

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 - 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, March 8, 1988'

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 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 and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
" 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 and Minister of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration and Leader of the House)

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

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, B.A., M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works)

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 Education and Culture)

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P. Mr. E. BOURNE Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, M.D. Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, B.A., (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office) 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. Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.

Prayers were led by Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 1988.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber for Tuesday, March 1, 1988 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve the amendment to Parliamentary Resolution No. 36 of 1986 which gave approval for the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land at Drax Hall in the parish of St. George.

A Resolution to approve of the publication in the *Official Gazette* of a notification under Section 9(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, declaring the abandonment of the acquisition of certain parcels of land at Rockley in the parish of Christ Church.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS PRIME
MINISTER RE FUNDS FOR TRAINING
COURSES FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE BEING
REQUESTED BY THE BARBADOS INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY, THE BARBADOS EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION AND THE NATIONAL TRAINING BOARD

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 24, 1987, when the House of Assembly approved a supplementary request under Head 34 — Ministry of Education and Culture — for funds to cover, *inter alia*, the cost of training courses which are being conducted by the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity; the Barbados Employers Confederation, and the National Training Board, I gave the assurance that if the Committee approved the request and the House subsequently passed it, no funds would have been released to those bodies until a review of the programmes of training had been undertaken and a statement made to the House on the particular matter.

2. The programmes have been reviewed, and I am satisfied that the funds should be released for the following purposes:

- (a) *The Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity*
 - (i) To provide small business training and counselling for at least 100 businesses;
 - (ii) To provide supervisory and management training for about 1650 participants;
 - (iii) To provide training for 200 unemployed* youths to equip them with the necessary skills to start and manage their own businesses.
- (b) *The Barbados Employers Confederation*

The funds are required by the Barbados Employers Confederation to assist with the expenses involved in conducting twelve (12) courses for departmental managers and supervisors. The subject areas are:

(i) Personnel Administration (ii)

Industrial Relations (iii)

Occupational Safety (c) *National*

Training Board

(i) *Skills Training Programme*

The National Training Board currently conducts thirty-seven (37) different classes at sixteen (16) different centres for 370 students.

(ii) *Apprenticeship Programmes*

The number of apprentices is now 261 and the Board has to pay part of the wages of the apprentices in addition to the other costs involved in administering the scheme.

3. When the Training Levy was introduced in 1981, it was stated that the funds would be used as follows:-

- (a) to finance the Skills Training Programme and other related training organised by the National Training Board and other approved Organisations;
- (b) to provide a revolving fund to be used by employers for various approved training programmes;
- (c) to finance supervisory management and small businesses training programmes through the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity.

4. Traditionally, the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, the Barbados Employers Confederation and the National Training Board have been provided with funds from the Training Levy to assist them in meeting the cost of their various training programmes. However, the Training Levy is now being paid into the Consolidated Fund and that is why it has been necessary for us to seek the appropriate provision under the Ministry of Education and Culture.

5. Having examined the programmes and concluded that they are in keeping with the Government's policy on training, I propose to release the funds for the purposes indicated. 12.25 p.m.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the response to Parliamentary Question No. 29 asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East, is ready.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Sport, I give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 59, asked by the honourable Member for Christ Church East, is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the sitting.

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

The question that the named Standing Orders be suspended for the rest of the sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Order No. 3 was called — To move that the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the island.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88,
No. 51 - \$3 741 421

HEAD 13 — PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE—\$2 196

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, in respect of Head 13, the sum of \$2 196 is being requested to supplement the provision already provided in the Current Estimates, that sum being \$14 500. The sum is for the payment of travelling allowances for the person occupying the post of

Development Planning Officer in the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

I beg to move that the sum of \$2 196 for Head 13 stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 13 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 16 — MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE —\$47288

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$22 174 to supplement Subhead 9 — Object No. 2 — Other Personal Emoluments — is required. This is as a result of the removal of the salary scale Z.39, and consequential funds are required because the officers in that particular category in the Ministry of the Public Service would require these funds.

In respect of Object No. 11 — Maintenance of Property, the sum of \$25 114 is required. This is in respect of the servicing of equipment in the Ministry of the Public Service, specifically the Printing Department. This is for the ongoing work of that particular Department.

I beg to move that these sums stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 16 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 — MINISTRY OF LEGAL
AFFAIRS — \$16 652

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, under Head 28 — Subhead 3, the amount voted has proved inadequate for the year because of the high incidence of acting appointments in the Legal Division. This sum is required to supplement the commitments for the current financial year.

I move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 28 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 29 — PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS —
\$903

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, the Addendum to this matter is full and

explanatory, and unless there are any questions which anyone wishes to enquire about, I beg to move that Head 29 stand part.

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

The question that Head 29 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 — MINISTRY OF HEALTH — \$1997297

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, this matter is fairly straightforward, and unless some honourable Member has a question, which I will be happy to answer, I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

HEAD 39 — MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Chairman, this Head is rather straightforward. In the main, it is to cover expenses which were brought over from last year, and in one instance, that is, under Object No. 6, it is to cover travel expenses for the conduct of the manpower survey. It is quite straightforward as set out in the Addendum.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

HEAD 42 — MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN (St. Michael East): Mr. Chairman, this is a request for funds to supplement Subheads 1,3,5 and 6, largely as a result of commitments which had been made during the past financial year and which were not covered in the present financial year.

Under Subhead 1 — General Administration — there is a request for supplies and materials involving stationery and other supplies which are normally used by the drafting section and engineers of the Ministry.
12.35 p.m.

Item 11 is a request for \$8 000, which deals with the maintenance of property. That relates to minor repairs within the Ministry of Transport and Works.

Under Item 25 — Plant, Equipment and Furniture — is a request for a sum of \$20 000, which goes towards payment of outstanding debts in respect of this area to the Central Purchasing Department.

Under Subhead 2, this expenditure incurred is a consequence of the breakdown of vehicles in the Work Shop and largely as a result of the increase in the demand by other Ministries of Government for the services of the Work Shop. Under normal circumstances, the Ministries are required to meet the costs incurred for these repairs, but this has not been done, and it has become necessary to supplement this particular subhead.

Under Subhead 5 — Maintenance of Public Buildings, this is a consequence, again, of the demand on the part of Government Departments for repair services. Very often, when a request is made to repair a particular Government building, it is found that after work is started, the extent of the repairs needed is far greater than was visible before the work actually began.

Subhead 6 deals with maintenance of road, car parks and bus stands. This additional money is due to increased work with respect to making more parking space available to persons who travel to the Bridgetown areas and have been caught by the enforcement of the Traffic Regulations.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 52,
\$5 874 770

HEAD 73 — MINISTRY OF FINANCE — \$5000000

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, this particular supplement of \$5 million is required as part of the arrangements for the liquidation of the outstanding debts of Caribbean Airways.

Ever since 1982, this company, in pursuit of its objectives of providing air transport services to and from this country, and in relation to designated routes, has been going about its lawful businesses. But in so doing, a number of debts have been incurred, and the Barbados

, National Bank has been providing financial services for this troubled airline.

The debts incurred by Caribbean Airways amount to some \$40 million. The airline ceased operating air transportation services in 1987 and the Government undertook responsibility for the debts outstanding.

Of the \$40 million outstanding with the Barbados National Bank, the Government proposes that a cash payment to the Barbados National Bank of \$5 million should be made, that the outstanding amount of \$35 million be paid through the provision of debentures for that amount, and that these debentures would mature over a period of ten years, with \$3.4 million or one-tenth of the principal becoming payable each year. The interest rate of the debentures will rise from 5 per cent for the one year debenture to 10 per cent for the ten year debenture.

These, Sir, are the financial arrangements which the Government is proposing to make with the Barbados National Bank for the defrayment of the outstanding amounts chalked up by Caribbean Airways.

I, therefore, beg to move that the sum of \$5 million for Head 73 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Just one question. Can the Prime Minister give us the month by month losses of Caribbean Airways from September 1986 until July 1987? 12.45 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): I can give them now.

Mr. Chairman, Caribbean Airways sustained no losses between 1974 and 1981. After Laker Airways folded and the Government assumed responsibility for that airline, from February 1982 until January 1987 the subsidies totalled \$25 million, yet the liabilities were increased.

Sir, as at 31st March, 1986, the net loss during that year was \$14.3 million. The accumulated deficit to the 31st March, 1986 was \$40.7 million.

After the airline had ceased flying, between 1st April until 31st January 1988, the company's financial statement shows a net profit of \$776 363, thereby indicating that it was flying that had been causing the losses.

The question that Head 73 — Ministry of Finance — stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 81 - MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT \$51 592

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Chairman, again this is only to cover expenses brought over from last year.

I beg to move that Head 81 — Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development — stand part.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 81 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 84 — MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS — \$250 000

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN (St. Michael East): Mr. Chairman, this is a request to supplement the Capital Estimates in the Ministry of Transport and Works.

Under Head 84 — Subhead 1, Item 26 — the request for \$250 000 is to go towards the services of consultants who were employed by the Ministry during the course of the year. The sum of \$140 000 will be paid to Kenneth Gardner Associates Limited, of parliamentary fame, or infamy, as the case may be. The sum of \$50 000 goes to Mahy, Ridley and Chadderton Consultant Engineers for work done, and a miscellaneous assortment of other professional services, quantity surveyors, architects and soon, accounts for the remaining \$60 000 of that amount of \$250 000.

Subhead 2, Item 24, is a request for a sum of \$75 000, which debt was incurred by the delivery of a truck with a hydraulic lift which was absolutely necessary for the expeditious execution of work in the Government Electrical Department. This sum of \$75 000 is the price of the truck so purchased.

Under Item 25, the sum of \$177 000 is requested for the purchase of equipment. This item deals with disbursement under the World Bank Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project, provision under which was made for the purchase of equipment for the Ministry of Transport and Works, and this sum of money is needed to supplement the amount voted for the purchase of such equipment.

Subhead 15 deals with Highway Rehabilitation (Force Account). Under the World Bank Project there are two dimensions. One involved work done by the Ministry of Transport and Works, which is considered work done on the Force Account, and work done under international

•competitive bidding, which is work done by private contractors who tender under conditions of international competition.

The sum of money requested under this item involves the structures where \$254 047 was brought over from the previous financial year and was not accounted for in the Current Estimates, and this is designed to supplement that particular head.

Subhead 17 deals with highway improvement. This Head needs to be supplemented because of the large and unprecedented number of emergency calls for work to be done on highways as a result of the high level of precipitation experienced during the past year.

The sum of \$194 000, approximately, involves \$77 578 which goes towards the payment of wages and \$3 480 for National Insurance Contributions and \$120 to the Transport Levy, and \$112 398 is the actual work itself including materials. 12.55 p.m.

I beg to move that Head 84 stand part.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88, No. 53 —
\$648 441

HEAD 50 — POST OFFICE — \$648 441

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN (St. Michael East): Mr. Chairman, the Addendum to this Supplementary Resolution is self-explanatory, and in the circumstances, it would be superfluous for me to repeat what is here stated.

I beg to move that Head 50 stand part of the Resolution.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 50 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice today of two Resolutions. I have been in consultation with the honourable Members on the other side about these, and they have no objection, Sir, to their being done today.

Sir, with the approval of the House, I now seek leave for these Resolutions to be debated today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Since there are no objections, then leave is granted. The Honourable Member can proceed.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION No. 36 RE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT DRAX HALL, ST. GEORGE

Order No. 4 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the amendment to Parliamentary Resolution No. 36 of 1986 which gave approval for the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land at Drax Hall in the parish of St. George.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, in March 1986, parliamentary approval was given for the compulsory acquisition from Drax Hall Plantation of this parcel of land containing 23 263.8 square metres. It was intended that the land should be used for recreational facilities in the Drax Hall area.

Subsequent to this, Mr. Speaker the whole contour of the land changed. What we were acquiring turned out to be slightly different from what was actually approved in the House of Assembly. Certain narrow strips of land had to be added on to what was approved, and we consequently obtained a revised survey plan. It should be noted, however, that there was no change in the area of land being acquired, just certain adjustments were made.

A Resolution amending the one which had been passed in March 1986 was prepared for submission to Parliament in April 1986. That Resolution was based on advice given by the then Attorney-General, who stated that this course of action should be taken inasmuch as the adjustment to the boundaries and shape of the parcel of land to be acquired had resulted in the creation of an entirely different parcel of land than that which was contemplated by the earlier survey.

I have my own views on this situation, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to speak about them unless I am pressed.

Before submitting the Resolution to Parliament, the Ministry of Housing wrote to the then Ministry responsible for Sport, which was the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development, and it was decided that the matter should be resubmitted to Cabinet to be ratified. The proposal to ratify the acquisition was finally presented to the Cabinet

on November 12, 1987. At that time, the Ministry of Tourism and Sport also submitted the relevant Resolution, as advised by the Cabinet Secretary, in order to save time.

At that meeting, the Cabinet deferred a decision for the Ministry of Housing and Lands to negotiate with the owners of Drax Hall Plantation so that we could try to see if we could obtain the land by private treaty. We did speak with the owners of the land and actually came to a sale price of \$45 988.88. Unfortunately, it was discovered after, that no title deed existed for the property, and on February 11, 1988, the Cabinet was asked to approve the acquisition of the land at Drax Hall, 5.8 acres, through the Land Acquisition Act, because we could not get it by private treaty, and parliamentary approval is now being sought for the compulsory acquisition of the 5.8 acres, or 2.326 hectares, of land at Drax Hall. 1.05 p.m.

I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER(St. George South): Mr. Speaker, I would not normally have said anything on this matter, except for the fact that I hardly get the opportunity to say anything.

I want to know from the Minister what is the current state of the acquisition, and I am asking this question for a very good reason, that reason being that sometime last year, I received a telephone call from the attorneys for this estate. They were in a state of uncertainty as to the present situation *vis-a-vis* the acquisition of this parcel of land, how far along the road the compulsory acquisition had gone.

It appears that the legal ends which have to be tied up are in some way interfering with the development of these grounds. I know for a fact that the Drax Hall Sports and Cultural Group, the only new group that uses the playing field at this moment, is very anxious to go ahead and do a little self help. They are very anxious to play a major role in the development of that playing field, but they have not attempted any large scale efforts because they themselves are uncertain as to the current state of the acquisition.

I am very glad today that we have come back to the House to have this matter clarified, because I am certain that, very soon, the matter will be put beyond the question, that ownership would vest in the Crown, and that those persons who are anxious to aid the work of the National Sports Council, that is those persons of Drax Hall, would be able to do that.

I am very glad that the residents of that area are getting a playing field. I know that they will be putting it to good use, because they are getting themselves organised very well. During the coming financial year hard courts will be installed, which assurance was given by the Minister of Tourism and Sports, the grounds will then be put to more and better use. I will be very glad if the Minister can tell me what is the current state of the acquisition of land at Drax Hall.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE (St. James North): Since we are on acquisition for recreational purposes, I would like to say that I am pleased to see that the Government is making some headway in its effort to provide recreational facilities for the residents in various districts in this country. I know that they are pursuing an acquisition at Hoyte's Village, and I would like to know, even though it does not fall within the four corners of this particular Resolution, if it is possible that the Minister can give us some idea as to how far negotiations have reached.

Mr. SPEAKER: Which negotiation are you talking about?

Laughter.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: We are on the subject of negotiations for recreational purposes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Pass on quickly.

Laughter.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: It would be very much appreciated, because I know, Mr. Speaker, that my constituents at the Hoyte's Village would very much want me to raise this question, and I am putting it for what it is worth.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, responding to the honourable Member for St. George South (Mr. R. P. Byer), this Resolution, as it says, is acquiring the land compulsorily, and I do not think there is a question of the folks in St. George not getting the land.

As you can see, we had already come to an agreement about price and all of that, but we could not settle because the title deeds were missing, and we have now come to Parliament to vest the land in the Crown. So I think that the residents of Drax Hall can be assured that the land will be theirs.

In respect of Hoyte's Village, the Resolution for that should be coming to Parliament very shortly. It has already passed through Cabinet.

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

ABANDONMENT OF LAND ACQUISITION AT ROCKLEY, CHRIST CHURCH

Order No. 5 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the publication in the Official Gazette of a notification under section 9(1) of the Land Acquisition Act Cap. 228 declaring the abandonment of the acquisition of certain parcels of land at Rockley in the parish of Christ Church.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): On a point of order, Sir: Mr. Speaker, I would like to declare an interest in this, since two of the parcels concern clients I represented in private enterprise.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, in November 1981 Government completed compulsory acquisition proceedings in respect of six parcels of land at Rockley, Christ Church, and together the lands made up 5 345 square metres. The lands were acquired for the purpose of providing a beach facility for the accommodation of beach vendors.

I have my views about this, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to be critical today, but that seems strange to me, especially when it is realised that Town Planning Department had stated up front that it was not going to allow any buildings on that beach.

An offer of \$10.76 per square metre, which is about \$1.00 per square foot, was made to the owners of the above-mentioned six parcels of land. This was made on the basis that planning permission had been refused for the erection of any structure on the lands, and I am still trying to discover why the Government decided that it was going to purchase these six parcels of land when you cannot build anything on them. I have my own views as well, and if I am pressed today everyone will hear. 1.15 p.m.

Government's offer was however refused by all the owners. All the owners said that \$10.76 was too low and they claimed that the land should obtain between \$15 and \$25 per square foot. They gave the argument that the areas of land acquired had been severed from larger areas by Highway 7, but they were valuable beach lands.

This matter was recently reviewed by the Government and we decided not to go ahead with the acquisition, because we could not see a very valid reason for acquiring these parcels of land.

Mr. Speaker, I move that this Resolution to abandon the acquisition of land at Rockley, Christ Church do now pass.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, let me declare an interest, since I represent one of the parties on a legal basis in this matter, and with the well-known firm of Franklin and Franklin had offered advice in relation to the acquisition and the price. But I also have a different interest as the representative of the area, interest which is not necessarily, and certainly in this case, contradictory in any way whatsoever.

In the first place, let me say that some of the persons whose lands were being acquired consider an open window to the sea a necessity, and some of the land, certainly the land of Mr. Harold Worme, was used in conjunction with his house, since he provides tourist facilities, and obviously there was an expressed preference by him for the maintenance of the land as it now is, although Rockley is, perhaps, the most popular and well-used beach in the whole of Barbados, and it provides a very necessary outlet not only as an open window to the sea, but for Barbadians and visitors to our shores to enjoy the facilities which this country has to offer. To the extent that the acquisition is not pursued, I am absolutely certain that Mr. Worme would welcome this. I believe part of the land is also owned by non-residents, but that is a different matter.

In so far, however, Sir, as the need for facilities in the Rockley area exists, I must let this House know that there are still needs that have to be answered. We have a series * of problems on Rockley Beach, some of which are physical problems, others of which, of course, relate to the several uses being made of Rockley.

I am sure the Minister is fully aware that the beach area at Rockley is being eroded, and eroded very seriously indeed. In fact, in the last couple of years a study was being carried out, with the assistance of Dr. Cambers of the University of the West Indies and, I believe, of the Bellairs Institute, and pilot work was undertaken at Rockley on a way of trying to conserve the sand that had accumulated there and to prevent the further erosion of the Rockley beach area.

I am not sure at present how far that pilot study has proved successful, but further down the beach we are still seeing the signs of erosion, and it is obvious to me, Mr. Speaker, that until such time as we are able to contain the bad sewerage conditions that exist on the southern coast, we will not get rid of this problem of erosion. To that extent, the sewerage scheme for the south coast will be an important way of dealing with part of the problem.

In addition to the problem of erosion though, Sir there is still the necessity for us to provide adequate changing facilities for people who use Rockley Beach. What I wish to find out from the Minister is whether or not there has been an acquisition, or an intention to acquire land, on the other side of Highway 7, not on the seaside, on the land side of Highway 7, with a view to providing the alternative facilities which could not be provided on the sea coast. It is my understanding that the Government had intended acquiring a property somewhere between Chefette and Cot Road, and the purpose of that acquisition on the other side was specifically to provide changing facilities for persons who use the beach.

The other thing, Sir, is that the Government already owns part of the Rockley beach area. I am not sure if the Minister has a copy of the plan of the area with him, but I believe that to the western section of that area, there is probably Government lands on which there are temporary structures, sometimes being used by the various beach vendors who use those facilities. Could the Minister let me know what provision there is for dealing with the problems of beach vendors in that particular area?

I think the Minister will also be aware that on the southern coast, certainly on Rockley Beach, there are no adequate toilet facilities. I believe that in these public areas it will be necessary for the Government to have adequate facilities for use by the public as well as those who ply their wares in that area. I do not know what particular provision will be made now in the area for these facilities. Is the Minister looking at an alternative area for the toilet and other facilities?

It is obvious at Rockley that sometimes you go to the beach and the beach is really in a state that one would not wish to see it in, from human use sometimes, and therefore it seems to me that in that area, as I have been pressing in this House for several years.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Human abuse rather than use, as the honourable Member has said.

We need somewhere to put the facility, and it may well be that we will have to find the facilities on the land side of Highway 7. I believe that there were proposals somewhere in the file, as I would know that Cabinet had agreed to leave this acquisition, using this one as an open space, and go across the road and do the acquisition on that side of the road. If the Minister has that information, I should be pleased.

The other thing I should say, Sir, is that we have a problem with the high tide. When the tide is high there is a very serious problem, and the disposal of the raw sewage in that area, both from the commercial establishments

and business houses, in particular, along that area, could pose a severe problem. In fact, the people remind me that there was a time when buildings went much further out. The sea has receded through the years tremendously during my lifetime, and we continue to lose beaches in that area. As a result, where houses formerly were is just now sea, and we have to try to ward off the further incursion of the sea right on to the road. 1.25 p.m.

I am sure, Sir, that the Government should be fully aware of those problems, and I would like to know how they are being addressed. This is a particular area that I share not only as the representative for the area, but we share with the whole of Barbados. It is the primary beach in Barbados, and it seems that we are going to have finally to upgrade some of the facilities in the area whilst, at the same time, of course, making sure that we protect the interest of residents and other persons.

I am much indebted to you, Sir.

Hon.^x B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, I shall not be long. I am really speaking on the Resolution to assist the honourable Member who has just sat down, who raised questions about the broad policy that is being pursued.

As you know, Sir, very recently we signed a contract for \$3 million with a Canadian company, which won the bid to carry out the necessary feasibility and land outfall survey in connection with the South Coast Sewerage Project. The consultants at the end of the day will advise the Government of the most efficacious manner in which, in this instance, the South Coast Sewage Project can be executed. Until the studies are completed and we are absolutely certain about the outfall points in the ocean for the disposal of sewage, then we are unlikely to be able to state categorically what kinds of facilities we are going to have.

What is certain is that we will be sewerage the south coast. We will continue that policy. We will, therefore, require all of the establishments on the south coast to become part of the sewerage system, because it is one of the areas that is susceptible, and, in fact, has fallen prey, to a very pervasive pollution brought about by what is called the honey-pot syndrome.

We have had a tremendously large amount of commercial developments, and some of it cheek-by-jowl, along this coast. We have had some indiscriminate planting of groynes by one or two people who were not necessarily properly advised, and as a result, we have had the creation of beaches in some areas and the losing of beaches in other areas. But, more particularly, the disposal of sewage along that coast is one of extreme concern to the Government, and it should be.

Mr. Speaker there are some unscrupulous people who go into commercial activity in this country who have, it appears, no regard for anybody else but themselves and their own concerns. Constantly, over the last 15 to 20 years, there have been people who have knowingly violated ordinary simple health requirements. They have allowed raw sewage to emit into the sea at relatively short distances from the shore, and, sometimes, on the shoreline itself.

Recently, the medical officers of Health have been directed to take a very definitive and tough position on the following of the law as it relates to the disposal of sewage. One recognises that, in some instances, it is extremely difficult for the persons concerned, apparently, for the reasons outlined by the honourable Member. Where, for example, a house is an old house and has been located in a spot for a fairly long time, and where the land has receded to the point where the house is now at the edge of the shore, one can recognise that the householder might be hard-pressed to fulfil modern requirements, that is to say, to provide a pipeline that will go far out into the sea, and, in those instances, one can sympathise with the householder until such time as the sewage project is completed. In the case, however, of commercial operations, in which people are earning profits, we have required, and will continue to require, all of those commercial operators to make whatever pipeline arrangements they can to take the sewage far enough out to sea that it will not assist in destroying the reefs which have already been hard pressed along the south coast.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to unnecessarily castigate anyone, I am merely making a broad statement that there has been some abuse along the coast, but with particular reference to the Rockley area, there is a specific problem. The problem there is simply one of not being able to locate on that very land, for the reasons outlined by Town and Country Planning, any kind of facility.

When I had a responsibility for another Ministry, we had discussed the possibility of putting temporary facilities on the beach, facilities such as those that can be found at the construction sites. There were objections raised by certain people that the aesthetics of the area would be contaminated by these objects jutting out at undesirable places, but it is my contention that three well-placed, such temporary facilities, chemical toilets to be more specific, would be much more beneficial than the scene described by the honourable Member which confronts many a person from time to time who walk the shores of the south coast. It is only a matter of time, therefore, before the sewerage system is in place, and all of the householders along the south coast will be required to join up with the system.

I do not know if you will let me take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to say that, ever since the Bridgetown Sewerage System has come on stream, the sea waters in Carlisle Bay and the surrounding areas have shown a tremendous improvement in the quality, that is the sea water, and, indeed, it is fair to say that the fish have started to come back. But I do not wish to extend this debate into one beyond its scope, so I would merely say to the honourable Member that he can expect that the sewerage system will take account of the concerns which have been raised with regards to the disposal of sewage at this site and at other similar sites along the south coast.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Speaker, I want to make one or two comments on the points raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition as they relate to the erosion of beaches at Rockley.

The Coastal Conservation Unit within the Ministry is monitoring the situation on the west coast and the south coast. At the present moment, there is a feasibility study to try and remedy the erosion on the west and south coasts, because it is becoming very bad at times. 1.35 p.m.

Unfortunately, this particular area seems to be rather new and I do not think that there are many engineers in the world with the expertise. So it seems as though there will be some trial and error, and we estimate that it will cost in the vicinity of \$11 million to try and put right the problem with which we are faced.

The erosion caused on the beaches stems from the fact that a number of our reefs are being destroyed, and we suspect that the destruction is not only being caused by the pumping of sewage into the sea, but because, too, a high percentage of our surface water drains into the sea, bringing with it chemicals which can be found in the pesticides and insecticides which are being used by many people in Barbados indiscriminately, sometimes without even worrying about the dangers to which they expose themselves. Destruction is also being caused, we suspect, by the amount of dynamiting which is carried on in these ' areas. To that extent, not so much on the south coast, but on the west coast, there is a reserved area where we hope that over time we will be able to see if the restrictions which are placed there will assist in having the reefs, as happened in Carlisle Bay, reactivated.

As far as beach vendors are concerned, I think the Honourable Leader of the Opposition might know that there seems to be some restriction on building in that area, and likewise with the toilet facilities. Therefore, we have to discuss it with the Town and Country Planning

Department, indeed, our own Ministry, and, of course, the Conservation Department as to the best way to get around that. It is something which we will be addressing early in the new financial year.

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

QUESTION TIME Mr.

SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

Parliamentary Question No. 29 stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

QUESTION RE FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF GREEN HILL, ST. MICHAEL

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Parliamentary Question No. 29.

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that residents of the Friendship Terrace Development in Green Hill, St. Michael, have been complaining to Government for a long time of the dire need for: (a) adequate street lighting, especially in the section between its beginning and the telephone booth in Friendship Terrace, (b) another road to facilitate entry or exit, should there be any problems on the existing road, (c) the return of the bus service which was discontinued shortly after the 1981 General Election, and (d) a properly prepared recreational area for the use of the residents of the development, especially children who presently use the main road for recreational facilities thereby attracting the hazards of vehicular traffic? 2. Will the Minister state what action Government proposes to eliminate the complaints?

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 29, asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East, is as follows:

"1. Yes, Sir.

2.(a) The Ministry will endeavour to install a number of streetlights in this area following receipt of an investigative report by the Barbados Light & Power Co. Ltd.

(b) The Ministry considers that another access road, for this Development would prove most difficult to construct since the Airport-West Coast Highway is located in the only open area through which an alternative access road could be provided.

(c) The return of the bus service will be considered when more buses become operational.

(d) The matter of a properly prepared area for recreational purposes is being referred to the appropriate Ministry."

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 59 stands in the name of the honourable Member for Christ Church East.

QUESTION RELIGHTS AT ST. CHRISTOPHER BOYS' SCHOOL

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, Parliamentary Question No. 59 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Education and Culture: Would the Minister cause the lights which were on the hard court at St. Christopher Boys' School, Christ Church under the former D.L.P. administration to be lit again to coincide with the rebuilding of the school which is now in progress so that that part of the school's facilities can be restored to full service?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 59, asked by the honourable Member for Christ Church East, is as follows:

"Action is being taken to restore the lights at the hard courts at St. Christopher Boys' School and repair work should be completed shortly."

Mr. E. BOURNE: As a supplementary, how soon is "shortly"?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: "Shortly" is shortly, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

I would like, Sir, to let honourable Members know that next week we will be debating the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1988—89. I propose that we should commence at 10 o'clock on each of those days except Thursday, on which day I propose that we commence at 12 o'clock noon.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday we will commence at 10 o'clock in the morning and the sitting will be suspended until 7.13 p.m., with two breaks, one hour for lunch at 1 o'clock and half an hour for tea about 5 o'clock or 5.30 p.m.

On Thursday, we will commence at 12 o'clock and the lunch break and dinner break will follow the normal pattern.

On Friday, the guillotine will fall at about 6.15 p.m. That is the schedule for next week's debating time.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Monday, March 14, 1988, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House stand adjourned until Monday, March 14 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 1.45 p.m.

CONTENTS**MINUTES**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 1988.....	2039
--	------

GOVERNMENT NOTICES**Hon. P. M. GREAVES 2039**

A Resolution to approve the amendment to Parliamentary Resolution No. 36 of 1986 which gave approval for the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land at Drax Hall in the parish of St. George.

A Resolution to approve of the publication in the Official Gazette of a notification under section 9(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 declaring the abandonment of the acquisition of certain parcels of land at Rockley in the parish of Christ Church.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD 2040**

Re Training Courses for which Funds are being requested by the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, the Barbados Employers Confederation and the National Training Board.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS**Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN 2041**

Reply to Question No. 29 asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East (Mr. L. L. Brathwaite)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES..... 2041

Reply to Question No. 59 asked by the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Mr. E. Bourne)

ORDERS OF THE DAY**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.....2041****GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 51, S3 741 421	2041
---	------

Head 13 - Prime Minister's Office - \$2 196

Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 2041

Head 16 - Ministry of the Public Service
- \$47 288

Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 2041

Head 28 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - \$16 652

Hon. M. A. King, 2041

Head 29 - Public Prosecutions - \$903

Hon. M. A. King, 2041

Head 36 - Ministry of Health \$1 997 297

Hon. B. M. Taitt, 2042

Head 39 — Ministry of Employment, Labour
Relations and Community Development.

Hon. N. K. Simmons, 2042

Head 42 — Ministry of Transport and Works

Hon. Dr. D. G. BJackman, 2042

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 52, \$5 874 770	2042
--	------

Head 73 - Ministry of Finance - \$5 000 000

Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 2042; Mr. D. A. C.
Simmons, 2043; Hon. P. M. Greaves, 2043

Head 81 — Ministry of Employment, Labour
Relations and Community Development —
\$51 592

Hon. N. K. Simmons, 2043

Head 84 — Ministry of Transport and Works
- \$250 000

Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman, 2043

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 53

_ \$648 441..... 2044

Head 50 - Post Office - \$648 441

Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman, 2044

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION No. 36 RE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT DRAX HALL, ST. GEORGE 2044

Hon. H. A. Blackman, 2044; Mr. Byer, 2045;
Mr. Payne, 2045

ABANDONMENT OF LAND ACQUISITION AT
ROCKLEY, CHRIST CHURCH..... 2046

Hon. H. A. Blackman, 2046, Hon. W. G.
Franklin, 2046; Hon. H. deB. Forde, 2046;
Hon. B. M. Taitt, 2047; Hon. N. K. Simmons,
2048.

QUESTION TIME Mr. L. L.

BRATHWAITE (St. Michael North East) . 2049

No. 29 of the Minister of Transport, Works
and Telecommunications (Hon. Dr. D. G.
Blackman) re *facilities for residents of Green
Hill, St. Michael.*

Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman, 2049

Mr. E. BOURNE (Christ Church East)..... 2049

No. 59 of the Minister of Education and
Culture (Hon. C. V. Walker) re *lights at
St. Christopher Boys' School*

Hon. P. M. Greaves, 2049; Mr. Bourne, 2049

ADJOURNMENT 2049

Hon. P. M. Greaves, 2049

SPEAKERS IN THE ISSUE

BLACKMAN, Hon. H. A. (St. Philip South)

BOURNE, E. (Christ Church East)

BRATHWAITE, L. L. (St. Michael North East)

BYER, R. P. (St. George South)

FORDE, Hon. H. deB. (Christ Church West)

FRANKLIN, Hon. W. O. (St. Philip North)

GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St. Michael North)

KING, Hon. M. A. (Christ Church West Central)

PAYNE, His Honour J. J. (St. James North)

SANDIFORD, Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South)

SIMMONS, D. A. C. (St. Thomas)

SIMMONS, Hon. N. K. (St. James South)

TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West)

WEEKES, His Honour L. A. (St. Michael North West)