when there was an issue that presented a tremendous challenge that might have forced him into a corner from which he might have found it difficult to extricate himself.

But I think we must remember Errol Barrow, Sir, as a parliamentarian who subscribed to some of the better principles of the parliamentary life. If he had one tremendous defect as a parliamentarian, it was perhaps the tendency, I sense, of the Barbadian politician of the 1940s and 1950s to perhaps make excessive use of political invective. I have often found it very strange, for example, how he could simultaneously proclaim his deep affection for Mr. Michael Manley, but in the same breath try to argue a case that my association with Mr. Michael Manley had caused the collapse of the Jamaican economy.

Laughter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I really believe, Sir, that he understood the use of political invective, and he was unsparing Sir in the use of political invective, particularly when it served his political purpose, and I have suffered from it on the floors of the House. I very much regret, without necessarily going into his use

of political invective, that he was not spared the opportunity for me to give him as good as I received. 5.30 p.m.

I think, however, Mr. Speaker that we run the very grave danger in Barbados of savaging the memory of Errol Barrow by reducing his life and his work merely to the fact of free education and to the fact of his having led this country into independence. I make bold also to say that we also run the very grave danger of savaging his memory, his life and his times by reducing his concept of free education to its purely material dimension, that his contribution was that of absolving my parents and the people of their generation from the payment of school fees.

I would like to believe, Sir, that Mr. Errol Barrow saw free education not only as absolving my parents and other parents of the payment of school fees, but as an act to enable this country to give the broad mass of children of this society the opportunity and the freedom to develop their intellect, to develop their various talents, so much so that at the end of the day they could exercise their right of free choice, their right to choose the profession they wanted their right to choose the political party of their choice even Sir, and their right to take a place in this country as worthy citizens. I really do feel that those persons who harp on the memory of Errol Barrow in terms of his having freed people from the payment of school fees perhaps are reducing the notion of free education in this country to the level of pocketbook politics, which, I think, obviously, could not have been in his contemplation of things.

I also think that we must not only see Errol Barrow from the point of view of having led this country into independence. Independence for some people can become only an event involving the raising of the flag at the Stadium. But it is not only important to have led us into independence, it is also important to lead this country into unity and also to lead this country into its fullest development. I think that if we are to understand the life and the times of Errol Barrow, we must understand that he has left this country and unfinished agenda. We have achieved independence, but we still have a long way to go to unite this country and to develop this country in accordance with its full potential. Those people who speak in terms of Errol Barrow only as the father of the nation may do themselves well not just to rest on the laurels of independence as a political and constitutional matter, but to understand that we have an unfinished agenda before us, as a nation, which will require that this country deploy its minds and resources *••• to the best way by which we can finish the agenda that Mr. Barrow, because of the relative shortness of his life, was unable to finish.

If I could express two regrets, Mr. Speaker, it would be that as a parliamentarian I am sorry that Mr. Errol Barrow did not live long enough to inherit our proper place, the Lower Chamber. He spoke very often, and very uneasily, from the floor of the Senate, as to how anxious he was for this House of Assembly to go back to its proper place. If there is one thing he really set his mind on in these later days, it was the time when our proper place would be finished and he could live out what would be for him his last days in the House of Assembly that he loved

I also very deeply regret, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Errol Barrow did not leave a wealth of writings behind. It is now, for me, a very sad thing that the principal characters in the post-war development of the Barbadian society have lived without leaving their memoirs behind for generations, as if to say: this is how I saw it from my vantage point. Sir Grantley did not do it, Tom Adams did not do it, and now we have this very sad situation where that third large person in our political and social system since the war has gone, taking with him a large part of the political and social history unwritten.

In his final days, Mr. Speaker, I sensed that he was a brooding presence in the House. It was as if he wanted to take Barbados back - and I am giving the perspective of a person sitting opposite — to a simpler place in time. It appeared that many of the familiar landmarks that he himself might have set were no longer there, that the Barbados that he had helped to create had changed. One sensed during the course of the last year that he was brooding, that he wanted to create, or recreate, landmarks with which he was familiar.

If there is a third regret, Sir, it would be that he did not live long enough for us to begin to understand exactly what were the landmarks of which he was desirous. I recognise that there were many tosses and turns in his economic thought. For example, he used the opportunity of his last major speech in this House to, in my view, signal a dramatic change in economic policy by recommitting himself to Keynesian economics at a time when I certainly thought that the old Keynesian was going in opposite directions.

He was seeking landmarks, in my view, Sir, as regards the manner in which our state enterprises should have been managed. At one stage, one got the impression that he wanted to do a particular thing for state enterprises, at another stage it was obviously clear that he was thinking about something else entirely.

But there could be no doubt that, in his last year in Parliament, Errol Barrow was able to speak as the elder statesman in this House, and I say that even from the position of the Opposition benches. He spoke from a long memory, 35 long years of political struggle. He spoke

from the vantage point of a man with vast experience on the international scene, an experience which he was not too modest to wish to share.

I also sensed that he might have also wished this term to be a lap of honour, and that he might have wished to try to do on the regional and international scene some of the things which he might have thought he had accomplished in Barbados. If one were to examine the year, you would rather sense that the first nine months were spent trying to deal with broader regional issues, the whole question of CARICOM, the whole question of the country's relations to North America, the whole question of the Regional Security System. It seems as if he was exercised predominantly in the first nine months more with international and regional issues than with the narrow concerns of Barbados as a narrow society in its own right, and that he came more deliberately and more consciously back to matters of a political and an economic nature as they affect Barbados in the last three months of his life. I therefore very much regret that I was not in the House long enough with him to know what thoughts were in his head as he came to grapple more specifically with the particular problems that now confront the Barbadian society, as he obviously showed himself willing to do in the last three months of his last term in office. 5.40 p.m.

I can only close, Sir, by citing the words of "Pilgrim's Progress" that he delighted in, "So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side." May the trumpets, Sir, sound for him on the other side and may his soul rest in peace.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South). "Just as in dreams when languid sleep presses on the eye and in vain we seem to wish to run eager courses but in the midst of our struggles we faint and fail." These are the words of the Latin author Virgil speaking on the death of Turnus, and I use these words, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon for two reasons.

The first reason is that I believe that Errol Barrow had so much more to do and that he wanted so much more done. The second reason is that these words from Virgil take me back to when Errol Barrow first became my idol, when I was a little boy at Co bermere School.

The situation when I was a little boy, when the late Prime Minister first became my idol, was at one and the same time engaging and unsettling. It was unsettling, because at that time, having been born and living in Marchfield in the parish of St. Philip, one of the representatives for the parish of St. Philip was D. D. Garner, who was also a Marchfield man, and the thought and the thinking of my immediate environs was that, since I was a Marchfield man, and since D. D. Garner was a Marchfield

man, it was only natural that I support a Marchfield man. But my views were different. It was engaging, Mr. Speaker, because even at that tender age I revelled in an argument and I was never afraid to stand up and argue all day long about what Errol Barrow said and what I considered Errol Barrow stood for.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and the privilege to represent part of St. Philip, and Errol Barrow will always hold a firm and tender spot in the hearts of all St. Philip people. When you hear people in Barbados speaking at election time, you often hear, "St. Philip will vote Dems". But that statement belies the fact that St. Philip will vote Errol Barrow, because, before Errol Barrow came on the scene, there was no consistency in the way that St. Philip used to vote.

We had at times the Hon. D. D. Garner. We also had, I think, lisle Smith, and from the Congress Party we had Mr. Wynter Crawford. But it was only after Errol Barrow came on the scene that St. Philip, as a whole — I am not speaking only about St. Philip South - except for a brief period, voted for Errol Barrow. I can never forget that old saying on each and every occasion when Errol Barrow came to St. Philip to speak, on any political platform, when Errol got up to speak, you could hear a pin drop. St. Philip people listened to Errol Barrow in total silence, and that is the way that Errol Barrow was held by the people of St. Philip.

I recall that, in 1965/66, when the argument about independence without a federation or independence within a federation was going on, my predecessor, the then representative for St. Philip South (Mr. R. StC. Weekes), at the beginning had sided with the Honourable Wynter Crawford on independence within a federation. And I recall that in 1965 - it was on a Sunday afternoon — that two other gentlemen who were older than I was and I were walking down the road where my predecessor lived in Marchfield at that time. In his own inimitable style he said, "Gentlemen, come here. What do you think about what is going on?" And the two other persons and myself told my predecessor in this House, we told him that afternoon: "We do not know what you are going to do, but if the elections come and you are not with Errol Barrow, you are going to lose." We felt that we were speaking for the people in St. Philip. I do not know if the former representative took our word or not, but within one week he was on the side of Errol Barrow, and he retained his seat ever since then.

That is why I am convinced that the people in St. Philip were committed to the man Errol Barrow, and I am happy to say, and I believe that I speak for my colleague from St. Philip North, that Errol Barrow has done a lot for both of us, from the standpoint or the view that our work in St. Philip has been made very, very easy because of that one man. I would like, on behalf of the people of St. Philip, to pay my respects to his relatives and to his friends.

My first meeting with Mr. Barrow was in 1976 and, strangely enough, I was warned at that time by none

other than my colleague from St. Philip North — I do not know even if he remembers — that when I was going to see Mr. Barrow at Culloden Farm, that "When you are speaking to him, do not stop speaking, even if you see him reading." I said, "Okay". I went into Mr. Barrow's office, and as he saw me, he said "Sit down 'Blackie' ", and from then onwards he called me "Blackie" and nothing else. 5.50 p.m.

He continued reading the newspaper that he was reading, and he told me to go ahead and talk. So I started talking. I had never been in the situation before where I was speaking to somebody and he was reading the newspaper, so I stopped, not remembering that my colleague had told me not to stop. He told me to continue so I continued. This point I am making may seem trivial, but I have never in my life seen any person, and I believe many persons around here would confirm this, who could sit down and concentrate on a book or newspaper whilst you are talking to him and still he hears everything you are saying. I asked a senior civil servant in Barbados who is now retired, I think he is 64 years of age, and he told me that, he only knew of one other person in Barbados who could do that, and it was the late *Louis Lynch*, a former Member of this House. I am saying that although this fact may appear trivial, it was one of the things about Errol Barrow that always moved me.

There are a lot of qualities about Errol Barrow that have been mentioned by hundreds of persons throughout the last two weeks and today in this Honourable House. I agree with all the comments made about Errol Barrow, and especially the ones about his honesty and integrity. Errol Barrow was honest, he had integrity, he was very forthright in what he had to say, he had a commitment to duty, he had a commitment to this country of ours, and he had a commitment to the Caribbean, and my only wish is that these qualities of Errol Barrow should act as yardsticks by which we as politicians should measure our success.

I believe that Barbados and the Caribbean, as has been stated by many persons, have lost a great leader, and we cannot minimise the fact that a vacuum has been created. But we also realise that life has to go on.

There is a sort of resilience in this party of which I have the honour to be a member. We in this party are committed to all the policies of Errol Barrow. We are committed to carrying on those policies, and in carrying on those policies, we are committed to fully supporting our present Prime Minister.

To the relatives of the late Honourable Errol Barrow and his friends, I would like to say, may he rest in peace.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN (St. Michael Central). I rise, Mr. Speaker, to support the Resolution which is before this Honourable House. In doing so, I should like on behalf of the General Secretary, the Executive Council and members of the Barbados Workers Union, the organisation I have the honour to serve, to convey the sympathies and the greatest condolences of the membership to the relatives and friends of the late Errol Walton Barrow on the occasion of their loss. I wish especially to indicate to the Prime Minister, the members of his Cabinet and this Chamber, that the various groups of workers all over Barbados whom my colleagues and I have been able to meet during the last two weeks have asked us to convey to the Prime Minister and the Government their grief at the loss of their champion, and also their commitment to the Government for the future.

I wish, Sir, to refer to two incidents, one in 1976 and one in 1987, which, in my view, are measures of the extent to which this man bestrode the world like a colossus. In 1976, on September 3, as we have had reported by the worker concerned, a worker travelling from St. Andrew to Wildey in Christ Church arrived at work between three and five minutes late and was sent back home. On June 12, 1987, the report we have is that, at a certain work place within the city of Bridgetown, in one of the industrial parks, a working lady was kicked by a manager, pushed out of the office and told: "Barrow is now dead." I want to refer to these two incidents, because, in my view, they are similar. The suggestion is that Barrow has gone, and in both cases they suggest that the exploiter welcomed the removal of Errol Walton Barrow and the exploited and/or the exploitable lamented the removal of Mr. Barrow.

Rightly or wrongly, Sir — and history has shown that it was rightly — certain business elements in Barbados perceived that, on September 2, 1976, they had got some form of relief in terms of the management practices that they wanted to implement. It is obvious from the comment we had, last Friday, in 1987, that again there is that perception that there is such relief. The difference though, Mr. Speaker, is that in 1976 there was a new administration which had assumed the Government of the country and therefore the Democratic Labour Party could not influence the extent to which there would be any kind of response to that suspension of the worker on September 3. But now I am proud to say that in 1987 there is no new party that has assumed the reins of Government, and that the Democratic Labour Party lives on true to the ideals of the great leader who fought for the working class and, I venture to say, died for the working class.

I do not wish, Sir, to review his life, because there are several others who have done that much more effectively than I could ever hope to do. I wish, however, to pay tribute to the stamp that he has put on the

energies of the masses. In a word, I would wish to say that he gave hope to the working class people of Barbados.

Several persons would have us forget. But lest we forget, Mr. Speaker, let us recall, that when he took the reins of Government for the first time, persons like ourselves on leaving school had very little prospects after perhaps a decade at school, because, as you know, in those days when you went to secondary school, you went from about age eight or age nine and therefore you spent about ten years at school. Our prospects after secondary school were to become Long Grade Clerks or teachers. The fortunate few went to Cable and Wireless, and the adventurous ones went to join the Army or the Navy in the United Kingdom. Our prospects were very few. The opportunities for us to get into the business community in Bridgetown were almost non-existent, unless we wanted to go into them as maids or messengers. Today some of us have been so fortunate that we are on the Boards of Directors of some of those bastions of conservatism which we have had from those days of exploitation. 6.00 p.m.

My first contact with this great man was at the time when I had some pretensions to being a radio announcer. I was doing a programme called "The University Student Speaks" in 1969, at the height of the debate on black power, when, after an initial programme, the Prime Minister of the day and his deputy of the day, now Sir James Tudor, thought that they would wish to meet the University students to debate the subject. Good moderator that I was, or thought I was, I considered that the way to do the programme was to set out the parameters for the discussion and to define the subject and all of those formal things which one learns to do in a formal school debate, except that I found that the Prime Minister on the day was in no mood for that kind of dialectic. He wanted to get down to the heart of the matter and thrash out the subject. As a direct result we entered into some intellectual confrontation which might not nowadays be accepted for radio broadcast.

That forceful personality, Mr. Speaker, continued to impress itself upon me, and I must not neglect to observe that from time to time, because he was the kind of man that one would wish to emulate, I found myself being equally forceful in my responses to him, but all for the good interest of the people of the country as a whole, as I perceive it.

The greatest single thing, Sir, which, in my estimation, he was able to do was his freeing of education. That gave hope of opportunity to all. Those persons who could not take advantage of the opportunity of that free education right through to the university level, at least

they were able to hope, through their children and/or their grandchildren, that succeeding generations would attain those standards, goals and ambitions they themselves had wished for in their dreams.

I am told, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Barrow's vision of that opportunity in education was one which he revealed to his colleagues in the party that he espoused at the time, the Barbados Labour Party, in the early 1950s. The answer of the leadership of the party, as I understand it, at that time is not an answer which I hold against the leadership. There must have been a genuine concern for the ordering of society. When, therefore, one understands that the concern was who would reap the canes in a situation of free education, one must not take that too far out of context, since similar questions have been asked both here in Barbados and elsewhere in related situations. For example, when concern was expressed about the kinds of rates which Costain would pay to workers at the building of the Deep Water Harbour, that was not a concern, in my view, which came from any malicious desire not to pay good wages to the workers, but rather there was a concern for the deleterious effect that those wages might have had on the rest of the labour force at that time.

It is the same kind of concern that the Philippines, as a country, must have adopted when they took a deliberate policy directing that shipping lines should pay their nationals rates which were as low as one-third of the going rate for seamen in an effort not to upset the levels of pay for the Philippines as a people. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I do not raise the point here to denigrate one outstanding leader, but rather I speak in tribute to the breadth of vision of our late revered leader and Prime Minister, Errol Walton Barrow, who clearly recognised that free education for all meant free educational opportunity for all, and who recognised that that educational opportunity would not disorder the society, but would allow the society to breed within *itself* persons who were inculcating the skills and the disciplines which would make for a new ordering of a new society.

Indeed, Sir, it is my view that at that early time Errol Barrow must have recognised that the society needed to be restructured. No doubt he was quite aware of the first movements, through Operation Bootstrap in Puerto Rico, and towards the broader economic activity, through Industrialisation by Invitation, which had set leaders dreaming of a society in which we would no longer as members of the masses have to send our children to be members of the Third Gang on the plantation, but where, because of the free educational opportunities, we could see the occasion where, if they did not all become doctors and/or lawyers, at least they could have the kind of work where they could inculcate and use some skill towards the development of our nation.

The free educational thrust which Errol Walton Barrow was recognising at that time must have prepared

us to take advantage of the new economic activity on which we have now been able to place so much of the emphasis for our economic development. Whether in the 1950s, Sir, it was too early for us to go to the route of ^ free education, we will never know. We can, however, all express our satisfaction at the societal transformation resulting from free education in the 1960s.

It was not, Sir, a transformation in terms of free education, it was, as some of my colleagues have been quick to point out, a transformation of the society as a whole, in some cases, the mapping out of new courses and new paths, and, in some cases, an escalation of the programmes in other directions. For example, there was the increasing of the number of persons having running water and electricity in their homes, in the provision of beds which did not become overrun with creepers and crawlers.

But, more than that, Mr. Speaker, there was transformation in the breeding of a spirit of unity on the part of persons who, because of the increased educational >. opportunity, were believing, especially after 1966, that, in fact, they had, and they do have, a nation. They were recognising a spirit of dignity which was lacking before. And when we recall, Sir, that there were certain basic and fundamental things which were done in the advancement ' of that feeling of dignity and that spirit of independence, we ought not to forget the contribution made by Errol Walton Barrow. 6.10 p.m.

I recall, since I was living in the area where I am now able to say that I am the representative, that, just leaving home and travelling a few yards, we had the great divide between the people in Peterkins and the people of Strathclyde. I remember, even earlier than that, that when I was a schoolboy at a school in St. Matthias I dared not travel too far away from the grounds of that school, > but I had to find my way back to Deighton Road where I lived, because some of the areas in those immediate environs were not for the likes of people like me. I remember the concerted effort which had to be taken to ensure and make it clear that the beaches which, although never legally privatised, were *de facto* moving in the direction of privatisation, belong to all of us, or, put better, in the words of Gabby, "belong to all of we". I think Mr. Speaker, that these were areas of that movement towards making Barbados a place that we could all be proud of that makes the man stand out, and, of course, the need for and the interest in freedom of expression, freedom of expression even where he himself might have been on the receiving end.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barrow was a friend of labour. I do not subscribe to the view that says that friends do not ".*f" have disagreements or that friends should not have disagreements. Indeed, from time to time friends should

have disagreements, because they must be able to speak freely and frankly one to the other. But if they are friends, frank speaking should not result in cleavages in that friendship. When, therefore, I say that Mr. Barrow was a friend of labour, I do not wish to give the impression that he was subject to the labour movement or that the labour movement, certainly the Barbados Workers Union, was subject to him. Far from it, Sir!

There was a certain independence which led to problems from time to time. Indeed, there were strikes from time to time, and there may even be some in the present Administration. But that would not mean that we are not friends, and certainly we hope that the new Prime Minister would not get that impression if he hears tomorrow that we have had to give certain warnings to one or two Government agencies within the last 24 hours or so. But even though there were strikes, and even though two members from the Barbados Workers Union were forced in 1976 to oppose him and the Government on the floor of Parliament, that did not mean that there was any resultant Emergency Powers Bill, or that there was any threat to muzzle the trade union leadership.

As I perceive it, his friendship with labour was such that he recognised that that friendship was a friendship based on mutual respect, respect for the rights of individual workers, and workers in their collective wisdom to use the tools at their disposal to improve and support their living standards. Consequently, we say that we have to express our appreciation that, within the Public Service, we now have an arrangement where Public Servants are able, through their unions, to have negotiations of wages and salaries. That is further tribute to an understanding of where we now are rather than where we had the Whitley Councils before, where the trade union was only an advisory body and not a fully independent and equal organization able to take its part in the labour management relations of the day.

Furthermore, as a friend of labour, he was able to guarantee work for sugar workers in this country. In fact, even now those are the only set of workers in Barbados who have a guaranteed work week, initially a guaranteed work week of three days in the out-of-crop season and now a guaranteed work week of five days. We recognise that there have been certain erosions within that arrangement, but that is not to say that the arrangement was not brought about, and that Mr. Barrow was not responsible for it.

We have to refer to the Trade Union Act of 1964, and the amendment to that Act in 1974, which makes it an offense, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment, if persons are denied their right to join the trade union of their choice. There is the National Insurance Act, which within itself encompasses all the hallmarks and the factors of the social revolution which Mr. Barrow has brought

about. And let us crown it all, Sir, with the Severance Payments Act, 1971—24, where persons who, having lost their job through no fault of their own, were able to get a redundancy payment in accordance with that Severance Payments Act.

It is regrettable, in my view, that there have been certain modifications in that legislation which now deny the worker to get those benefits after four weeks of lay-off, as they used to do before. I hope that the Government will recognise that in tribute to Mr. Barrow we should act with alacrity and despatch to introduce into this Honourable Chamber amending legislation to bring back the Severance Payments Act to the level where the Democratic Labour Party had originally put it, and where the Barbados Workers Union is able to accept it — that is, four weeks of lay-off before a person can claim severance.

What impressed me within the last five to seven years, as I have been impressed by a similar kind of approach in at least one other revered leader in recent times, has been my perception of the leadership's interest in, and concern for, sharing the leadership and making others recognise that his role was not to remain here forever and forever, but that he had to pass on, and that the mantle of leadership had to fall to others.

I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party before the elections of 1986 is a testimony to that kind of sharing that there was, in view of the amount of public discussion and democratic decision-making that went into it, all establishing, in my view, that Mr. Barrow was perfectly aware that the organisation is greater than the man. It takes a big man to recognise that and to act upon it, and it is that that makes me believe, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party, acting as it is according to a programme, believing as it does in the ideals of a great man, ideals which have been heralded and have been lauded even by the Opposition Barbados Labour Party, has before it days when, provided it continues in the way that the leader has directed, it will continue to receive the support of the masses generally of Barbados and of organised labour in our country.

Let me finally say, Sir, that Barbados is a religious community. Barbados understands that what God does not allow, he hinders. We therefore say that God in his wisdom has allowed us at this time to be separated from the Father of the Nation. It is fitting that, as children who have lost the Father of our Nation, we recognise that we cannot expect at all times to remain beholden to anyone else, but that we have got to tread our own paths and map out our own journeys for ourselves. It is my view that the Democratic Labour Party should be ready for that.

I wish that he would rest in peace. At the same time, I wish the new leadership of the Democratic Labour

Party every success, and I hope that the good God who in His wisdom has guided us thus far, will give the wisdom and the energies to continue to bring peace and prosperity to the people of our nation. 6.20 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a convenient moment for us to take a break. We have been here now for a number of hours.

I move that the House be now suspended for 15 minutes, that is, until 6.32 p.m.

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

The question, that the House be suspended for 15 minutes was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The

honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Errol Walton Barrow on behalf of the constituents of St. Andrew. I pay tribute to a patriot, a Caribbean leader and a world statesman. I pay tribute to a man who has raised the consciousness of every Barbadian from the day he entered the political scene of this country.

I reflect a bit on the Fifties and, as a school boy, hearing Mr. Barrow for the first time on a political platform sharing with us his philosophy. He was indicating the kind of road forward he saw for Barbados, which was emerging from the grips of the plantocracy, from the grips of depressed villages and rather tight situations in and around our city area.

I was moved by the clarity with which he espoused the sort of road he saw Barbados needing to move forward. At that time his expressions exhibited a kind of fire. It put one in a fighting mood. One became impatient having heard him, because we had the feeling that we had been neglected for so long. Here is a chance now to move forward.

I was so enamoured with his style that I followed the debates of the House that were reported verbatim in the newspapers, and whenever I had the opportunity, I would take a trip to the law courts. I found there was a common vein in this great gentleman. Whether he was in the law courts, on a political platform or in this Honourable Cham-

ber, his objectives were the same, to champion the cause of the underdog.

Much has been said about Mr. Barrow by my colleagues. I would not want to repeat them to bore you, Sir, but I must refer to an area that I think needs some attention, namely, the kind of role models that are offered by politicians and other persons in public life which the younger folk in the society should want to emulate. I say that Mr. Barrow offered that role model to many of us in the Fifties. He assisted us in working to our destinies, and I would say that many of us have arrived safely today.

I was struck by the reaction of a youngster, no more than ten years of age, or slightly older, when he heard of Mr. Barrow's death. His first reaction was: why now? I was surprised that, even at his tender age, he was recognising in Mr. Barrow that quality of leadership, that kind of quiet assurance that the leader was again offering Barbados and Barbadians.

I must say that, throughout his political life, people of St. Andrew befriended him and he befriended them. I remember vividly the first attempt by the Democratic Labour Party to wrest the administration of this country." The people of St. Andrew responded well, among three other parishes, by offering a seat in the House of Assembly to a member of his party. Then in 1961 they gave him 100% confirmation.

He had been very much involved in helping the people of St. Andrew resolve one or two problems they were having in the agricultural belt. At one stage, he made some serious effort to revive the fortunes of the sole sugar factory we had there, and consequently it would have been of benefit to the farmers in the area. Unfortunately, the management expertise was not there, "V in spite of his will, and we have lost quite a bit from that exercise. No doubt he had made certain promises, which I am sure his colleagues from the Cabinet will recognise when we begin to deal with the development of the country for the next five years or so.

The people of that part of the vineyard, in the Scotland District, will give every support to the Administration. We are very much looking forward not only to statues or monuments to this great leader, but we are hoping for, and looking forward to, the kind of development that will stand testimony to the vision he had and the things he organised that, no doubt, will bring some measure of benefit to the Scotland District, generally.

Mr. Speaker, when there is a loss such as this, one is overwhelmed, one's sights are clouded, because we have not got accustomed to the fact that at some stage we must move along, from the scene. Nonetheless, I can only

thank God, as a Christian, for the life of Errol Walton Barrow.

I offer on behalf of my constituents our deepest condolences and, with your permission, to express the sense of loss, I quote a few lines of Alfred Lord Tennyson, which go like this:

"And the stately ships sail on to their haven under the hill

But oh for the touch of a vanish'd hand
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself, my family and my constituents with this Resolution which is now the subject of debate in the form of a tribute before this Honourable Chamber.

It speaks of our dear friend, the late Errol Walton Barrow, as a gallant and learned gentleman. It tells of his flair in the practice of law in this country and the marriage of the experience gained there with his political exploits. It tells of his fathering of the independence experience of this country and of a vision that was greater than the boundaries of Barbados. It tells of the pursuit of the noblest of objectives to which any citizen can commit himself, and it addresses him as an exemplar of dignity, courage, nobility, humanity and as a leader by example. It further asks this Honourable House to express our thanks for his life, and to convey to his widow, children and his other relatives our grief and our deepest condolences. 6.45 p.m.

There is no doubt that within my now 51 years of experience, this is the most traumatic experience which I have shared with fellow Barbadians. Over the past 14 days I was consumed by matters relating to his personal affairs by those deep emotive feelings that must prevail when you have shared two-thirds of your life with someone in a deep and personal friendship.

I believe that, from the tributes that I have heard today and read over the past two weeks, the people of Barbados have had an opportunity to express themselves and have made a very comprehensive assessment of the man Errol Walton Barrow. From a personal point of view, I think it is his humanity that will always live with you, and the fact that in all those years I have never known a single instance in which he was able to execute a threat into action that would harm anyone. He was constitutionally unable to do anything to harm another human

being. Sometimes many people reacted to his words. If only they knew that he could not pursue that threat which would result in harm to anybody!

He was the most rounded human being I have known. He enjoyed life and wanted to share it with every person whom he met and that is why so many people can tell of personal anecdotes of their contact with him. In a sense, his political philosophy, I think, stemmed not only, from an academic appreciation of a different path of development, but was an expression of his commitment to a better life which he could share with a total community. It was part of the man himself.

I have seen many aspects of Errol Barrow. I can say this now, that he has borne pain and suffering with a dignity that I have never seen professionally or otherwise. Few would know that during the latter months of 1975 and early 1976, and throughout that election campaign in 1976, he suffered from the most excruciating pain that you could think about with the onset of diabetes at that time. Many people complained about his lacklustre performances on the platforms, but he felt that he had a duty to continue, despite, as I said, the most excruciating and, sometimes, actually blinding pain on the platforms throughout Barbados during the election campaign of 1976.

Indeed, he always insisted that he must go on, and when I compare 1976 with 1987, one can see an extraordinary commitment to the people of this country. He knew fully nine months ago the precise state of his health in no uncertain terms. He took the decision of indicating to a few people that he wished it to be kept absolutely secret, and he proceeded to do what he thought he must do in the interests of this country. It would be fair to say that he laid down his life for his country.

Without attempting an analysis as to whether he was committed to a pursuit of the ideological ideals of democratic socialism or whether he saw it as a medium through which he could articulate his own feelings about the developmental process, there can be no doubt that he saw it as the only path of development whereby the resources of Barbados could be mobilised by participation of the masses of the people. That said much in terms of development, the allocation of the resources of the country, and in terms of the democratic methods deployed in the mobilisation of such resources.

He saw Government in office, as being worthwhile only if one could respond to the social and economic needs of the masses of our people and seek in some way to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of our people. In the last 12 months, his constant theme was that we must

translate our political and economic positions into demonstrable improvements of the welfare of the masses. There was an urgency which he had about it, particularly since November last year, to get on with the job. I understood the situation. I well knew why he was motivated and what pressed him in this direction.

Earlier today, mention was made of his wider perception of the global issues and certain initiatives which he took in the last nine months. I know that he was hoping to make a major diplomatic initiative in the middle of next month which would have impacted significantly on the southern Caribbean area. I know that he was very keen on widening the horizons of Barbados, particularly in its relationship with certain Latin American countries, and to try to improve the economic position of Barbados and Guyana. When I spoke to him of the initiative which he wished to take next month, I felt that he saw that as almost his crowning achievement if he could get it organised.

Let there be no mistake, he felt deeply about the integrity of this nation, the integrity of the Caribbean and the independence of Barbados in the context of a wider independent Caribbean. There was no compromise in his position on those, and no matter what the political fall-out was, whether he was addressing the Grenadian invasion, which at the time would have been political suicide for any leader to take an opposite position on. You may recall that when 98 per cent of Barbados supported that invasion, he felt that it was not in the long term interest of the independence and self-sufficiency of this region and that led to his position. It did not matter what the political or economic consequences were, because he felt that in the long run you had to get your thinking right, have a proper orientation, understand yourself as a nation, and only in that way could you ultimately make progress. So many of the statements which appeared to be undiplomatic were the result of a deep and profound conviction that this region can only go forward if we are an independent people and if we continue to think in an independent manner.

At home, in his last two weeks at work, he wanted to see instant jobs. He wanted to get a massive housing programme going. He saw housing as not only an opportunity to create structures and jobs, but he recognised that, in terms of the wider development of the society, in social and other terms, housing was perhaps the area which his Government should focus on at this time.

Deeply concerned he was about the drug culture that was developing in Barbados and the Caribbean, and he saw that in a wider context. He recognised that that culture had the potential of destroying the very self-sufficiency which he sought to instil in the nations of the Caribbean. Indeed, one of his last acts, in the last few

speeches, was to take steps to control the importation of drugs into this country.

Mr. Speaker, I must be brief, but there is much more that can be said, even speaking of him only as a human being. If you remember, he loved life. He lived a full life and he wanted every Barbadian from all walks of life to share in the good life — he did not enjoy it selfishly — and I believe that that was the fundamental driving force behind Errol Walton Barrow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER (City of Bridgetown); Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said already about the greatness of the former leader of this political party I have the honour to belong to, the former Prime Minister of Barbados, Errol Walton Barrow.

Sir, little did I know that on May 29, in Independence Square, when I had the honour to introduce Mr. Barrow as the speaker at a political meeting that the Democratic Labour Party held, that I would in fact be the last person to introduce him on a political platform.

Like some other very young Members of this Chamber, I did not have the opportunity to be with Mr. Barrow in his younger days in politics in Barbados. When he led the Democratic Labour Party into office in 1961 I was only 13 years old.

Mr. Speaker, the earliest contact I can recall having with Errol Barrow was as a child in the very late Fifties, or it could have been just after the turn of the Sixties. I remember going to his home in Black Rock with my father, and at the time I saw him as a very strong person, though I could not understand how his voice was so soft and yet I, even at that age, found him to be such a strong person. I came in later times to find out that, as Dame Nita said, he spoke softly, but, in fact, as the honourable Member for St. Michael Central (Mr. C. L. Trotman) said, he was a colossus.

When I decided to get involved in politics, it was as a result of having attended secondary school at a time when, as many have already said, one saw the late Errol Barrow as a giant, not only because he provided free secondary education, but because at the time Barbados seemed to have been going through a period when there was a certain refreshing feeling.

There are certain things that will stay in our minds until we die, and though I agree with the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) that his giving us free secondary education was not just the fact that we did not have to pay school fees for the education, there was a very great impact on my mind as a young man going to

Combermere School just before the Democratic Labour Party took office in 1961. I recall that in the first couple of terms many boys had to go back home, because they did not have the receipt that said that their fees were paid, and where the impact came was in that first term in 1962 when nobody had to go back home, and everybody had an equal opportunity, then and only then, at acquiring a secondary education. We were all equal only then. 7.05 p.m.

Someone said recently that — to use what I call a worn-out cliché — we only tend to pay tribute to people after they have died. I do not agree with that in this case of our great and late leader, because those of us in the generation spanning between the age, I would say, 21 — 40 continually pay tributes to Mr. Barrow, because we have been able to get the benefit of what he has done. We have gotten more of the benefit of what he has done than people who are in older generations.

Mr. Speaker, when I indicated to the Democratic Labour Party that I would be interested in becoming a candidate, and when I was finally nominated by the branch and endorsed by the party, I asked Mr. Barrow one day in the office of the Leader of the Opposition, as he was at the time, if he had any advice to give me as to how I could become a Member of Parliament. He gave me the same advice that he gave the Member for St. George South (Mr. R. P. Byer). The only difference was that he said to me that I should buy good leather shoes, because he wanted to make sure that I had seen everybody. In explaining what he meant, he said that the only way that he believed that I should attain office was to make sure I had seen everyone more than once so that I would have gotten to know them properly. He went on to say that, afterwards, I should continue to wear out these leather shoes, because I should continue to spend time with the people who had given me the honour of representing them. These are some of the things that will stay with me, I believe, forever.

I recall also that, during my campaign, as I guess with most first timers, I felt a little bit of panic, and I felt that I needed the presence of Errol Barrow in what is now my constituency to ensure that I had a good chance of winning. Certainly I was led to believe so by a number of so-called advisers. I recall that, when I asked him if he would join me and take a walk through the constituency, he said to me that I did not need him, that he had had advice that I was already in place to win, in fact, that he had been checking on me and that he knew that I did not need him to walk through the constituency with me. He reminded me after the election that he had said that I did not need him to win, that I could not fool the people and that as long as I was working in the interests of the people, they would ensure that I am always here to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like, like other Members, to offer my sincere condolences and those of the good and kind people of the City of Bridgetown to Mr. Barrow's family and close friends, and indeed to the constituents of St. John, who have lost a great friend and representative.

I thought on hearing of his passing that it would be very strange, and I believe I speak for many people in my age group, to live in a Barbados where there was no Errol Barrow, because for all of my teenage and adult life I have not known of a time in Barbados when there was no Errol Barrow involved in political life.

I join with other Members of this House who have said already that one of our greatest tributes to the memory of Errol Barrow would be to continue those programmes that he had started and to continue on the path that he saw as the right path for Barbados. I would also like at this time to join some of my other colleagues in indicating that I will give my greatest assistance to the new Prime Minister and his Cabinet, knowing full well that we, as a party, will continue along the path that we set out on certainly on May 28 last year.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. W. W. HALL (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Speaker, when the news of the demise of our dearly beloved ex-Prime Minister Errol Walton Barrow was announced, an overwhelming sadness filled our souls. I was in Geneva, and it was some time in the morning, about 1.00 a.m., when I got a telephone call. I must say to you, Sir, that the six hours that followed would be, perhaps, the most agonizing of my life. It was as if the earth was standing still and 'it was again without form and void.

We live in a rather Christian society, Mr. Speaker, and we dare not, therefore, ask why this had to happen. But I think that we are all cognisant of the fact that God is no respecter of persons, and that he also moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform. So, Sir, we accept it.

I am very glad that I have been afforded the opportunity to stand in this rather august Chamber and pay tribute to the greatest Barbadian who ever lived. I speak on behalf of all those Barbadians who have no forum, most particularly the constituents of St. Michael West Central who have mandated me to speak on their behalf. Therefore, Sir, I would like to wish Errol Walton Barrow's family our condolences on behalf of my family and on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael West Central.

Errol Walton Barrow was a gentleman, a great leader of men, an eminent lawyer, a Renaissance man, a

visionary, a walking encyclopedia, even a legend in his own lifetime. Above all these things, he was a humanist. Errol Walton Barrow loved people. Everyone had an experience with him, especially the small man. He felt that small people had character, and character builds a nation.

Sir, although thousands of words have been spoken and written about his achievements and contribution to the development of Barbados, I would like to say to you, Sir, and to everyone within the sound of my voice, that development had a special meaning for Errol Walton Barrow, because it was about people, and this can easily be seen by the enormous contribution he made to the development of social policy, which most of the commentary has not fully emphasized. One would have to be suffering from encephalitis not to understand really the great contribution that he made to development of Barbados. Of course, we know that he was the father of independence. But I would like to zero in on at least four areas in which it can be proven that he was indeed a great humanist: education, health, housing and social security. 7.15 p.m.

As far as education is concerned, I believe that every Barbadian knows of the great contribution he made with respect to free secondary education. But I go further. Errol Walton Barrow felt that it was rather futile to have free secondary education if half the children were starving and, therefore, we saw the advent of free school meals. We also saw the Common Entrance Exam, and this removed the last bastion of favouritism in the selection for secondary schools.

I say that he was a great humanist, and we can prove where Errol Walton Barrow's humanistic tendencies were evident in his housing policy. I will give you, for example, Sir:

- (1) The security of tenure legislation. This had the effect of making sure that people in chattel houses and small holders were given security.
- (2) The Town and Country Planning Legislation, Mr. Speaker, had a tremendous impact in two areas:
 - (a) the Urban Development Corporation, from which emanated the entire building of houses that we see around the Cave Hill areas, and
 - (b) the extensive building through the National Housing Corporation.
- (3) The actual involvement of the state in providing housing for people who could not afford the high rentals of the day.

- (4) A new approach to mortgage lending. This was rather crucial to our development, and it is a clear manifestation of his foresight.

If we were to look at health, Errol Walton Barrow's thrust was towards community-based medicine. He believed that the lack of money should not be an obstacle, and he wanted to ensure freedom of access to health care. When one looked around and saw the health centres and the poly-clinics or multi-purpose clinics, as they can be called, this is ample evidence of his humanistic tendencies.

Even though I have spoken about education, housing and health, it is my considered opinion that in the field of social security Errol Walton Barrow struck a devastating blow. In fact, he completely revolutionised the social security situation in Barbados. When we look at the laws that were passed, we see the good that was done through the sugar workers severance payments scheme, the Sugar Workers Provident Fund Levy, the innovative development of Public Service pensions, for > example, the Casual Employees Pensions Act, I think, of 1964 or 1965 — 1963, I am told — the pension schemes for the statutory boards' employees, and the exemptions under the Income Tax laws to enable firms to offer their employees pension rights by way of superannuation and Provident Fund schemes. I hope, Sir, that our historians will write so that our sons and daughters, and generations yet unborn, will be able to understand fully the true contribution that this great man made to Barbados.

As if the things that I have mentioned in social security were not enough, Mr. Speaker, he was not satisfied. He relentlessly pursued the idea of pensions and social security for all Barbadians. I refer, Mr. Speaker, ' to the universal schemes like the National Insurance Scheme and the Severance Payments Scheme of 1971. Already in 1969, Sir, we had the National Assistance > Act, which saw a rationalisation of national assistance for the first time in 100 years, going back to the early poor relief days. And then, Sir, we saw the rationalisation of the non-contributory old age pensions under a central authority. This had gone back to some 30 or 40 years. He clearly saw then the demographic profile of the elderly in Barbados, he saw that people were living longer, for various reasons, including better health care, and, therefore, he set out to make sure that he would make ample provision for them. I have mentioned these few things to let the people of Barbados know exactly what the position is, and at the risk of repetition, it is only for emphasis.

Mr. Speaker, Errol Walton Barrow's concern for the poor did not extend only for Barbados. He saw the Caribbean as one large family, with its equal share of ^ concerns and problems. I spoke to some of the leaders we were privileged to see here for his funeral, and I wish to say that they all spoke with one voice. They said

that he was brimful of ideas, that he was alert and that his mind was rather fertile and that they were looking forward feverishly to the day when he would lead them in their quest for regional integration.

I say that it is a curious paradox that the Opposition has declared that his leadership was feeble. Only this evening I was shocked to hear that he was hot on top of his Ministry. I can only say that, as far as I can recollect, never have I seen a man so much in control of a body of people as I saw him whilst I was in his Cabinet. He might have been ill, but I dare say he was always in control.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that it is analogous to the situation in the 1960s, when, after another great West Indian had died, Sir Frank Worrell, who, incidentally, was the hero of the late Errol Walton Barrow, they said that the pillar had gone, things that they are still saying today. Their position was it was the time to drag down, to destroy, and to give people the perception that there was a destabilising process going on. I feel, Sir, that the same is true today. But in the case of the 1960s when Sir Frank Worrell was gone, we then saw Sir Gary Sobers and Clive Lloyd coming to the helm. I talk about cricket, Sir, because Errol Walton Barrow* loved cricket, and cricket is the only unifying force in the West Indies. That keeps our people together. So it is applicable to what I am saying, Sir. I am saying that, as soon as Sir Frank had gone, we saw a recommitment of the West Indies team, and they became world champions for some 15 years. Sir Frank Worrell went and we saw Sobers and Lloyd. As Moses went, we saw Joshua, and I think that, now that the Honourable Errol Walton Barrow has gone, we will see the Honourable Sandiford, our present Prime Minister. 7.25 p.m.

You may ask us, Sir, how will we do it? We will do it by focussing on our objectives and concentrating hard on our jobs, and giving unending support to our new Prime Minister, because that is what the Honourable Errol Walton Barrow would have wanted us to do.

In closing, Sir, let me reflect on a few of his sayings so that we will remember exactly the things that he wanted us to do. We may well remember him saying that we should be friends of all and satellites of none. He also said that the world powers should never colonise the West Indian islands,, and his criticism was rather sharp on countries which had dehumanising tendencies. Only a year ago in Independence Square he challenged the people of Barbados and he said to them, "Go and look into the mirror and have a mirror image of yourself." He wanted to know what kind of people we were, he wanted to know many things about us. Now that he has gone, perhaps we can still look into that mirror and pledge that we will be the type of people who will do the

things that would have made Errol Walton Barrow proud and that we will give unending and unswerving support to our peers.

I am aware of the fact that the night is getting very, very late. I know of no Latin phrases like the Member for St. Philip South (Hon. H. A. Blackman), from Virgil. The only one I know that will be quite appropriate now is *nocte appropinquante*, the night is approaching and I must go.

Sir, I think that Errol Walton Barrow has gone to a land that is fairer than day. He has gone to a land of mystery and one day we shall rise with him in the North wind, and, as the song says, Sir, in the sweet bye and bye, we will meet on those beautiful shores.

Thank you very much.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Speaker, it has been a long day, and I only want on behalf of myself, my family and the constituents of St. Philip North to join in this tribute to the late Errol Walton Barrow.

We have heard many things of the man. We have heard of him as a great scholar, a Caribbean person and a leader, and we have heard of him as the founder and father of independence. All of these things have been said, very well put, and, over the last ten days, Mr. Speaker, I have had time to reflect.

I have had the opportunity to share some of his quieter moments, and I believe I got to know the man quite well. As a result I know he not only spoke, but he was a man of action. My greatest tribute to his memory would be by my actions in my contribution to the people of Barbados in the future, and this, Mr. Speaker, I will pledge to do in whatever way I can as my personal contribution to the memory of Errol Walton Barrow.

I just want to associate myself with this Resolution, and the people of St. Philip and the people of St. John, who have lost a friend and a leader. May God rest him.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Speaker, over the past two weeks my mind kept traversing those 22 years of close association with Mr. Barrow, as Minister, politician and lawyer. It all began one Sunday morning when I received a call from the Prime Minister inviting me to meet him at Four Roads in St. John. The appointment was kept and thus began that association. Looking back, I would say I cherish those years probably as the most demanding, the most challenging, and the most memorable years of my life. I was not in Barbados for the 1961 General Election, neither was I in Barbados

at the time of the introduction of free secondary education, which many people regard as the high point of Mr. Barrow's contribution to Barbados. But I am thankful that I was on stage for the better part of Mr. Barrow's virtuoso performance as chief servant of Barbados, just as Mr. Uriah Butler of Trinidad used to term himself the chief servant of Trinidad.

The history of modern Barbados is coincident with the political work of Mr. Barrow. Free secondary education, free university education, social security such as we have today, severance payment, better housing, a better deal for the black boy and the black girl in this country, all of these achievements were made possible because of the interaction between Mr. Barrow and the people. He was engrossed body and soul in the promotion and enhancement of the welfare of the people, and they, in turn, loved him for what they perceived and understood that he was doing for them.

Barbados under Mr. Barrow was a transformation of the Barbados that existed before his time, and I often relate an experience that troubled me greatly at the time. It was in 1959 when I decided that I would further my studies in the United Kingdom. I returned to Barbados then from St. Vincent to make my travel arrangements, and I went into the shipping office in Broad Street, which office was on the floor above eye level. I was floored by the sea of white faces that confronted me then. That was 1959, but when I returned to Barbados in 1963, nearly four years later, I was pleased to see that the racial representation was more evenly spread in all the offices in Barbados. I will venture to say, Sir, that the late Prime Minister had a hand in this.

Racial bigotry was offensive to him and he sought throughout his life and through his work in this country to establish racial harmony among the people. To that end, he did have some success, but yet, Sir, much remains to be done, and it is now left to us who remain to carry on that noble work. 7.35 p.m.

Despite his monumental achievements, he was not always given full credit for what he had done. Other persons, Sir, as an example, were given credit for a very notable 1971 election victory. As the Honourable Prime Minister knows, and to a lesser extent the Honourable Member for St. Michael West (Hon. B. M. Taitt), it was Mr. Barrow himself who played the pivotal role in the preparatory work and the eventual victory of that time. Of course, he was too humble then to claim credit for himself.

Even more particularly, Mr. Barrow is universally acclaimed as one of the architects of CARIFTA. I have not seen since his death, and even before his death, the facts of the birth of CARIFTA chronicled. But the fact

is, and I say it here for the record, that CARIFTA was the brain-child of Mr. Barrow, and it was an idea that he then sold to Mr. V. C. Bird and Mr. Forbes Burnham about CARIFTA that developed into CARICOM. *

It was the measure of the man that he did not blow his own trumpet. Never once can I recall him saying on a public platform that he was responsible for free secondary education. Not once have I heard him say, "I have given you independence". There were several others, of course, who did it for him, but not once did he do this. It was immaterial to him whether or not he was given credit for these things, so long as the work was put in progress and was carried out.

He was very quick to see when things are done in the interest of the people. I remember well that in about 1970, when I was Minister of Home Affairs and presented a paper for a fairer devolution of property on death of an individual, he was very quick to embrace it and even to improve it and, today we have the Succession Act which is, perhaps, Sir, one of the better pieces of social legislation that we have in this country.

In social life he was gentle and soft-spoken, but he had little tolerance for those persons whom he had cause to suspect. Those of us who were privileged to attend the London Conference on Independence for Barbados in 1966 — and there are only two of us remaining now in this Chamber, that is the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and myself — may remember his assessment of a Mr. Fred Lee, then Secretary of State for the Colonies. Not one of us who was present will ever forget the manner in which he devastated Mr. Lee in his own defence. It was brilliance at its superlative, and I am sure that we who were present, irrespective of our politics, were very proud on that occasion to be Barbadians.

Mr. Barrow stood ten feet tall. That was the man. I was a proud Barbadian when a Physician/Consultant at the Charing Cross Group of Hospitals, a medical examiner in the United Kingdom, once remarked to me that Mr. Barrow was a marvellous man and how he wished that he could have as Prime Minister in England someone like Mr. Barrow. At all stages the Prime Minister built his bridges, and, putting them together, he has constructed in this country a monument more lasting than bronze.

I do not think that we really need to build a monument to the late Prime Minister. I think he has himself built the monument, and, in my opinion, it will last forever.

The people of St. Michael North loved and revered Mr. Barrow. We will miss him. I will miss him. The House has suffered a loss. The nation has suffered a loss. We

must all strive to continue to build on those solid foundations which Mr. Barrow himself has laid.

To his sorrowing relatives and friends, on my own behalf, as I have already done, and on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael North, I extend to them our deepest sympathy.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): It comes down to this, that today we meet and 25 Honourable Members, together with Your Honour, will pay tribute, and have paid tribute, to a great parliamentarian, a great man, a great Prime Minister, a great Barbadian, a great West Indian, their friend, their mentor, their foe sometimes, their leader, and, Sir, we try in our little ways to say how deeply is felt the gaping hole that will for, perhaps, as long as we live, remain in the memory of things we cherish, things we like, things we love.

Mr. Speaker, we would have tried today to close the chapter of mourning, as it were, for this great man who will be remembered by each of us in our different ways. We, in this Chamber, have the honour to speak for the conglomeration of people put together and called the Nation of Barbados. I, for example, am able to speak for the people of St. Michael West as a single voice in this Chamber with all the other voices. I believe, Sir, that today, too, I can speak for what has been in a moment of jest called the 28th constituency in New York, but, really, for all the Barbadians outside of Barbados who also have felt, and will continue to feel, the great loss.

This is the kind of speech which one would prefer never to have to make. One rehearses it in one's mind and one knows exactly what one will say, but when the actual moment comes, there is the realisation that one could never put into words with any exactitude the precise feeling of devastation, the precise feeling of some fear, because a reality has occurred that is so large in the mind as to be incapable of explanation. 7.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, each one of us who has had the benefit of Christian training is aware that death is not the end, that it is the beginning of another journey; and each one of us who has lost a loved one is always comforted and told that we can rejoice in the life that has occurred and that we can be happy that the soul of the dear departed will move on to a higher plane, and that we must not be like men without hope, and so on. But, Mr. Speaker, the final realisation that the cold hand of death has removed someone from our midst who has affected our respective lives so fundamentally still leaves us numb.

Mr. Speaker, there will be no tribute that will adequately sum up and record the influence which Errol Walton Barrow has had on all of us as individuals. Certainly I could not essay to speak the words to capture

the glimpses, to feel the feelings commensurate with having had the opportunity, nay, the privilege, of sharing what my colleague from St. Michael South Central (Hon. Dr. R. C. Haynes) calls "the good life," or sharing what my colleague from St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) refers to as "the economic thoughts" of this very special individual of the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, time requires that one be as brief as possible, and therefore one must focus on some point or two that are germane to capturing the essence of the man. The two things that come to my mind are (1), his supreme commitment to loyalty, and (2), the vastness of his intellect.

Mr. Speaker, let me take the second one first. I came to know Mr. Barrow in an official capacity. I say "know" here in the sense of knowing him. I had been aware of him before then. He was a lawyer for a man who was the mentor of everyone who lived within two square miles of a place called Fairfield Cross Road in Tudor Bridge. That man, who was the brother of Mr. Barrow's best friend, was a shopkeeper, himself the son of a shopkeeper, and he used to be reported by the police religiously every Saturday night, and sometimes on Friday nights as well, because he would invariably keep his shop open beyond the prescribed hour. Mr. Barrow was his lawyer and friend, and we who knew nothing about the law — we were children at the time — knew that a great battle of wits used to go on between Mr. Barrow, the lawyer, and the magistrates, some of whom were not trained in the law, on the interpretation of something called a statute. We knew that Mr. Barrow would continually fight these people in the courts, and would continually win. We knew not why he won or how he won, but we knew he had to be a great man, because subsequently when the shopkeeper had domestic problems and Mr. Barrow took on the mantle of being the lawyer for his wife against the shopkeeper, the shopkeeper said: "If it were anybody else but him," and said words which would not be fitting at this point.

Mr. Speaker, that was the picture one had of him, and then there was another picture of him driving in a thing called a "Mayflower." It was a blue square car — they tell me it was black, but my recollection is that it was blue, but what difference does it make? — and the fact is that it was the only square car of its kind in our neighbourhood. He used to drive it with his little children looking out, and he always seemed at peace with the world and as if he owned the world.

Then I went my way. And then we came to the time in New York when, for reasons which I still do not understand, I was foxed into becoming a representative for Barbados of the Development Board. I came down to Barbados, complete in my suit, and they took me to see the Premier. I went to Government Headquarters,

walked into the office and there, for the first time, I came face to face with a real live Premier. He listened and made a couple of perfunctory remarks, and then, as I was about to leave, complete in the joy that I had met a Premier and that he was satisfied, although I could not tell from what he said, he turned and asked me; "Do you think we are going to get any industries in Barbados?". I did not know what to say, except that I was very certain that we were not only going to get one, but many, and I left.

About three months later the telephone rang - it was night time, long after the office should have been closed — and a voice said: "Could I speak to Mr. Taitt?" and I said "Yes, speaking," and he said what I consider to be his classic words "This is Errol".

I did not know who it was, because I did not expect that gentleman to have been calling me, and I asked, "Errol who?" and he said "Errol Barrow". I asked, "Where are you, Sir?", and he said, "I am at the airport." We had had a black-out in New York and he said, "I am not going to be flying for a while. What are you doing?" I said, of course, "Nothing, Sir, if you want to see me." He came down and spent two and a half hours talking about plans and programmes and what he had hoped for Barbados, and that was the beginning of my knowledge of the great vastness of the intellect of the man.

It would take a long time to speak of the numerous times after that when he would sit either in a hotel room in New York or in my house in New York, or somebody else's house in Brooklyn, and always he would be talking and teaching and, yes, listening. I think it is fair to say that his intellect taught one how to learn, how to listen. He always heard everything that was said by everybody if it was of consequence, and particularly if it was of no consequence. He had the capacity to allow everyone within the ambit of his smile to believe, and, finally, to discover, that he was sincere. Mr. Speaker, all of those times inspired greatness among all the people from Barbados who came into touch with him.

Finally, he asked if I would come down to Barbados and do some work. At first I said no, and then he asked again subsequently through the medium of the now Deputy Prime Minister and I said; "No, but yes", a story which perhaps should remain untold. Then I came to Barbados in 1971 and worked in a political campaign, my first. It was enlightening and enthralling, not because of the excitement, because I could not go on the political platform at that time, but because of the manner in which Mr. Barrow handled all of the people who came to see him, the literally thousands of people, or so it seemed, who walked into his official residence, Culloden Farm.

There was a single policeman who would stand there as the people passed. Those who looked dangerous, those who did not look so dangerous, and those who just came, all streamed in, each one giving him advice and he

hearing every one of them, it seemed to me, from morning till night, Mr. Speaker. What I am saying is that he truly never lost the common touch for, even in the midst of a political campaign when everyone was working feverishly, he found time to discuss what to others might appear to be irrelevant things. 7.55 p.m.

I have heard my colleagues, the younger ones, as it were, discussing what he said to them as candidates. I well recall what he was saying then to people as candidates, and the two voices are basically the same. His message always was that you should not be a candidate, you should be a representative — if you strive to be a representative you are bound to be a good Member of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I have other glimpses of the man. I would call those glimpses Herculean, heroic. I saw him[^] himself, building an auditorium. It is strange to say, but he built it himself, including mixing mortar from time to time. He built it with almost no money. He is the only man I know who has been able to raise mortgages from among people that had no money. To this day almost each honourable Member in here has a stake in the auditorium and gets paid dividends, because the mortgages were determined by the man himself when everybody had said it just could not be done.

Then when we came to name the Auditorium he would not allow for the Democratic Labour Party to form part of the name, because he stated at the beginning and at the end that the Auditorium was not for the DLP, the Auditorium was for all Barbados — it was a gift from the DLP to the people of Barbados.

We saw him running the dances by himself, or so it seemed, we saw him editing a paper, we saw him writing an article over and over again, or somebody else writing it and he editing it, and we saw him holding his opinion against an entire meeting. Those of us who sat with him in these circumstances know it was entirely possible — the Prime Minister can vouch for this — for him to have an opinion against the entire Council and by the sheer vastness of his intellect, he would either convince the rest of the assemblage or agree to disagree. Mr. Speaker, Herculean, heroic, is how I describe the way in which he would take on the struggle.

Mr. Speaker, I am probably the only one here on my side who can state categorically that I know what it is to be defeated by him in a free and fair election. The joy of losing is not one that anybody can look forward to, but, at the end of the day, one was glad that one had lost honourably, because one could not conceive of what the consequences might have been had one won. One is able to say that now because Mr. Barrow himself, in the aftermath of that classic discussion, was the first to point out that he would have been mortified if we had not had that

struggle. He said, and I can say it now, that he was glad, finally, that the party itself could show to the rest of the world that it was truly a democratic party, that we could have the kind of struggle we did and end it as honourably as we did.

Mr. Speaker, I said one of his great attributes was his loyalty. Often, in both New York and in Barbados, one saw this man of high stature moving among small places looking for someone whom he had known for a long time, and whom he regarded as a friend for a long time. One saw him, for example, discovering, to his chagrin and dismay, that a person whom he had known 30 years before was living in circumstances unbefitting the human condition, and one saw him with tears as he sought out that person and restored them. One heard his sister in the eulogy talking about how he roused her to provide a place to sleep for persons in his constituency who had suffered from disaster, and one understood as she spoke how this tall man could become so simply astoundingly, joyfully caring about ordinary people, sometimes at great sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, the Jews were his friends. The Indians were his friends. The Syrians were his friends. The Barbadians were his friends. He regarded all Barbadians in the same way. He seemed to understand well the meaning of the word integration. And so, Mr. Speaker, it was not surprising that they came from near and far. They came from the country, they came from the hovels, and they came from the towns to pay him homage when he died.

But has he died, Mr. Speaker? He has asked that his ashes be strewn across the Caribbean, as I believe his spirit will live among us "and will be strewn, if you will pardon the expression, throughout the Caribbean with those ashes.

I believe that the ideals which Errol Barrow has set, and which are embodied in the Principles and Objectives of the Democratic Labour Party, are ideals which by themselves will be sufficient to carry this nation well into the 21st Century. I believe that what the Democratic Labour Party has as its best tribute is to be true to the ideals that he set out for us in the founding of the Party. But, I believe, even more that the nation can be true to itself if it follows those ideals.

Those ideals can be stated in simple language, that this is a society whose cake, no matter what is the size of it, ought to be shared equally, each according to his merit. That is the essence of the ideals which he has left for us. I believe that the colleagues whom I have the honour to walk among and share with are committed to those ideals.

And so, as I look at the nation which my children will inherit, I have no difficulty whatsoever, Mr. Speaker,

when I say that Errol Barrow has left a legacy for Barbados and the Caribbean which we can wear. He has left a mantle which my colleague can wear with pride, because we in the Democratic Labour Party have had the great privilege and the great honour to have walked and talked, and worked with this great Barbadian.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, it would have been better if it were not necessary for this speech to be made. But since it had to be, let me say to his sorrowing relatives, to his friends and to our colleagues in the party that we must not grieve so much. We must thank God for the privilege of having known him and thank God for his life and witness. We know that he has gone to the Great Beyond, satisfied that he ran the course, fought the fight, did his battle and can lay down his arms in peace.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I acknowledge the varied and many tributes this evening, I, too, want to share with you my sorrow and grief at the passing of our late Prime Minister. Repetition will not be my lot this evening, but I choose to associate myself with those worthy and charitable contributions made today in respect of this great man. I make this expression as a means of showing my appreciation and gratitude for the service that he has rendered to this country. 8.05 pjm.

I, too, like some of my colleagues, can think of the magnetic influence he had on the minds of people. His great imagination has brought me beyond my dreams to where I am today. Such a man must be remembered as one who could inspire and lead a nation.

The late honourable Prime Minister was a believer in parliamentary democracy. In debate, he was articulate and forceful, but he always debated within the confines of parliamentary procedure. He abhorred those who dragged innocent people into debate without any fair reason. I hope for this Parliament that that will be a lasting memory to us in debates in the future.

He was also a lover of Parliament and a lover of serious debate. He has always dismissed the notion that Parliament was a talk shop. He saw it as a place for serious business and for committing oneself to the interests and service of the country.

Far beyond that was his association with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He became a prominent figure in that organisation, and, once again he was able to demonstrate his vast knowledge, skills and ability in participating in debates to the enlightenment not only of this small country, but to all the other Parliamentary Association members. It is, therefore, in this

vein that I want us to believe that he has done well, not only for this small nation but for the Commonwealth.

I believe that in his passing he will be sadly missed. I have already missed his presence. I am starting to miss the feeling of a father who has been able to guide his children in the right direction.

I am certain that Parliament will be poorer for his passing. As other Members have said, he has taught us well, he has showed us well, and I believe that parliamentary institutions in Barbados will go from strength to strength as long as we adhere to the style, manner, and forthright way of his modest debating approach which I hope to see in the future. I recommend to the younger Parliamentarians that they take time to look at Hansard. Well documented in it are the contributions that he made to every institution. I am sure it will serve you well.

On behalf of my family and the members of the St. Michael North West constituency, I want to extend sincerest condolences to his family.

I now request you to stand for two minutes as a mark of the passing of this Resolution in this Chamber.

The House stood in silence for two minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall instruct the Clerk to pass on to the relatives copies of this Resolution.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, following on the passing of this Resolution, I should like to suggest that a bound volume of the record of today's tributes be presented to the family of the late Mr. Barrow.

ADDRESS TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Address for a Writ for an election to fill vacancy in Constituency of St. John.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, there is one other item of business that we wish to conclude before we rise, Sir, and that relates to an Address from the Honourable House of Assembly to His Excellency The Governor-General.

Each one of us has paid our tribute with deepest sincerity and conviction on the passing of our late revered Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow. But his passing has created a vacancy in the membership of this Honourable Chamber. The laws of our country indicate the procedures that should be followed to ensure that such a vacancy may be filled. I refer to the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 12, Clause 5(2), which states:

"Where a casual vacancy, whether caused by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, arises in the membership of the House of Assembly, an address shall forthwith be passed and forwarded to the Governor-General asking him to issue a writ for an election to fill the vacancy."

It is not our wish, Sir, that the constituency of St. John should be without a representative for any undue period of time. Our Constitution provides that vacancies should be filled within a three month period following upon the existence of a vacancy, in this case by the death of an honourable Member. 8.15

In pursuit, therefore, of the procedures, I am commending this Address to this Honourable Chamber:

"WHEREAS the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, Member of this Honourable House for the Constituency of Saint John, died on the 1st day of June, 1987.

"This Honourable House presents our humble duty and asks, pursuant to the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 12, that Your Excellency issue a writ for an election to fill the vacancy."

I beg to move that this Address do now pass and be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General, and just as we have paid these tributes in this Honourable Chamber, I will invite all Honourable Members, including the Opposition, to come into St. John and pay similar tributes to the memory, work and life of the late representative of that constituency.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: At this point, Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 23, 1987 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 23, 1987 at 12 noon was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 8.20 p.m.

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