

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 13, 1989.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock on Tuesday, June 13, 1989.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker)

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.

Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B.
(Hons.), (Minister of Health)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, 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)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B, F.R.C.P. (Edin.),
(Leader of the Opposition)

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

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

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

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 Education)

Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education and Culture)

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., Chairman of Committees)

Mr. E. BOURNE

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, M.D.

Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M. (Minister of Tourism and Sports)

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, B.A., (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of the Civil Service)

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 read by Father Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, the 6th of June, 1989.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Minutes be taken as read and be confirmed, Sir.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Report of the Audit of the Accounts of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1988.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Bill which seeks to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295, and in so doing, Mr. Speaker, I will later crave

the indulgence of the House to have this Bill done in all of its stages today. I have consulted with all Honourable Members on the other side.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George South, difficulties facing small farmers in the disposal of their pigs for pork and pork products.

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

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

Will the Minister state whether import licences have been issued during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 for the importation of pork and/or pork products, and if so how many licences have been issued, to whom they were issued, for what items and quantities in each instance and the date of issue of each licence?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member.

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

Is the Minister aware of the difficulties being faced by small farmers in the disposal of their vegetables?

Will the Minister state whether licences have been issued during the years 1986-1989 for the importation of vegetables, and, if so, how many licences have been issued, to whom they were issued, for what items and quantities in each instance and the date of issue of each licence?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member, Government's policy in relation to the use of Government owned vehicles.

Mr. R. P. BYER: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

Will Government state its policy in relation to the use of Government owned vehicles by Ministers of Government and whether this policy has changed since Government's assumption of office.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas who is not now in his seat.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is slightly delayed and

I would ask, with your leave and with the leave of the House, that this item if he is here on time be reopened a little later.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295 be now read a first time.

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

The question that this Bill be now read a first time was put and was resolved in affirmative without division.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, following my undertaking at the last meeting of this Honourable House, I am now in a position to make a full statement on the proposals for the joint commemorative session of both Houses of Parliament on 26th June, 1989.

Mr. Speaker, on 2nd August, 1988 the Leader of the House informed this House of the establishment, by Cabinet, of a Committee to plan the celebrations for the 350th Anniversary of Parliament. At that time the Committee comprised:

The Leader of the House, as Chairman
Senator The

Hon. Sir James Tudor, KCMG
Senator The Hon. L. V.

H. Lewis, Minister of State
His Honour the President

of the Senate
His Honour the Speaker

Miss and at that time Senator Billie Miller the nominee of the then Leader of the Opposition and, of course, Mr. Speaker, myself. Sir Frank Blackman and the Clerk of Parliament were co-opted as members of the Committee.

The Secretary to the Committee is the Secretary to the Cabinet.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, there was a change in the Leadership of the Opposition and, by letter dated 21st February, 1989, the present Leader of the Opposition was informed that he was entitled to be represented on the Committee either personally or by a person nominated by him. The Leader of the Opposition declined to serve personally and made an appropriate nomination.

In order to maintain continuity, the representative of the former Leader of the Opposition was retained as a member of the Committee.

As this Honourable House is aware, the 350th Anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament, then known as the House of Burgesses, took place sometime in June 1639, although the precise date has not been established. The tercentenary of the House was celebrated on Monday, 26th June, 1939, and it has been decided that 26th June should continue to be regarded as the date for this year's 350th Anniversary celebrations. It has also been decided that the day should be declared as a public holiday in respect of 1989 only.

On 26th June, 1989 which by remarkable coincidence, Mr. Speaker, again falls on a Monday, the Members of the Honourable the Senate will be invited to meet with the Members of this Honourable House in this Chamber in a joint commemorative session. 12.30 p.m.

It is proposed that each Chamber should convene separately for its own formal short sitting. This House will meet at 9.45 a.m. and it is hoped that the formal business will be completed in about 15 minutes when the sitting will be suspended.

It is hoped that similar arrangements will be made in the Other Place. The Members of this House and the Members of the Senate will then convene in this Chamber. The Members will be all sitting on this side and the Members of the Senate all on that side.

Mr. Speaker and the President of the Senate have invited their counterparts in the Commonwealth Caribbean countries both independent and non-independent, Suriname, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Venezuela, and France to visit Barbados as guests of Parliament and to participate in the celebrations.

It is proposed that these visiting officers will be seated in the well of the House for the joint session. It is proposed, and I trust that Honourable Members will agree, that the speeches on this occasion should be limited to those of His Honour the Speaker and His Honour the President of the Senate, one from each of the political parties represented in this Honourable House, and one from among the Members of the Senate. It is also suggested that each address should be of not more than 10 minutes duration. His Excellency the Governor-General has agreed to attend the session and to deliver an address.

The Government has also invited Heads of Government from Caribbean community countries, representatives of Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America, and the Secretaries General of the United Nations, Commonwealth,

Organisation of American States, Organisation of African Unity, ACP and CARICOM to participate in the celebrations. These dignitaries or their representatives will be seated in the distinguished visitor's gallery for that occasion. At the end of the joint session, Members of both Chambers and our guests, the Presiding Officers from overseas, the Government's guests and other distinguished persons invited to witness the ceremony will walk in procession to the unveiling by the Prime Minister of a monument to the 350th Anniversary. This procession will be led by the Royal Barbados Police Band. The monument is being erected on a site at the corner of Roebuck and Spry Streets near to the place where it is believed that Parliament of Barbados first met in 1639. Following the unveiling ceremony, the procession will return to the Parliament Buildings where each House will resume and sitting formerly to read into the record the proceedings of the joint session and of the unveiling. Later in the evening the Presiding Officers will host a reception in the Courtyard of Parliament Buildings.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other activities planned for the celebration of the 350th Anniversary for the rest of this year. Information will be given to Honourable Members and the public in due course. However, I should wish specially to mention here a series of concerts to be held fortnightly in the Courtyard of Parliament Buildings. These concerts will feature all of the leading Barbadian artistes in an expression of our cultural heritage. These concerts have been designed to provide family entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, I have outlined the main events for the commemoration of this historic occasion of our country and our parliamentary institution. It will be a privilege for us to be able to participate in these activities and, like other Members, I look forward to them with pride, humility, and enthusiasm.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a deep feeling of sadness that I rise to place on the records of this House the passing of the late Frederick Edward Miller, better known to all of us as "Freddie". The late Frederick Miller first entered this House as a Member of Parliament in the year 1948 representing the constituency of St. George and remained a Member of the House for 18 consecutive years. At that time, as Your Honour well knows, the constituencies were double Member constituencies and he had the honour of being a senior Member for that constituency. During his parliamentary career, he was appointed Minister of Health and Social Services for the period 1956 to 1961 and, as well, he led the Barbados

Labour Party in Parliament and was for a period of time the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Miller came from a family that may be described as remarkable in all senses of that word. The Miller family has distinguished themselves in many areas of endeavour and enterprise both locally and overseas. They have distinguished themselves in politics, business, arts, medicine, law, commerce, manufacturing and industry, and also in their dedication to civic duties and in the performance of their obligations as a true Barbadian family. In everything that they have done in their generations and, there are now several generations of this family, their Members have been individually and as a family outstanding. Therefore, when I comment on the life of Frederick Miller, I do so firmly in the knowledge that his legacy will be cherished and looked after by his immediate children as well as by other Members of that distinguished family.

I would like to focus today very briefly on his contribution to manufacturing, industry, and commerce, arts, culture and, in particular, to drama and music, sports, social affairs, family life and, of course, his contribution to politics. At the start of the social revolution, Freddie Miller was attracted to the ideas, philosophies, and the principles of the Barbados Labour Party and he remained a true Member of the party right up to his death. He came from a group of enterprising young people who saw that the mass of Barbadians were excluded from the social, political, and economic life of this country and felt that they had the ability and dedication that they could make a contribution as great as that of any other segment of the society. He joined in the fight on behalf of the working-class people and finally offered himself alongside Sir Grantley Adams, his leader, as a Member for political office. In that office, he performed more than credibly. I think many people will recall in particular the contribution which he made as Minister of Health in having the foresight to conceptualise and to see to the execution of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and also the contribution which he made to the development of social centres, village councils, and community life in Barbados. 12.40p.m.

At the time when the Labour Party was swept from office in the 1960's he did not lose confidence. He believed so firmly in the cause for which the party fought, that he came in here among a small group, a band of Labour Party Members of Parliament, and fought to put forward the principles and the ideas of his party once again, and I know it gave him great satisfaction when the party at that time could number among its representatives in the House his daughter, the former Minister of Health, Miss Billie Miller, who had served like her father with great distinction in ministerial office, and indeed was the first and only female in Barbados to hold Cabinet rank.

I would like personally to record my thanks to him for leading the Barbados Labour Party delegation - which was then the minority party, we were not the official Opposition - to the constitutional talks in London just prior to Independence. He gave Bernard St. John, the late Tom Adams and myself indefatigable leadership, and as young men we felt very indebted to him for the experienced manner in which he assisted us in participating in such a historic event.

I said, Sir, that he contributed as well to the industrial sector, the manufacturing sector and to commerce. His spirit of endeavour saw him designing and building an ice factory. It also saw him designing and building a perfume factory, and recognising that Barbadians as part of the Third World could still harness the ability and the natural talents of their people and do as well as those from the industrialised and developed countries.

Likewise in the Arts, Sir. Many of us will recall his ability to produce dramatic shows, his knowledge of music and his performance indeed as a musician, and the fact that he was able to bring together a large number of Barbadians, some of whom had never before acted on a stage, in a memorable production which was staged in Barbados. "Man Born To Be King" is the title of that production.

Likewise we recall his contribution to village life and his participating in the work of various village choirs.. I say he was a remarkable man, Sir, but he was remarkable not only for the way he lived his life and the things he did for the community, but for, I think, his undying devotion to the concept of family life.

One of the attractions that I have always had to this family is that despite their differences in ideas, political differences even at times, as a family unit they have always stuck closely together, and Freddie Miller has passed on to his children all of the noble and high principles that one would wish to see manifested in the family life of this country.

Sir, in this House the family continues to be represented by the Honourable Member for the City. Up to a while ago it was represented in the Upper House by his distinguished daughter, Miss Billie Miller. I make bold to say, Sir, that his political legacy will be carried on for many a year and many a generation, and that the principles for which he lived will hold aloft, and that the tenets which he instilled in his children and in his family will also be honoured to the letter.

It gives me, Mr. Speaker, a pleasure to record the outstanding contribution of a person such as Frederick Edward Miller and to say that in any generation in any country in any part of the world this man would be considered as having the stamp of genius and having left an indelible mark on his country.

He was given an honour, I believe, Mr. Speaker, some eight years ago, but I would like to say that the Freddie Millers of our country should be remembered in an even more concrete form, and I would hope that in due course when we are naming institutions after Barbadians who have contributed so much to our lives, that the name of Freddie Miller will be honoured suitably, particularly in the fields in which he has made such an outstanding mark.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that in keeping with the tradition of this House that the appropriate Resolution be drafted and submitted by the Clerk and passed by this House and transmitted to his children and to his other relatives. I therefore express the profound regret of the Barbados Labour Party and of myself, and I am sure all other members, at the passing of a true patriot, a great stalwart, an outstanding leader.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, in rising to associate the Government with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, I think it is not outside the realm of expectancy for me to place on record the profound thanks of the people of Barbados for the service which was rendered by the late Frederick "Freddie" Miller.

As Your Honour would readily agree, no one who was born in or near the precincts of Black Rock can be without knowledge of the Miller family in general and of Freddie Miller and Tommy Miller in particular.

My own knowledge of the late honourable gentleman is perhaps a bit more intense than many from the area in that from a very early age I became aware of his aeroplane which was being constructed a mere 100 yards away from the house in which I was born. 12.50 p.m.

We as children looked with the greatest awe at this spectacle of a Barbadian man who dared to dream that he could in fact construct an aeroplane. As his son said yesterday at the James Street Methodist Church in a most eloquent remembrance of his father, the aeroplane did not fly for no reason of Freddie; it was during the war and the fuel went to the bottom of the sea and therefore the aeroplane could not fly. But the fact of his having with Gordon Butcher constructed the aeroplane can be and will be symptomatic of the height of imagination which this Barbadian had from early in his life and which he carried throughout all the many facets of a career that can be described as distinguished and a career that can be exemplified only with the greatest effort.

Mr. Speaker, I knew him also in his capacity as an entrepreneur and manufacturer, especially as a processor of tamarinds. In those days the tamarind was grown fairly freely in Barbados and there were three or four companies that processed tamarinds for shipment to the United

Kingdom where they were used in the manufacture of a very exotic sauce which I believe is still sold throughout the world. I happened to be involved with one of them, that owned by the late Chrissie Brathwaite, who was my godfather and who insisted that I should learn some aspects of business even from the age of seven if I were to earn the measly shilling that he would let me have at the end of a month, and so he thought it necessary that you know something about the competition. And I recall that he always regarded the Miller Brothers, as or, as he called them, the Miller boys as the most intense competitors in that or any other business.

In many ways the name Miller is legendary in the area of Black Rock and in the City of Bridgetown. They have participated in almost every aspect of life from the religious through to all the stages of the political, and as has been said and will be said again, Freddie Miller has left a strong legacy of success in politics. As a person who is now serving as Minister of Health, it is easy to remember his contribution to the development of health and social services in Barbados. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital stands as a monument to his capacity to conceptualise, his interest in the growth and development of the people whom he represented, and it has to be understood that in those days the representation of a particular class of Barbadians was not fragmented and divided as it would become and continues to become, and so, Mr. Speaker, it was easy to feel a sense of pride in all of the achievements of all the politicians who represented the masses. In his representation of the masses, no one has ever accused the late honourable gentleman of being ostentatious or of being out of the reach of the same masses, for one recalls easily that he has always, it seems, lived the same place in the same way and one almost said, at the same time, because in many ways he appeared to be timeless.

Mr. Speaker, his contribution to the social services has been recorded and chronicled. As Minister responsible for social services, he did in fact create the programme for the establishment of social centres throughout Barbados. Such social centres have now moved on to take on a different aspect of life in Barbados, but one remembers when one was much younger that the social centre in many respects was the only point at which communities and villages could convene from time to time to engage in certain social activity.

As the areas changed, so did the era change after Freddie Miller and as we who have been given the responsibility of carrying on the work of political development in our country have moved from strength to strength. Even though we on this side at least will have done so from a different perspective, and sometimes even with appropriate invectives, it is true to say that all that we do is a manifestation of all that has been done before us. As we continue to hope that the generations who follow us will build on what we create, we have to give thanks to the

generations who came before us because it was through their creation that our flights of imagination could find a runway and finally the heights to level off and to provide a base for our people to understand the growth and development of a society.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate on behalf of the Government with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I wish to take this opportunity to convey again to the Miller family and especially our colleague who now sits on the other side but who is a colleague, our heartfelt sympathy at the loss, but we cannot pretend that we are so saddened by his death as we are gladdened and give thanks for his life. When a man dies at the age of 78, the pain for the immediate family can give way to a joy if the life that has been lived is one that was worthwhile. On examination of the broad spectrum of interests, interests engaged in, pursued, conquered and finally left for others to follow, one cannot feel saddened that Freddie lived; one can only feel gladdened that his life was so broad and so full. And so it is easy to associate with the good words that have been spoken about him, and that no doubt will be spoken hereafter, and one hopes that he will find rest, and that his family will find solace in the honour which this country has paid and will pay to him in due course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, in rising to add my brief comments to those already made, I would only like to say that I got to know Freddie Miller way back in 1948 as he visited my grandmother's home as a candidate in St. George following on the heels of Nellie Weekes and Elder and our present Governor-General who at that time had just decided to go off to Jamaica. 1.00p.m.

We have always maintained contact with each other and we have communicated on several occasions over the years, mostly by telephone, and, indeed, I recall during the last election we communicated on a friendly basis because that initial contact was made when he first came to St. George.

I visited him in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital during his illness and the one thing that stood out on those visits was the voice of Freddie Miller as we knew him in St. George from the days of the bull horn.

I have always found him to be interested in the social welfare of people and, indeed, one of the things that also remained today, I am sure in St. George and in other places about Freddie Miller, there are a few jokes that are told in St. George and, indeed, told throughout the country, that will always bring laughter because a few of the older people tend to repeat them in the manner in which only Freddie could have done.

As I said, he was remembered for his voice. I recall in this Honourable House, just a matter of a couple of years ago, the late Prime Minister Errol Barrow once remarked that he was always amazed that the people of St. George tended to have people representing them with deep voices, - those of you who knew Elder, those of you who knew Dowding, those of you who knew the late Prime Minister Barrow himself, and, indeed, Freddie Miller.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of St. George I would like to add my comments to those of the Honourable Members of this House who have spoken before me and to associate myself with the remarks made on behalf of Freddie and the family.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself as the member for St. George South and the National Democratic Party with the remarks of the three previous speakers. We, on this side, would like to extend our condolences to the bereaved family and would trust that they would use this opportunity to rise above their present sufferings and everything that normally attends occasions like these.

Now, Sir, I, unlike the other persons who have spoken, cannot speak from personal knowledge about a man whom I have always regarded to be one of our better sons. I would say, almost, that he is a famous man, in our context, so that anything I say about Frederick Miller, better known as Freddie Miller, by the good folk of St. George would be from information vicariously obtained.

Now, it is public knowledge that he represented the constituency of St. George from 1948 to 1966 and it is significant that these years coincided with two important events in my life, 1948 my birth, 1966 the first year I voted as a citizen of Barbados. Now, 1966, of course, was the last year that he represented the last election that he fought in St. George.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Acting Prime Minister they have covered most of the ground in remembering this famous son but I think in St. George, Frederick Miller would be remembered for the social contribution he made to the lives of the people of that parish.

We have heard talk about his contribution in terms of the provision of social centres, as centres for the entertainment of the village folk when used in a proper way, and the Ellerton Social Centre in St. George stands as a memorial to the work that he did in that parish.

The other member for St. George, the Minister of Education, spoke about the jokes that are normally associated with the name Frederick Miller in St. George and

even on this occasion I do not think it would be taken in bad taste if I should repeat one of the old ones and one that is worn out now, I believe, but it is said that at one time that he promised the people of St. George the sea.

After hearing the contributions that were made, after hearing the eloquent eulogy yesterday as given by his son, on reflection I do not think it would have been beyond him. He did so many things, although I am told that he had actually promised the constituents of St. George a swimming pool. That was the nearest thing he could have got to a sea.

But, Sir, in a sense it gives some idea of his far-sightedness and we have heard the many things that he did, his vision about society and the quality of life that you would like people to enjoy. After all, being land-locked as we are in St. George, we cannot ever hope to have a sea in St. George although in the early days when Barbados was divided into a smaller amount of parishes St. George actually did have a sea, I am told, but it does give some idea of the kind of vision that he had.

The next thing that we could have in St. George close enough to a body of water that we could swim in was a swimming pool and he ventured to bring those things in.

I would have thought, Sir, and I would hope that in future persons that have contributed as much as Frederick Miller has to industry, to commerce, to manufacturing, even to invention to Barbados, as it were, to Parliament - he did a lot of things. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital stands as a memorial to him.

I think, Sir, that it could be fitting if these persons could be brought back to where they made some of their most eloquent contributions to a social life, to Parliament. I believe it would have been fitting if that gentleman had laid in state in Parliament and I would hope that in future we treat our famous sons in that fashion.

Sir, I would, in closing, once again associate the members of the National Democratic Party and myself with the remarks of the earlier speakers and, once again, heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay brief tribute to the memory of the late Freddie Miller because I have been friendly with his family since about 1953 or 1954 and there are aspects of Freddie Miller's life that I remember very vividly.

Freddie Miller was a man of many parts, and many interests. We have heard about his pioneering spirit in the industrial field and manufacturing business. Freddie Miller is the one who first got me interested in the breeding of race horses. 1.10p.m.

In the mid fifties, Freddie Miller was perhaps the most knowledgeable black person who was involved in the breeding of race horses and he bred many down at his place in Brighton, Sir. I remember Idle Hour, I remember Desert Song bred by him out of Little Pad.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He had one or two that raced in the devil red and black striped silks of Freddie Miller called Sir Grantley.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now, Sir Grantley obviously named after the Leader of the Labour Party, Sir Grantley Adams raced at a time when Doc Husbands had broken with the Labour Party and quite funnily Freddie Miller chose to have as the jockey for Sir Grantley in two starts a jockey called Walter Husbands, the father of three jockies one of whom was presently riding in Barbados. It was an odd circumstance, Sir, that Sir Grantley with Husbands on his back refused to start....

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ... on any occasion that he went to the starting gates.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: So I think he had to be given away and he ended up I think at Cyril Payne. I remember Freddie Miller used to subscribe in those days to the "British Race Horse" which was a publication for bloodstock breeders in England and Europe and he was perhaps one of the few in Barbados who was a subscriber and I used to have the benefit of reading those magazines before I left to go to London, Sir.

I remember Freddie Miller too like the Honourable Acting Prime Minister as a processor with his brothers of tamarinds, the place was here at Marhill Street. Because where I was born in Christ Church where it is now the roundabout by Sargeants Village there were a number of tamarind trees at the property there at the corner and those tamarinds used to be sold to the Miller Brothers for export as the Honourable Acting Prime Minister said.

But perhaps in the social field I will recall his contribution to the amelioration of the harsh regime at the Government Industrial School. When my father went there in 1948 from Wesley Hall, there was a regime in place for the juvenile delinquents that was competing very favourably with the Prisons in terms of the harshness of the regime and the hard labour that was imposed on the young delinquents at the Government Industrial School.

It was Freddie Miller, as Minister of Social Services who liberalized that regime, all the cow carts went. No longer did the boys at Dodds have to work in the fields. He set up a regime which provided for formal educational training in the morning sessions and the provision of various training for trades in the afternoon so that the boys went to school between 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon and between 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. they were trained in carpentry, masonry and all the usual trades that one would expect youngsters to be engaged in in those days. It is he who determined that it should be a school rather than a penal reform institution and that there should be a kind of paternalistic atmosphere pervading the institution. And he brought in the Housemother system and so on, Sir, to make the boys and indeed the girls at Summerville feel wanted by those who had the responsibility for their care during the years that they were at Dodds. So I credit Freddie Miller and the late D. D. Garner in particular with setting the pace for the complete change in the system of reform for juveniles that we had at Dodds and that we have and that has continued apace, Sir.

I remember hearing him in the Lower Green Bus stand at a public meeting in 1956 not speaking but around the platform and I remember the booming that the Honourable Minister of Education spoke of, Sir. When Sir Grantley was dealing with the Humby affair you could hear Freddie Miller's voice above all others, "light up the coalpot old man."

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have never forgotten that, Sir. And indeed in 1966, as the Honourable Leader of the Labour Party said during the Constitutional Conference I was able to see and operate with him very closely because I was a member of the press at the time. He was an outstanding leader of that delegation, Sir. He was well equipped. Of course I think those of us who knew him well knew that he had a feel for good language and the use of language. He made many fine speeches during that Conference and put the case, as leader of the delegation very forcefully for the Barbados Labour Party. We had some good times during 1966, Sir, when he was up there. One could never be but impressed with the easy rapport that he had with people of all walks of life. He walked easily with as the saying goes kings and princes but he never lost the common touch.

I have been fortunate on a couple of occasions, Sir, since I have been back home to have stopped off in Tudor Street and talk to him. He like to talk about music and he knew that I had an interest in the trumpet. He was a saxophonist and he knew my uncle who was a pianist Kid Brancker very well. And a couple of times, Sir, I have gone down to the Ice House years ago particularly in the seventies and talked to him about music and about horses and his company was always congenial and enjoyable.

Of course we have been fortunate to have his daughter as a leading member of our Party since 1976 and that spirit that he had to serve has been passed on in an immeasurable way in his daughter. On behalf of my family, Sir, who were very close, particularly my father who was very close, to Freddie Miller, I would wish to tender sincerest condolences to his sorrowing relatives.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, as I rise to pay tribute to the late Honourable Frederick Edward Miller or as I knew him Uncle Freddie, I must first of all on behalf of family extend our appreciation to Honourable Members who have extended their condolences and to tell them how much we appreciate the kind words they have spoken about a man who, we of course in the family did not see as a Member of Parliament only, or even as a relative, but as a person who gave us a guiding light and always was one who gave us the feeling that nothing was impossible. 1.20p.m.

I believe, Sir, that you would know the family that I am fortunate to be a part of has always had that attitude, continues to have that attitude, and will continue to have that attitude for a long time to come. It is the kind of attitude, as was said yesterday at Freddie Miller's funeral, that was alive among a small number of black families back in those days when Freddie was born and where he grew up on Reed Street. Sir, no matter what some people may like us to call ourselves in these days of different shades of black, we have always seen ourselves as a proud, strong, black family and one which is proud to have had the opportunity to have made a contribution to the development socially and economically of this beloved country of ours. I believe that no better person that that could be attributed to than the late Frederick Miller.

As I said, Sir, I clearly would not know much about Frederick Miller's entrance into politics because he entered Parliament the same year that I was born. Unlike the honourable Minister of Education, I did not have the pleasure of hearing him in his heyday on platforms, although I must confess that there must have been some influence there for me to have followed and gone into politics. Though we may not remember things at that tender age in our subconscious mind, as the same Freddie liked to remind us from time to time, it retains a large measure of what we will need to draw on as we get older.

As I said, he was the type of person who, as other Members have said, did a lot of reading. His son, Buddy, said yesterday that he was a self taught man. That is true. Beyond his formal education which ended at Combermere School, all that he learned thereafter, and he did learn a lot, was self taught by doing a lot of reading. One of the things that he read a lot of dealt with the question of how one deals with one's own mind, and how one can determine what one wants to be, and what one wants to do by controlling one's own mind. He dabbled in a lot of that and

even a lot of hypnosis. I do not mean the kind that one sees at circuses like Coney Island. I am talking about serious motivation, the building of confidence in oneself and so on. I was fortunate to have been able to get a bit of that from him and to speak with him about that. It was this kind of attitude to life.

It is those things that I remember him more for than even the material things that he may have achieved or the monuments that he may have left. I believe that his whole outlook, and his whole attitude to life, and behaviour towards his fellow man are the things that I cherish more in remembering him than even the things that he may have constructed and the monuments he may have left as great as they may be. I am sure that, as other Honourable Members have said, one cannot help but pass the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and reflect on the kind of vision that one would have had at that time to have created an institution like that which is still serving us well even up to today with all the problems that it may have had from time to time. It still serves this country well up to today and one must recognise the kind of vision that it would have taken to conceptualize an institution like that.

I believe too, Sir, that his contribution to the whole area of industry was great, more in the field of commerce really. In those dark days a small black man although a number of them got started in commerce, some great ones that we can all remember, there were very few who ventured into the terrain known as manufacturing or industry. Freddie and his brothers, my father and others, and people like Gordon Butcher could be numbered among those few black people who ventured into that area known as manufacturing or at that time called industry. There were a number of, I would say, pioneering efforts that were made by these men, particularly Freddie, when one considers that he built that ice factory from scratch, as it were, getting bits and pieces of equipment and putting them together in a manner, that when it was all finished he had an ice factory that actually worked. In those days to construct an ice factory was a big project. It was an extremely large project and he did it, and it still runs today. The same original plant is still there on Tudor Street running today. So that tells you the kind of person he was. Someone said that he was a perfectionist and that speaks of the kind of mind that dealt with that sort of matter. We could go on and talk about the soft drink carbonating plant that they built many, many years ago before I was born. One can go on and on from there into the soap plant and into the pasteurizing milk plant, and the icecream plant. We can list off a number of things and I only do that to show the kinds of minds that operated then and the kind of person that he was in being able to go after what seemed to be the impossible and make it very possible.

In closing, Sir, I would heartily agree with the Honourable Acting Prime Minister when he said that we should be joyful at the kind of life that the late Freddie

Miller and of the things that he has left for us to learn from and to see rather than be sorrowful at his passing. It is a sad occasion, Sir, even more so because he was one of those persons that despite the fact that I was on another side of the political fence to him or his daughter, and I am not even too sure if I was on another side to him because he had gone on to a stage where he saw politics in a much wider sense. He was one of those people that I could speak to still and draw on some inspiration. When someone like that passes away, then there is still that sort of deep feeling, of loss.

I would not be honest if I did not say that. There is that sort of deep feeling of loss knowing that he has passed away. As I said, and I agree with the Honourable Acting Prime Minister, we are very joyful in this family for having had him for the time that we did and for having had the kind of person that the late Freddie Miller was.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: On behalf of my family, the constituents of St. Michael North West and myself, I want to associate myself with the tributes that have been paid to the late Freddie Miller. That by inference says that I was his representative and I feel privileged to have had such a person even if only by the fact that he had lived and died in that constituency. Perhaps I can take comfort, that he lived and died even in the last years because of the comfortable state and surroundings in which he could live under my representation.

I am sure that the people in that district will always remember Freddie.

Freddie was a household name in the district. Even though he may not have represented the people in that district as their representative, I am satisfied his contribution to the entire nation was one of which we can be justly proud. 1.30 p.m.

Surely tributes are nice and good, but what lessons can we learn from such a life? The Acting Prime Minister referred to his enterprising skills in trying to launch an aeroplane. Many of you may not have known what was the Agricultural Exhibition in those days. The attraction during the latter years was the opportunity for young people who never even saw Seawell Airport, but who wanted to have a glimpse of what an aeroplane would have been. Freddie Miller provided that opportunity, and we care less whether it flew or not.

But more than that, Freddie Miller to me was a nationalist. His pioneering spirit suffered very much at the hands of our own people. The very cry today in manufacturing, the lack of support by your own people for your own efforts, was part of the difficulties that Freddie

Miller suffered. You would not remember, but I can. He produced popsicles, and even though he was doing his best we heard the snide remarks to daunt the person who was trying to introduce what became in latter days to others a great enterprise. He was responsible for that effort.

And so Freddie Miller's life and pioneering spirit must demonstrate to us Barbadians that we must learn more to appreciate those who though limited, probably in expertise and financial resources, must be given the opportunity to develop themselves through our own people.

Sad to say, there will not be many Freddie Millers, because difficulties have not daunted him, but he has left us the nationalistic feeling that we must do within ourselves what we can to help ourselves in order to make our country a better place. It is that that stands out more than ever about Freddie Miller's presence in this country, the effort to motivate Barbadians to remove the bias of thinking that foreign imports are better than local products. He even entered the sphere of perfumery, yet there again we found our own people not willing to give the support, even in the initial stages.

To me the lesson to be learnt from Freddie Miller's life is that we Barbadians must learn to appreciate our own and to give encouragement when we are on the upward end trying to better our own lives.

I can assure the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party that his request to have this Resolution sent to his family will so be done. In so doing, I am going to ask you to rise for one minute as a mark of respect on the passing of the late Freddie Miller at the end of this Resolution.

Members stood in silence in their places for one minute.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of this sitting. Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the instant order of the day. Order No. 2.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOYTE'S VILLAGE, ST. JAMES FOR THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is seeking the approval of Parliament to compulsorily acquire approximately 8.5 acres of land at Hoyte's Village in St. James for recreational purposes and for housing development.

This Resolution has been long in coming. It has been a very difficult process, made difficult originally due to the fact that a position had been taken before 1986, I think in 1985, by the previous administration to develop the recreational area for the persons living around the area itself.

Apparently the owner had not been notified that the land was needed and unfortunately he reacted in a manner where, after the officers had started to fix up the field, he then decided that he would plough it up. We discovered from the owner himself that he had not been approached at all about the land, and that obviously was his reaction, and he was sorry about his reaction, and he said it.

One of the difficulties, Mr. Speaker, with this acquisition was that after this land for recreational purposes had been acquired, the remainder of the land would not be of much use to the owner, and it was suggested to the owner that the entire area should be taken. 1.40p.m.

That is why today we have come for the 8.5 acres where part of it would be used for recreational purposes and part would be used for housing.

Now I know that the persons who played cricket on that field, St. John the Baptist, have been under a lot of strain for the past, I believe, two years or so, and I must express my sympathy to them, but this acquisition has been difficult for the reasons I have stated plus other reasons as well.

A further reason for the gentlemen who played for St. John the Baptist not getting the playing field this year is that there was a divergence of opinion between officers of the Sports Council and officers in the Ministry of Housing and Lands as to where would be the better area to place the playing field and the housing development. Obviously the National Sports Council believes that it would be better to leave the playing field where it is, but the officers in Housing, looking at the additional cost that would be incurred if you put the houses at the back where you then have to run all the amenities, the water and the lights and

things like that, were of the view that it would be better to put the playing field at the back and bring the houses up to the front where you already have the amenities. That was another of the difficulties.

I do not want to go into that at the moment. I think that the final decision is that the playing field will remain where it is at the front, despite the added cost in providing the utilities to the houses that will be put at the back, and since I am only, Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for acquisition in this case, I will move that the Resolution to acquire this parcel of land do now pass, and I believe that the representative for the area who has been on my back, I have to say it frankly, for nearly two years now will have a lot to say, and also the Minister responsible for Sports.

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

His Honour J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I first want to second this Resolution. It is a rare privilege for me to second a Resolution in this Chamber, and I do so on this occasion with the greatest pleasure, and I speak in support of the Resolution.

As the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands has indicated, this acquisition has a very long history, and I am familiar with some of the problems and difficulties that have been involved in having this matter resolved. The difficulties really and truly, Mr. Speaker, centre around the owner of the land not having, as the Minister said, been notified originally. The youth of the area got the impression that they were unceremoniously deprived of the opportunity to use the facilities and there were also the sporting enthusiasts who were not able to enjoy the facilities and observe the sports that they had been accustomed to over the past three or four years.

Originally as the Minister indicated, the land was being acquired for the purpose of a playing facility, and if I can give a bird's eye view of the history, this whole thing started back in the seventies when Mr. Ellis out of his kind heart permitted the youth of that area in Hoytes Village to use an area of land just to the east of the St. John the Baptist Church. They were engaged in a number of sports, cricket, football, netball and so on, and by 1984 they were able to develop and organise a village team which competed in these various sports and which was very competitive in the area.

Some time in 1984 Mr. Ellis for some reason or another decided he wanted to have his land back, and he moved in and ploughed the cricket pitch where the fellows were playing cricket which was some time during the middle of the cricket season, and this brought an angry reaction from the residents of the area, because certainly an important aspect of village life was removed. The members of the cricket club then brought a petition to Government.

They obtained over 100 signatures from different people in the area and they petitioned the Government back in 1984 to have the land acquired. I was informed that negotiations started some time back in 1984, but the whole affair went sour in 1986 when early in that year Government got the impression that the land had already belonged to the Government and proceeded to interfere with the land and Mr. Ellis again ploughed the whole area.

Now later that same year I was elected to be the parliamentary representative for St. James North and very early in the first session of this Parliament I brought a Parliamentary question to this Honourable Chamber which was addressed to the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands asking that this area be compulsorily acquired by the Government so as to permit the youth of that area to play on those lands.

Now I have to be very frank, Mr. Speaker, because I have some very strong feelings about the matter and the length of time that it has taken for the matter to reach this far. The Minister has already outlined some of the problems that have been encountered, but I feel that there has been too much delay in returning this land to the use of the residents of that area. In a sense this Resolution highlights to me some of the outstanding features of our bureaucracy which can frustrate the people in achieving their needs and aspirations; and it also sends a signal to all of us as legislators that as we approach the 21st century we must find more expeditious, more considerate and less complicated procedures in responding to the needs of the people of this country. We have to develop a procedure that is not only responsible but responsive. I feel that the land has been lying for three years and that period of time is too long for anybody to have land idle in Barbados.

I want to say that we have to develop a system where a lot of this unnecessary red tape cannot prevent the Government and the people from achieving the goals which they set. We cannot have a system that ignores the needs and interests of people in favour of purely technical considerations of efficiency. I am saying that when we take into account the number of officials involved in making a decision, the amount of time spent, it is costing us a fortune to have anything done in these matters, and it is not only in relation to the acquisition of this land. This comes across in respect of most decisions that have to be made in Government, and the process that people have to go through in achieving their objectives.

Mr. Speaker, there are too many time-consuming and unnecessary procedures under our present system which have to be undergone before a decision can be arrived at. No single individual under the system seems able to make a complete decision. A matter has to go from pillar to post, from one desk to another, following procedures which are repetitious and over complicated. 1.50 pm.

I want to suggest that some of these procedures are creating obstacles in the progress of the people of this country and we will have to examine them and I am suggesting today that we make a start by looking at these procedures because, in my view, these bureaucratic complexities are preventing us from achieving the goals which we set.

I will have much more to say on that on another occasion but I thought that I should make this opportunity a perfect one to highlight my feeling on the way we proceed to do these things. There are many people who believe that the system is necessary in order to frustrate dishonesty and things of that kind. I believe that we have to devise a system which is suitable for present day trends and that is one of the things that I believe that I will have to speak most forcibly in favour of.

Having said that, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I am not trying to decry any of the officers who were involved in this matter. I am not trying to say that they have not dealt with the matter without the level of efficiency which we would expect. I am saying that the procedural system is too complicated.

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that our Ministers who were involved in the matter were the Minister of Housing and Lands, the Minister responsible for Sports and the Honourable Attorney General. This particular matter had to pass through all these various different departments and what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that it has taken too long to reach this stage and we have to find a way of speeding up this whole procedural thing.

I think I would be negligent if I did not say on behalf of the people that we are happy to see that we are stepping over another obstacle today. This Resolution is only one other obstacle in the way which we are stepping over in achieving the objectives which we are seeking to reach.

The mere fact that this Resolution is passed in the House today does not mean that the people of Hoyte's Village will be able to play on the lands tomorrow. The matter now has to be transferred to the Ministry responsible for Sports and this is going to be another long, drawn-out and complicated procedure and then, Mr. Speaker, after that we will find that the Ministry of Sports will then have to go into the lands and make it suitable for play for the youth of the area and these are other obstacles and complicated procedures that will delay and frustrate the people.

I am of the view that this is a matter which should not, really, take more than six months and I am hoping, in fact, it would be my greatest delight if the people of that district in Hoyte's Village can play cricket this current season on those lands.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if we are serious about responding to the needs of the people, we have to find a way to get around these complexities and these unnecessary procedures and I am saying that by the middle of this present cricket season with the rainy season coming in and so on, if sufficiently urgent effort is made by the authorities, I am saying that it is still possible that the people of Hoyte's Village can play cricket on those lands this current cricket season.

The people of that area have exercised considerable patience in this particular matter. I believe and I have always said in this Chamber that the people from some of these country districts have already paid their dues to this country. They are people from a district whose parents and grandparents have worked hard on the same plantation lands and made their contribution. I believe that they should not have to sit back and be obstructed by the complexities of the system from enjoying the privileges which we seek to give them.

It is very important that we approach the matter from a practical point of view and I am saying that if we continue to allow the rules of the system and the complexities of the system to deny the people the privileges and the amenities which we seek to give them, we will not be able to satisfactorily achieve the dreams which we seek to give to the people.

In that area of St. James, Mr. Speaker, we have some of the greatest sportsmen who hail from that area. We have people like Desmond Haynes, one of the West Indies greatest opening batsmen, Franklyn Stephenson and Ricky Skeete. But, even if you look around the youth we have a youngster out there called Peter Skeete, Ricky's brother and he has another brother called Samuel who has just returned with the youth team from Australia. All of these are people who are fighting the system for opportunities to emerge and I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that we have to find a way to respond to the needs of these people.

I mention this talent in the area just to highlight the importance of sport to our development. We have to recognize that since that playing field was removed from the residents of that area, they have not had a fixed place in the district to play their games. Many of them have to go to Redman's Village in the constituency of my colleague in St. Thomas.

Some of them go down to Melbourne in St. James South and some of them have had to join other cricket teams around the area and it is most significant that the crowd support which the team used to have is not able to follow the team around because they find it very difficult without the opportunity to practice for people who are involved in this system to get the exposure and opportunities that they need.

Despite these disadvantages, Mr. Speaker, the Hoyte's Village Cricket team was able to come fifth in the competition out of 11 teams last year. I think that is a significant achievement because if without the opportunity to play and practice at home they can place fifth, I am sure that if they are given the opportunity which we are seeking to give them, they will do much better when the opportunity arises.

There we are, Mr. Speaker, with a situation where the people are looking towards Government to respond more efficiently to their needs and I want to make my pleas as forcibly today as I possibly can to see that the people achieve the objective which they are seeking to achieve.

As a sportsman, Mr. Speaker, I know of the importance of competition. We have a situation where, not only in St. James, but in many districts around the island, many of our sportsmen do not get the opportunity to be exposed to competition and without competition no sportsman can be great. There are few countries in the world that have been able to produce great sportsmen that are not provided with the opportunities to get competition. Competition is very important.

This Resolution is a step in the direction of providing those people with the opportunity of coming together and getting involved in the kind of competition that is necessary for them to achieve the goals which we set for them.

We have a situation in this little island where we have to rely on voluntary organizations. We have to rely on the business community to assist us in the development of our sports. I am particularly proud of Texaco and Shell for the contribution that they have been making in sport. 2.00 p.m.

We have a situation where their contributions to this particular area of our development have been able to provide people with that opportunity. And I am saying that we, as a Government must join with these organizations which are making that effort to see that a more speedy solution is found for dealing with the problems that face our people in this area of their development.

We have a situation where most of these organizations are headed by persons who volunteer their services, The Barbados Cricket Association, The Amateur Athletic Association, The Barbados Football Association, each one of these organizations is headed by persons who volunteer to hold office. In my view, the majority of those persons are competent and able to manage the associations. But we still cannot achieve the high objectives which we want to achieve unless at the community level and in the district level, we provide those young people with the opportunities, with the competition, with the help which they need.

I am satisfied that in many districts around this island, the young people are ready and willing to make their contribution. I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker. I visited the area of Hoyte's Village over the weekend and the young people are already talking of raising funds to erect some sort of structure to form a pavilion on those premises. These are all high ideals that these people have generated in their minds. But they will not be able to succeed if we are going to frustrate their dreams by long and tedious procedures of this kind.

Asides.

His Honour J. J. PAYNE: I am saying therefore that with this kind of situation, we have to approach the matter with more speed and more expeditiously. As a Member of this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, I am one of those people who do not believe that it is possible for the Government to create a playing field in every district of this country.

Aside.

His Honour J. J. PAYNE: Our land resources are so limited that it would not be possible for the Government to place a playing field in every district. It is important therefore for the Government to create some sort of development plan, develop some sort of development plan for each district, each constituency and each parish to ensure that the opportunity to get involved in sport is evenly distributed across this country.

I will give you an example of what I am saying. We have some districts in this country which are very large. If we look at the three districts of Mount Standfast, The Garden and Weston put together all in St. James, Mr. Speaker, those three districts together have in excess of 4 000 youth who can become involved in sport. But there is not a single playing field within the parameters of that area for the people to get involved in sport. We need to have some sort of development plan for all the districts scattered around the island to ensure that all of our young people are equally exposed to the opportunity for competition.

As a matter of fact I will go further and say this, that we are approaching a time in our history where we will have to look more and more to our country districts for our greatest sportsmen. We are approaching that situation, Mr. Speaker, where we will have to look more and more to our country districts. It is my view that our country districts, and when I speak of country districts, I am talking about districts like St. James, produce some of our greatest sportsmen.

As a human being, Mr. Speaker, I know the disappointment felt by the people of Hoyte's Village. I know it because they have expressed their feelings to me.

Aside.

His Honour J. J. PAYNE: And I want to suggest that we make every effort to get this particular matter resolved as soon as possible.

In concluding therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to issue the challenge to all of our colleagues here today that we take a very serious look at our system, our system of dealing with these matters and make every effort to ensure that we do not frustrate the people by the systems which we adopt in dealing with these matters.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your patient and sympathetic hearing.

Applause.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after that very incisive and clear statement by my colleague, I think we can go to lunch and meditate on the advice which he has given.

Sir, once again and I hope for the last time, we have to have lunch away from the premises. It is my sincere hope that this will be the last occasion on which we have to do that. It is because of the renovations, Mr. Speaker and therefore Honourable Members will be called upon once again to journey away from this place to another place to eat.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: And so, I beg to move that this House be now suspended until 3.30 this afternoon, Sir.

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

The question that this sitting be now suspended until 3.30 p.m. was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 2.08 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. Before we continue the debate before us, I thought that I would ask that the item dealing with Notices of Questions be recommitted, so that the honourable Member for St. Thomas can do if he so desires now.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, No. 106 first. This is to ask the Minister of Tourism and Sports:

Will the Minister please state whether he will permit electrification of the hard courts at Holy Innocents, St. Thomas by reusing some of the lights that formerly were in use at the National Stadium prior to the

change of the lighting system thereat but which are presently in the custody of the National Sports Council?

If the answer to the foregoing question is in the affirmative, will the Minister also state a date for commencement of the installation?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, No. 107. To ask the Minister responsible for Labour and Community Development:

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) the number of Board meetings held by the Child Care Board in each of the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 as at May 31, 1989?
- (b) the number of Sub-Committees of the said Board,
- (c) the number of Sub-Committee meetings held in each of the aforesaid years,
- (d) the total annual amounts by way of fees paid to each Board member.

Mr. SPEAKER: The continuation of Item No. 2.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few observations in support of the Resolution to acquire the land at Hoyte's Village for the provision of a playing field for the people of that area. I can claim interest to the extent that having been born in that area and having gone to school at St. John The Baptist Boys School, my very first primary school, I am familiar with some.....

(Asides)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Yes, Good Shepherd as well. That is why I am so bright. Having been part of that area, it means that some of the people in that area are very familiar to me and, in fact, I have family within that area. So I am very interested in the development of that area. Also, that area of St. James is where I grew up. The Honourable Member for St. James North mentioned the fact that St. James is a prolific producer of sports people in Barbados and he mentioned the names of people like Desmond Haynes who, of course, is the premier opening batsman in the world. But I would like to take him back even beyond that to the days of George Carew and Clairmonte DePeiza. At Maple, the first really truly country club that was organised in this country - my family was part of the organisation of that club - we produced the Keith Boyces and the John Shepherds. I think that it is important to remember that the St. James area has a history for the

production of excellent sportsmen and especially cricketers and, of course, the Prime Minister himself and your humble servant

(Laughter.)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS:....who was no mean opening batsman in his time. That is right. I want to place that on record.

The reason I wanted to say something on the acquisition of sports facilities is because I wanted to mention something that is happening in this country that needs to be looked at very seriously. In the Mapp Hill area, the constituency which I represent, there is a beautiful playing field there and it is shocking to find that within the past few months there have been illegal dumpings on that playing field. Only three Saturdays ago, I had to intervene so that youngsters could play cricket on Saturday. It appears that construction work is going on within the area and all kinds of construction companies are just sending trucks to offload material on the playing field. Saturday before last I was at the playing field because the Lumber Company was making a presentation of a Scoreboard to the area and, while we were there awaiting the presentation, a truck came up to dump stuff. When you check with the Sports Council, apparently they have given no permission for dumping and yet illegal dumping is going on. It is part of a philosophy that is permeating in this society - lawlessness, aided and abetted by a lot of frustrated people in this community, who because they are failures think that the way to get back at the society is to incite people in this community to act irresponsibly....

(Asides)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS:.... aided and abetted by some political parties as well who go on political platforms and tell people that the country is going to shut down tomorrow morning because there are going to be all out strikes.

(Asides)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: If you interfere with me, you are going to make me say things that I do not want to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: But it will have to be on the Resolution surely.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Of course, of course! It has to do, Mr. Speaker, with the irresponsibility of people. The point I am making is that it is good for Government to create facilities for people. But people have got to understand that there is a responsibility.

We have made applications to the Ministry of Housing to upgrade the playing field at Mapp Hill by putting in a

play park for the kids. The residents of the area have gone to the point where they have drawn up plans, et cetera.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the Member. I appreciate the point that you are making. But I also want to feel that this is something that you envisage is likely to affect the playing field we are talking about now. I take this is the point you are making.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: The point I am saying, Sir, is that while the residents of the area are aiming to upgrade the facilities on the playing field and have got plans to upgrade the facilities on the playing field, aided and abetted by the community, we have the situation where people are coming from outside destroying the facilities at the playing field.

(Asides)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Of course, that is the point I am taking that when we get the playing field at Hoyte's Village, that what is happening here I am sounding as a note of warning. I know that the people in St. James are responsible people and I know that they would from the very beginning take care of that playing field and so supervise it. They will not allow people from outside to come and misuse the facilities as has happened at the Mapp Hill playing field. I am sure that the Ministry of Sports and the Minister of Sports are looking into the situation and that very shortly that situation in Mapp Hill would be corrected.

I want to support the Government in providing the playing field for the residents of Hoyte's Village. From that very area, as the representative from St. George North said, we know that we will be producing sportsmen of the future. As a matter of fact, the youngsters from Sion Hill have now been promoted to First Division, another plus for the playing field facilities that we create in the North. I want to lend my support for the acquisition of this land. I thank you.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the two previous speakers to the extent that they went into, first in commenting on the dilatoriness of which matters of these kinds are approached and also, as the previous speaker just said, of the almost callous disregard for Government property despite all of the talk about illegal dumping, the situation that has been allowed to develop at Mapp Hill in St. George. Sorry, I will crave a little indulgence here.

Now as the Member for St. Michael South East said, I would want to relate this to what was said earlier, Sir, but I would just want some latitude, Sir. When I was a Member of the Democratic Labour Party, the Member for St. Michael South East and myself sat on the Committee that was helping to develop that playing facility up there. A lot of effort went into it. I had written a letter with his knowledge as well to the Ministry of Housing asking for

permission to proceed with the plans which were already approved by the Town Planning Department to put in a pretty elaborate facility in St. George and all of it would have been done by the residents of Dash Valley, Mapp Hill, Haggatt Hall, and Lower Burney's, that whole area even as far east as South District. 3.45 p.m.

A lot of interest was generated, a lot of other Government Departments had gone in and had made contributions, the people from the Rural, Development Programme were also involved to supply water, because we wanted to put in a real class facility, and to my surprise I noticed that a lot of dumping was going on there. I did not think that the Ministry or the Sports Council could have been so callous that they would have disregarded our request for permission to put in the facility, well knowing that they would not have had to foot any bill of any kind.

This is why the speech made by the member for St. James North is so important, because he related and he said that at some time the residents of Hoyte's Village will make a contribution in terms of developing the playing facility, and it does not speak very well of us as citizens where we can abuse the environment as we are doing.

The illegal dumping is to the extent that they are trying to, as it is, fill in a descent. We did not want that filled in, because it would have been the kind of thing that would have made the pond we wanted in there. I would hope that the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Sports Council will seek and find out those persons who are responsible for dumping there and will ask them to remove it at their own expense so that we can get back on track with doing what we were doing to accommodate the residents of the Mapp Hill area and the South District area who are sufficiently divided along political lines but are really and truthfully one district.

I would commend the Government, even though it took them a long time in getting this far with this acquisition. I want to join in supporting the Resolution because Barbados has made great strides and has been able to become recognised internationally because of the kinds of sports persons we have been able to produce, not only in cricket, but we have made tremendous strides in weight lifting, body building and so on. In providing good facilities I know there is always the double barrelled thing where you are saying you should have sports facilities, but on the other hand we may be saying that the Government is over spending, but there has got to be a balance that has got to be brought to bear in situations like these. I think that money spent in the acquisition of lands for this public purpose is money well spent, because in the long run it will redound to the overall benefit not only of the individual sportsmen who might be produced out of the environment the facility is serving, but certainly it will redound to the benefit of the entire country.

If we are going to seriously look at developing sports tourism, it is important that we have facilities of this kind. The more facilities of this kind we have, the better for us as a community. While on that score, I would like to remind the Minister of the promise he made to put in the park, and playing field at Drax Hall, St. George for the children. I had asked a Parliamentary Question some time back about that and the answer was given in the affirmative that it will be done. A lot of work has been done at Drax Hall.

Sir, I would just sit at this moment while at the same time commending Government and supporting them in this Resolution.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution and basically to commend the Member for St. James North for having succeeded so far to get this matter attended to, and to the Government for keeping in touch with its pledge to provide the facilities that this will now provide. I am hoping, Sir, that as has been voiced the fears of the Honourable Member for St. James North are not experienced by way of further delays in the further implementation of the project.

I too am very concerned about the lengthy delays that we have in bringing these matters to fruition, and you need only be a concerned and active participant in the business of representing people to understand the frustrations that people raise with you and the way they make you feel about their frustrations to understand the problems which were raised by the Honourable Member for St. James North.

I too, Sir, have some concern about delays in relation to some of the requests that we in St. Michael North East have made for similar facilities, and if we can get out of this way some of the bungling that we have been experiencing through the system, I am sure that some of the plans we have for future development of areas in our constituency will bring much credit to the people who have elected us, and certainly some satisfaction to us that we have been able to provide the things our constituents have asked of us.

The history of the area that I am talking about in St. Michael North East goes back to the action of the last administration, the Barbados Labour Party administration, in leasing an area of land that was designed for recreational purposes in the Friendship Terrace area to a business concern and having no regard to provide subsequent provision for the recreational facilities of the area.

I have been very hard pressed to satisfy the people in my constituency that we must, in terms of meeting those developments that are necessary, press the Ministry of Lands to speed up the requests that we have made, because I have visions of the kind of complex for the development of these recreational areas, especially in my area, which would embrace not only a playing field but a sort of multi-purpose complex which would help to enhance our already

fairly high reputation in the field of body building and weight lifting.

There is a high degree of fitness consciousness in our community, Sir, and I would like to see in this same complex some accommodation for the people who are in this fitness situation having greater access to proper facilities.

I want to see also some accommodation for meaningful discourses on fitness in general. The area I am talking about is just in the Green Hill area adjacent to the Warrens Polyclinic.

I think it would be a good compliment for the health services that we offer there to have this kind of complex where people can generally move around the health education of our country. 3.55 p.m.

I do not just want to see the matter as a playing field, but I want to see us begin to lift, as we in the Democratic Labour Party have been saying, the consciousness of sports to the whole health of the nation, be it economic or otherwise. I should like, Sir, to support this Resolution, and, as I said, to compliment the Government and the Honourable Member for St. James North for having reached the stage that they have reached, and to give voice to my concerns for the delays that we have been having in bringing these matters to fruition. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I propose to make a short intervention on this particular matter. The intervention has to do first with congratulating the Honourable Minister of Sports for in this particular instance having brought this particular matter to fruition. It is a matter which has been hanging fire for a long time and I know that the Honourable Member for St. James North was very concerned about this and has been agitating for it.

Obviously, Sir, this would not have been possible without the sterling efforts of the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, and for that I would also want to offer my congratulations. Now I think, Sir, that the whole question of the provision of playing facilities in Barbados is something for which this party has a proud record, and that is something which we would want to see continued. However, there is something which is beginning to bother me and it has been bothering me for some time. I think it ought to be said here and now. The feeling which one is getting when one goes around the country and observes the facilities which are being provided, is that the facilities are under-utilised, and in some instances as has been pointed out, the facilities are abused and vandalised. I believe that the time has come when a very sterling appeal must go out to the community that when the Government provides these facilities, they are provided for the upliftment of the community and the community ought to take pride in

preserving them, pride in ensuring that they are utilized to the benefit of all the members in the community. We do not want to have a situation where one group adopts the attitude that because they play cricket, people cannot use the facilities to play something else like football or volleyball or what-have-you. One does not want to adopt the attitude that if a particular club in the first instance had access to that particular facility that no other club should have access to it. These are community facilities, and I think it is very important that this point is made, because what one sees at times is that there are a lot of controversies which arise over the utilisation of these facilities, and this should not be.

I believe that communities ought to be organised in such a way that they can use the facilities as effectively as possible, and I think that that appeal must go out to the members of the community for whom these facilities are designed.

Secondly, Sir, I think that there is a very serious problem in this country concerning motivation; motivation of people and particularly in sports. I am getting the feeling, Sir, that there is a lack of motivation to excel in sports. How else could one possibly explain our decline in cricket? I think that sooner or later we will find ourselves, if it has not already happened, being removed from the premier position in cricket and relegated to almost the bottom. I think that we have to do something now to restore this, and the mere provision of facilities will not do it. I think that we have to try to reach our youngsters and try to motivate them in the way that they can excel in these particular areas. These are concerns which I hope we will see addressed and we will see communities becoming involved actively in these things.

Sir, we are in a position in this country where people seem to be adopting the attitude that the Government has to do everything, the Government has to provide facilities, the Government has to provide even at some of these playing fields, as I can see what is happening, a groundsman, somebody to roll the wicket. It would seem as if gone are the days when people took pride in preparing their wicket even if they had to put a little extra water in it in order to help them win a match. That was all part of the tradition. All of that it appears to me is being lost now. I think we ought to call a halt to this and redirect people in the right direction.

These are concerns which I want to express and which I believe ought to be looked at in a very serious manner, otherwise I think that we are really heading in the wrong direction, and we will have people who have no motivation, who have no desire to be involved at the community level, to build up the community, because after all, if we see our communities falling apart in various ways, then this could have an overall harmful effect on our entire society. I think the warning is not a bit too early. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give support to this Resolution fully realising that it is a vexed matter. When one listened rather intently to the representative of St. James North this morning, one could only detect an air of frustration, and what is more, Sir, I think that we will all probably agree that as far as his constituents are concerned, there will be some of them who might be apt to believe that he was not particularly doing all that was in his power. I stand, Sir, to give testimony to the fact that not only did he daily and weekly telephone not only myself but certainly the Attorney General and the Minister of Housing, but he even invited me to speak. I thought it was a very innocent thing, as I went to St. James to speak to his constituents. I thought it safe to speak about tourism, but after I had gone through that for about half an hour, Sir, the youngsters of the area told me that that was very good, we are all Barbadians and are all happy with the progress in tourism, but what we are not happy with was the progress of the field at Hoyte's. And, Sir, I told them quite frankly that I was aware of the fact that they had been playing on the ground for some five years before they were sort of unceremoniously kicked out and I was very aware too of the fact that my Ministry was doing all within its power to make sure that they would be able to play on it very shortly.

My word is my bond, Sir, and therefore I feel very aggrieved when some 2 1/2 years have gone and the residents of that area think that I had tricked them. Nothing is further from the truth because for the past 2 1/2 years along with the Ministry of Housing and Lands and indeed the Attorney General's Chambers we have tried very gallantly to get this thing solved, and I am very happy now, Sir, to see that it has actually come to fruition.

Sir, before we can really get into it, I wish to say that I had pointed out to them that not only in Hoyte's Village will I give them the opportunity of playing on these beautiful fields, but we would also make sure that those who play tennis and basketball would obviously get facilities at Folkestone. I alluded, too, to the fact that the boys further up the hill - those they talked about in Haynesville and in that area of Holders Hill - would get their basketball court and their tennis court. 4.05 p.m.

All of that has been done except the fact that we do not have the Hoyte's Village playing field so far and I wish to state now, Sir, lest it be said at some other time that the Ministry of Sports did not carry out the functions as they said they would do, I wish to say out of the 27 constituencies, out of the 27 honourable gentlemen sitting in this Chamber, only about two or three can, with some justification, murmur, not shout, that things have not been done.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East has said so many times, Sir, that we are not putting in the lights

in St. Christopher. That is not true. We are going to put in the lights. They have been bought and soon, even the Honourable Member from Christ Church East, will sing my praises. I hope to live to see that day, Sir.

I would also like to say that the two Honourable Ministers from St. Philip, they too have had their problems but they know fully well that Blades Hill will be on stream and when the acquisitions are in place St. Philip South will have theirs.

Apart from those three Honourable gentlemen, Sir, I defy any member in this House, including the Acting Prime Minister, to get up and state that the Ministry of Sports has not done them proud in the last three years so I have no problem but I have to address this one....

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

The Minister is defying anyone to get up. I wish to know, Sir, while he is in his stride, how soon can we look forward to the hard courts at Redman's Village - Bagatelle.

Hon. *Y. W. HALL: Sir, the Honourable Member alluded to hard courts at Redman's Village. I never promised that, Sir. I promised hard courts at Bagatelle. Is it the same thing?

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Well, it is part of my ignorance, Sir, but I never thought that Redman's Village was Bagatelle. I know they were contiguous but I did not know that they were the same address.

Sir, one would not have believed that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would have got up and said that today having written in the Press so eloquently how he got into the House. It was Redman's Village and, certainly, Sir, that meeting was not in Bagatelle, it was in Redman's Village so, therefore, he knows better. I know he knows his constituency but he probably gets the villages mixed up.

I would like to say, Sir, that I would like to give a little scenario of the sequence of events of the situation because, I believe, that one has to understand...

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Oh, Sir, I crave your indulgence. When I said that no member in here can get up and the Acting Prime Minister got up, I know he wishes me to inform this Honourable House that next week, not a day later, we will see the pavilion at Passage Road going up. That is a fact and I know the Acting Honourable Prime Minister needs me to say that and I have said it so I think that is something of which we are all very proud. Having realized how hard he has fought for it, I think that the

people in the surrounding areas must know that the Acting Prime Minister has done a great job in getting us to prepare those lands for his constituents.

Sir, on 17 January 1986, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Lands informed the National Sports Council that the legal formalities were complete for the acquisition of this land, some 1.682 hectares of land at Hoyte's Village.

On 16 January authorisation under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act Cap. 228 was signed by the Chief Surveyor giving the National Sports Council the Authority to enter on the land.

On April 2, 1986, Mr. Ellis, the owner of the land, was informed by the National Sports Council that they proposed to enter into these lands. Mr. Ellis then got his attorneys to write the Attorney General and suggested that the Government should acquire the entire 10 acres of land simply because he felt that the 4 1/2 acres previously alluded to would leave him with very little use of the land.

Sir, I am just making these few points so that everyone would understand exactly what happened. Two days later, on April 11, 1986, his attorneys wrote to the National Sports Council informing them that adequate compensation was not agreed upon and that the legal formalities for the transfer of the title had not taken place.

Now, Sir, this was rather interesting because what it meant was that the owner of the land seemed to be rather concerned that even though acquisition procedures had gone through Cabinet, he was concerned that no one had spoken to him about this land. Even though the Sports Council had entered on the land, prepared the wicket and had actually levelled the out-fill so that it was in playing condition, the owner of the land infuriated by the sort of excruciating pain he suffered when no one told him that they were going to come into his land, got out there with a tractor and ploughed all of the land, despite the fact that it was against the law. That is what happened, Sir.

I felt, that as the Minister responsible for Sports, I should talk to the gentleman and find out what were his concerns. I journeyed to Hoyte's Village and there I met the owner Mr. Ellis, and I explained to him that the rumours he had heard that the Government was contemplating buying an additional piece of land were not true and that we would have to acquire that land that he had in Hoyte's Village.

He said to me, as he had said previously in his letters, that the remaining 6 acres of land would have been no use to him and, perhaps, the Government would be better served if they had acquired the entire 10 acres of land.

I left him, Sir, with the understanding that I would try my best to accede to his request and that I would tell my

colleagues in the Government that the best thing would be to acquire the entire 10 acres.

The Ministry of Housing and Lands were approached and asked if they could use the additional land for Housing and therein lay the problem. The problem was that the additional lands were not particularly suited for building at that time but it was even more not particularly not suited to having a playing field.

It is a travesty, Sir, of justice when you get people in this country having acres of land for development - take Regency Park, for instance, and the playing field is usually in a gully. It is usually on a hill or even on a mountain. They do not seem to understand that you play sport on flat acreage. They do not seem to understand that that is the name of the game and so we in the Ministry of Sports insisted that the original playing field, the one where we had levelled, the one where we had built the wicket was the position that we would like the playing field to be in.

Now, Sir, I am very happy to hear the Minister of Housing and Lands saying this morning that his Ministry will do just that and having said so, Sir, I believe the problem should be solved.

On November 26, 1986, the parliamentary representative for St. James North asked a question in the House and he wanted to know how long is too long and I think the answer given to him at that time was that the Ministries responsible for carrying out the work were moving assiduously to rectify the position and I think that he was very satisfied with that.

Soon after that Sir, the Honourable Member was again asking questions of all three Ministries and, indeed, it has been the subject of many long conversations on radio programmes and everywhere you go in St. James and so, Sir, I feel that he is quite entitled to raise the question again in here.

Sir, I wish to say that we are very happy in the Ministry of Sports to deal very seriously with this Resolution. 4.15p.m.

I say so, Sir,....

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: ... because there is a notion that once the land is Government's land that the Ministry of Sports can move in and have the recreational facilities put in place. That is certainly not true, Sir. What we need to do is to get permission from the relevant Ministry and when that is given then my Ministry will do all in our power to make sure that this is expedited.

Sir, I should just like to conclude by saying that I am very happy that the Honourable Member for St. James North at last can tell his constituents that they will get their playing field. For I vow that as soon as we are given the green light, the red light has been on too long, Sir, as long as we have got the green light, Sir, my Ministry will move with all alacrity to expedite this whole business of getting this playing field in place.

I wish also to say, Sir, that we pledge in the Ministry of Tourism and Sports to continue to give the type of good service to the youngsters and all sports loving enthusiasts in this country so that we will have the necessary facilities.

I would also say to the Member for St. Michael South East, Sir, that I am aware, in fact I have seen the practice of illegal dumping on Mapp Hill playing field, Sir, The Honourable Member took it upon himself as a good representative of the people to encourage the youngsters of that particular area to do something for themselves, that is, let us build, let us have a playing area. And they approached my Ministry and I told them yes, we are quite in favour of it, but we need to get permission to get it done. The work has started, Sir, But in the meantime, you find that with the construction work that has been going on in the area, one load of stuff is dropped and then suddenly two weeks later it seems to be ten loads.

Sir, I would appeal to the relevant Ministries to make sure that this practice is stopped as soon as possible. And what is more, perhaps we can make sure that people are aware of the fact that to dump illegally on playing fields is against the law and we will have to take the necessary proceedings, Sir, against the wrongdoers.

I feel, Sir, that I need to reply to the Member for St. George South. Heaven knows that I have paid my dues in St. George South, Sir. I have done everything that I said that I would do. I believe that the question about the play park is not particularly under my purview. Therefore, Sir, I shall seek on your behalf to the Minister responsible for Community Development....

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: ... to see if he can enhance the surroundings as we have started by putting in first of all, not only a very good playing park but indeed, facilities for basketball, netball and volleyball.

As far as the Member for St. Thomas,....

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: ... I just wish to say to him, Sir, that the question of the hardcourts at Bagatelle is on stream. Make no mistake about it. As usual, we shall do the necessary in the quickest time possible.

And the Member for Christ Church East, your lights will be there. They will illuminate any dark corner up in Christ Church East. And I promise you that that will be done.

I wish therefore, Sir, to say to everyone, especially you, Sir,....

Asides.

Laughter.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I do not have to make any promises to the Attorney-General. I think that there is great testimony in Silver Hill.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: The constituents of Silver Hill and the constituents in the area surrounding Briar Hall would attest to the fact that this Government has done great tilings as far as sporting facilities are concerned.

just like to conclude, Sir, by thanking all the ministries concerned for bringing this very vex question as I said earlier, Sir, to some finality.

I wish to say that the people of Hoyte's Village and the surrounding areas will be justly proud of the facilities that we shall put in Hoyte's Village. And since they have been waiting so long, I believe that the day will not be too far removed, Sir, when we will obviously give them something better, not only a playing field, but we will be giving them a pavilion so that they will have the type of facilities in that rather beautiful area of the country. That will make them very proud.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Asides.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

POLICE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1989

Order No.1 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Police Act.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, this Bill to amend the Police Act seeks to give effect to a decision of the Government to transfer responsibility for the management of the Traffic Warden Scheme from the Ministry of Transport and Works to the Police Department.

This particular Bill, the Bill to amend the Police Act is part of a number of bits of legislation which will be necessary to give total effect to the proposal.

The Traffic Warden Scheme, as Your Honour will probably recall was established as a result of the Road Traffic Act and Regulations. So that it will be necessary to revoke the provisions in the Road Traffic Act and in the Road Traffic Regulations which deal with the creation of a Traffic Warden Scheme.

The Amendment which is presently before us, the Bill to amend the Police Act would provide for the creation of the scheme under the administration of the Police.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Speaker, the Acting Leader of the House gave notice of a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act and indicated that he would seek leave to deal with it in all its stages today. The passage of that Bill, Mr. Speaker, is an essential part of the total package to establish the Traffic Warden Scheme within the Police Force, because if that Bill is not itself amended, we would have the unusual position where two bits of legislation to establish a department of Traffic Wardens in two different places. So it will be essential if the scheme is to be transferred from the Ministry of Transport and Works that both Bills be dealt with, at the same time, and that the Ministerial Order relating to the revocation of Section 16 of the Road Traffic Regulations of 1984 be effected all at the same time.

The Minister has in fact signed the Regulations and it will be laid as soon as action has been taken on these two bits of legislation. 4.25 p.m.

So that the Bill very simply then, Mr. Speaker, seeks to give effect, a very simple measure, to that intention of the Government. I move, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. M. A. KING, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 through 3 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. M. A. KING, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. M. A. KING, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier today when I gave notice of the Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, I indicated that I would seek Your Honour's and the House's leave to do this Bill in all of its stages today. I have been in consultation with the parties concerned on the other side and agreement has been reached that we could proceed in that manner, and I now so request Your Honour's permission.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection.... ROAD

TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order No. 3 was called - To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, when I introduced the Police (Amendment) Bill a short while ago indicating that it would provide the framework for transferring the Traffic Warden Scheme from the Ministry of Transport and Works to be administered by the Police, I indicated that a necessary part of that procedure was the passage of a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act so as to delete from the provisions of the Road Traffic Act those parts of it which dealt with Traffic Wardens.

Section 2 of the Road Traffic Act defines Traffic Warden and that is the section which this proposed Amendment would now seek to delete. The package, as I indicated earlier, will be complete by revoking that section of the Road Traffic Regulations of 1984 which are substantially embodied in the Bill which we have just disposed of.

So that this Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act then is a simple measure to complete the process of transfer and I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

SPEAKER: The question....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be contentious. I know the Government has had a very horrifying time within the last 2 weeks and, as Barbadians, we must be concerned. We have our little political positions to take from time to time, Sir, and that is part of the system. I am not going to reap up anything that may be too hard, but

I have to ask a question of the Attorney General. I read on the weekend that Cabinet had taken a decision in September 1986 for minibuses to carry on the road - I tell you that I am not going to be too hard, Sir - 7 passengers standing.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All this has to do with the road traffic.

Mr. SPEAKER: But we are dealing with something specific about road traffic and not the whole road traffic. We are not dealing with the whole sector. Clearly, it says what it wants to do. If you read Standing Order 28(2), you will understand clearly what I mean.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I told you that I was not going to be contentious, Sir, and you must not anticipate which I understand the sensitivity. I am not going to make any mischief. I just want to know what preventative,...

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did what I had to do Sunday night.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not rule by sensitivity. I rule according to the Rules.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But insofar as we have had 2 amending bits of legislation dealing with Road Traffic today, I just wanted to know and I think the public deserves to know what inhibited the Government for almost 3 years from introducing the legislation that would have legitimized the standing passengers in minibuses. I am not going to make it difficult for you fellows. I understand the situation. I just wanted to know because it seems to me that if we are now hearing that legislation can come as quickly as next month, then there is no valid excuse for having held it up for 33 months. If you can get it in a month, surely you' could have had it a long time ago and a lot of the heat would have been taken out of the road traffic situation that we have, Sir. I am not saying anything else about these matters now, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, this Amendment looks like a very important matter. As far as I am concerned, the safety of our children on the highway is extremely important.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS:...The Traffic Warden Division. It is the same thing man.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The Traffic Warden Division from the Ministry of Transport and Works to the Police Force. Thank you.

I was saying the safety of our children is very important and I agree that the responsibility for this particular area whether it is in Transport and Works or the Police is a matter of concern. I think perhaps we are safer with the arrangements that it could go from the Ministry of Transport and Works to the Police Force, because I believe that the wardens do need a certain amount of training in relation to their functions in directing traffic and looking after the welfare of our children.

On the whole, as I was saying, the question of transport is vitally important, because the safety of our children will be affected not only by having good wardens in place but also the quality of our rolling stock, whether the rolling stock belongs to the Transport Board or if the rolling stock belongs to the Minibus Association. 4.35 p.m.

I have expressed my concern before in this Chamber and elsewhere about the discipline of the minibus operators in as much as they can affect public safety on our roads, and I believe our children are at great risk, not only as pedestrians on the highway but also when they drive in the minibuses.

Quite frankly I suffer some degree of concern that perhaps the community will have to become a little more alert when there is an accident and we learn that 20 persons are dead in a minibus because of the way they drive on these roads. I certainly would not like that to happen, but my plea is out to those minibus people to try to control their operations on the road so that they do not put our children at risk. Try to ensure that a certain degree of discipline comes into the whole transport system.

I am not one who supports the standards that many of them set, stopping anywhere on the roads, the wild music that is not meant to calm the nerves, and the whole culture associated with them I find very strange. I was shocked last week when I heard that a person who had broken the law was being held up as a hero in this country as against a Magistrate who was upholding the law. That shocked me terribly. I am not surprised, because there are certain things that are happening in this community that bother me tremendously. It reminded me of the Mark Young affair when the Press tried to give the impression that Mark Young was this tremendous hero. The same Press, for instance, that would make you believe that our Prime Minister does not know what he is doing, he does not understand anything, and that change around of values is very frightening to me in this society.

Recently there was a problem at the Transport Board. Now the Transport Board's rolling stock is one of the matters...

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, I earlier on made a ruling and an observation and it is going to be applicable to all members. Rule 28(2).

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I will try to relate the matters. We are talking about the safety of our children. That is why we have Traffic Wardens. Our children cannot be safe if the rolling stock is not good. That is the connection I am making. As I understand it, one of the big problems in that matter was that a particular employee of the Transport Board was saying "I cannot drive a bus" because there were difficulties with the bus and he was writing a memo, and those who understand what we are talking about, a memo is when a bus is faulty you have to write a memo saying that the differential is bad, the steering is bad, the brakes are bad.

We are talking about the rolling stock, we are talking about the Traffic Wardens and safety as I understand it.

Asides

Mr. SPEAKER: And by inference or extension, the Traffic Wardens write memos. That is what you are saying.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am looking at all the elements of safety involved. The Traffic Wardens are out there directing, the driver is driving the bus. They are all part of the whole system of trying to protect the children. I am trying to establish that there might be an inter-relatedness, but the point I am making, quite frankly, is the need to ensure in our rolling stock that there is a certain amount of safety.

It seems to me that there is a problem at the Transport Board in terms of guaranteeing that safety from the start, because of a parts problem. That is one problem we have been hearing about and in fact there are some people who would say that most of the rolling stock has one level of difficulty or the other, which is not a criticism of the Transport Board or anyone involved, but it is a matter of concern for the safety of the citizens.

Aside

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: It has to be management? To some extent, except that you are dealing with an accumulated situation, an old stock of buses that go from way back, the amount of resources that we in a country like Barbados have for bringing in new buses and replacing old ones and so on. When I say nobody can take the responsibility, I am saying there is a collection of events that would lead to these kinds of situations. Other management programmes are involved too at the Transport

Board, but as the Speaker said, we do not have too much latitude in this direction.

I just want to make the point that we need to look out for the safety of our children. The Traffic Warden system is part of that, but we would not want to concentrate on that totally to the neglect of the fact that we have to look at the operations of the minibuses and of the Transport Board buses. It is very important that we look at that.

What is vitally important, I think, is the establishment of systems. Where you do not have systems in place, you are going to have breakdowns. If we just appoint Wardens but we do not train them and set up systems to manage those human resources, we are going to be back at problems in the same way that we have a massive Transport Board and if we do not set up systems in terms of equipment and material but also systems in relation to people, we are going to break down. If we do not have systems of discipline and if we do not have systems of adjudicating problems when they arise, we are going to run into very severe difficulties.

I believe that part of the problem that arose over the last week arose from a problem of lack of systems to adjudicate and to examine where somebody can have a lot of, as they are called, memos, and this now becomes an irritant, but if management sets up structures then you would be able to take measures to prevent these kinds of difficulties from developing.

We are very happy that we in Barbados today did not go through a very traumatic situation as a result of these problems, largely because of the co-operation between the Minister of Transport and Works and the Barbados Workers' Union. We are very, very happy that in spite of the problems of lack of systems, because of the understanding of the Minister of Transport and Works and his co-operation with the Barbados Workers' Union, we do not have a problem in this country today.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I want to deal with the element of safety in relation to the use of the road by our school children. The Traffic Wardens are in place to supervise the movement of students in the vicinity of schools. I think that is basically why they were established. This is good, Sir, but I think that the whole system needs to have a little more teeth. I have seen on occasions where motorists using the highways totally ignore Traffic Wardens when they come into the road to stop them, and I think that we need a better system or a more improved system for the movement of children across the streets. The Traffic Warden system is good if motorists observe the Wardens on mornings or in the afternoons when they are doing their work.

I have observed, for example, Sir, in Florida, more precisely Miami, where you have a speed zone and within

that zone motorists cannot travel at any more than 15 miles an hour. 4.45 p.m.

It is established between the hours of 7.00 and 9.00 on mornings and from the hours probably around 1 o'clock until 4.00 on evenings, and I think that if we have a system like this in place in Barbados that the safety of our children would be more enhanced. I think the system would work very well.

I have been involved in matters before the courts where on two occasions that I can recall, in one case a child lost a kidney because of a negligent motorist travelling at very fast speeds in the vicinity of the school, and in the other case another student sustained a severely injured ankle because of similar negligence on the part of a motorist. This is why I think if we have this speed zone system established that the safety of our students would be greatly enhanced, and I would ask the Attorney General to look at this. Of course any violation of the zone or any regulation in relation to the speed zone would be met with punishment. It is a system that is observed. I have never seen any accident occurring; I am not saying that there has never been, but I have travelled to Florida on many occasions and have never seen any accidents occurring in any of these zones. People observe them almost to the letter and the safety of students is greatly enhanced whenever you have zones of this nature installed.

The traffic warden system, if it works well, would be sufficient but motorists can become very negligent and since they are not in a sense policemen, motorists ignore them and go on their way even when they have instructed or indicated to motorists that they ought to stop. So I would ask the Attorney General to look at this system very well and see if it can be implemented in Barbados. I think it would be a good thing for us.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to lend my support to this Bill because I think it is surely a step in the right direction. I have been for some time calling for a proper system of chaperoning children across the streets near our schools. My office, where it was in Spooners Hill, was opposite a school where a number of children had to cross to and fro, and even with the traffic wardens I myself was somewhat concerned that the traffic wardens did not seem to have the kind of authority which this legislation would now give them. Certainly there is still a measure of chaos that could ensue if there is not designated crossing lanes because to have the traffic warden at one point and the children scampering on either side of the traffic warden, there would still be some degree of danger posed to their lives. So I am just asking that as an adjunct to this we could have crossing lanes in these areas where the traffic wardens are functioning so that within those lanes the safety of the children can be enhanced. Thank you, Sir.

His Honour J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few remarks on this Bill because I myself have been observing the situation with regard to the traffic wardens on the roads, and I believe that it is time not only to transfer the responsibility, but for us to look at the whole situation regarding the wardens and look for areas of improvement. I believe that one of the areas on which we ought to focus some attention, Mr. Speaker, is in the area of training.

I believe that the wardens on the roads can be used very effectively, not only in terms of moving children across the road, but also in terms of dealing with those many traffic problems that sometimes may arise on the road where a vehicle may break down and cause an obstruction, and you may just need someone to assist by giving directions to assist in the free flow of traffic. I find that in the past our traffic wardens have restricted their activity to assisting children in crossing the street to get to and from school, and I believe that as time goes on we will have to seek to train them to do a more expanded job and to have a more comprehensive set of responsibilities on the road to deal with additional duties in respect of traffic problems on the roads.

It must be recognised that traffic wardens will have a very serious and technical responsibility. They will no doubt have to become very familiar with the Road Traffic legislation, and for that reason if they are to become effective, there must be some means of ensuring that the people who drive vehicles on the road recognise that they are in a position to enforce the power which they have. It means therefore that these are persons who will be required to attend court and give evidence in traffic cases, and this is a matter, giving evidence in court as a witness, which is a very skilled and technical task, and they will have to be trained to perform all these various responsibilities.

I would like to suggest that the area of training is one that would have to be looked at very seriously, because there is no doubt in my mind that the responsibility which we are undertaking here for these wardens is one which is a very important aspect in relation to our traffic on the highway. So I am very happy to see Government moving ahead with this particular measure. Only today I was making a particular note of the uniform. I notice that the * ones I saw on the road were wearing a different uniform from what they have been using in the past. I don't know if they will be using the uniform similar to that of the Royal Barbados Police Force, but I believe that they should continue to use such uniform where they can be easily recognisable on the road. If we proceed along those directions, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the measures which we are passing today will make an important impact on the improvement of the free flow of traffic on the highway. With those brief remarks, I want to give my support to this ^ Bill.

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

On motion of Hon. M. A. KING, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. M. A. KING seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 4.55 p.m.

On separate motions of Hon. M. A. KING seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for today and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 20, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 20, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.00p.m.

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