

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 20, 1989.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m., Tuesday, June 20, 1989.

PRESENT

His Honour J. J. PAYNE, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDDFORD, B.A., (Econ.), J.P.,
(Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

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. 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. 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 and Culture)

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

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

Mr. E. 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. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert. Ed.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER

Mr. R. P. BYER, LL.B.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.

Prayers were led by Father Ivan Harewood. Mr.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, June 13, 1989.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that those Minutes be taken as read and unless there is any objection be confirmed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no additions or alterations, those Minutes stand confirmed.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before we proceed further, I wish on a Point of Privilege to draw a matter to Your Honour's attention for Your Honour's determination.

Sir, Your Honour will recall that at the sitting of this House two sittings ago, at the point of Adjournment, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas raised a question concerning the Hansard. That question was with regard to the delay in the reproduction of Hansard. You will recall that in my capacity as Acting Leader of this House I gave information to the House.

Now Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, subsequent to that sitting a report appeared in the Barbados Advocate of Wednesday, June 7. I shall, of course, make all of these documents of the House. But at Page 13 of that newspaper

under the heading, "Who Will Edit The Hansard?" a paragraph appeared which reads as follows:

"Mr. Taitt said that Government was planning to revert to the former system where the Hansard was edited by the Parliamentarians themselves."

Now Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have taken the trouble to ask the reporter to give me the actual words spoken unedited. The question had been going back and forth and here is what I said after an Honourable Member had interjected. The paragraph before I said and I quote: "The actual details as to why we have not been getting Hansard - there has been some delay in recent times - is that there was a person employed as Editor for the Hansard and that person was employed within the Printery, but is on the staff of Parliament. That person left fairly abruptly and suddenly, and the position has not been filled." Another Honourable Member spoke and then I went on to say: "The Honourable Member is perfectly right and what I am going on to say to him is that we are seeking to revert to the position we used to have where the Hansard can be done in the way it used to be done and delivered on time."

What I said is not relevant after that, Sir, to the point I am about to make. Now Sir, the history of Parliament in Barbados is such that we have never had the Members editing the Hansard. But that inaccuracy such as it was by the Advocate on Page 13 might perhaps not be much in itself even though it would be an affront to Parliament to suggest that the Parliamentarians edit their own Hansard. But lo and behold, Sir, in the Nation Newspaper of Friday and Saturday, June 16 and 17, 1989 one of the columnists, a Mr. Gladstone Holder, under an article "Too Close For Comfort" writes at length and he begins, and I quote, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

"A reported statement by Mr. Branford Taitt in Parliament last week is a case in point." I need to go to the paragraph before. "These were just some of the outward and visible signs of the degeneration that had for years been burrowing away at the roots of this society. Everybody can see them now and be disturbed by them. But the unseen viruses continue to thrive in the body politic. A reported statement by Mr. Branford Taitt in Parliament last week is a case in point. To the complaint by Mr. David Simmons that he had not received a copy of Hansard since last year, he was told that there was no Hansard Editor. Mr. Taitt said that Government was planning to revert to the former system where the Hansard was edited by the Parliamentarians themselves. To me, that is a staggering statement. Hansard is supposed to be an accurate report of what has been said by Members in Parliament with no material omissions. Hence, the work has always been done by an independent Editor, it being too much to expect that Members can resist the temptation to embellish, refine, or remove embarrassing words, phrases, or sentences." He went on, Sir.

"It is a fertile source of corruption and many branches sprout from this limb." He went on, Sir...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is, complaining about privileges relating to the House. Under Rule 28(1), it is quite clearly stated that a Member may not read from newspapers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand the Member to be making a complaint against a particular newspaper and he is merely seeking to identify the section of that newspaper which is the subject of his complaint. On that basis, I think he is quite entitled to assist the House in, identifying the area of complaint.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I did not draw to the Honourable Member's attention. The Honourable Leader of the Oppos/lon ought to know that when a Member is on a Point of Privilege that that Member cannot be interrupted for any reason until the Point of Privilege has been made.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. *Laughter.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I go on, Sir. "More immediately obvious is the danger it poses for the reporter. Within hours of their delivery, he makes public his summary of parliamentary speeches. They have at least qualified* privilege. He reports a derogatory remark allowed by the Speaker made of another Member, but when Hansard is published that remark has been removed because the publication was not edited by an impartial Editor. The offended Member sues a reporter and his organisation for damages."

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just pause for a moment⁴ please.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am not in a hurry. Are you in a hurry? Good.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. The Honourable Member may continue.

*
12.30p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I repeat, Sir. "The offended member sues the reporter and his organisation for damages. Corruption is compounded." Then under a sub-headline "No outrage" the article continues:

"The staggering thing about Mr. Taitt's revelation is that there was no report of outrage or astonishment by Honourable Members. Have all members been given that temptation or only some? Does the fact that it seems to have passed unnoticed, even by the Press, mean that opportunities for corruption are now taken as a matter of course?"

Undoubtedly it is one of the more subtle viruses that destroys public confidence in the country's integrity but one does not need a microscope to see it. The art and science of government did not begin two decades ago and we can learn from others. But in this part of the world we are so inebriated with the idea of independence that we are determined to re-invent the wheel."

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment. Are you speaking to me? We are having too much cross talk in this Chamber and it is too loud. I have to remind Members that we cannot proceed in this fashion.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The article went on, Sir:

"The ramifications of self-edited speeches are sinister. The problem does not lie with parliamentarians alone but also with others having to deal with the matter. If a member's speech is altered to make him look better, the damage may not be great. But it can be substantial if the alteration is done to smear his standing and reputation. For him and the country.

In such a case if he is one of those who is privileged to edit his own speeches, he may have to resort to experts to prove that this copy of his speech was done on the machine in question, (as in the famous Hiss-Chambers case) and that the Hansard report does not square with his copy. If he has no copy, he may be defenceless.

More than enough of the tax payers' money is already being squandered without adding a new cost to the list.

The cost of employing an editor of debates is miniscule compared to the price the country must pay in corruption and erosion of freedom by Mr. Taitt's proposal. The editing of Hansard by parliamentarians is a self-serving device, if it is not myopic, and may be one more proof that they prefer not to take the larger view."

Then it went on, Sir, further.

Then the Nation Newspaper of June 19, 1989 at page 7 there is a letter signed by one Joan Benjamin with the headline "Hansard needs no editor":

"THE HANSARD AFFAIR" - note what it is being called now, Sir.

"THE HANSARD AFFAIR which has been highlighted in the Press by one of our foremost watchdogs is truly unbelievable, if Barbados really adopts the Westminster System.

Hansard, almost like a Bible to the House of Commons, is the living proof of what the members of Parliament say and cannot deny afterwards, "because it is in Hansard". Now, we learn that it is not functioning and the reason given is "because we have no editor".

Hansard doesn't need an editor; it needs someone to take down what is said for the records in the interest of all. To use a member of any political party to do this job is as bad as appointing a governor general who was a political party member.

In the meantime, MPs are saying whatever they like and no record seems to be taken.

How long can this be allowed to continue?"

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this inaccuracy which was perpetrated in the first instance by a report purporting to be the proceedings of this House which misquoted in the most inaccurate way what the Acting Leader of the House said, has resulted in a snowballing conglomeration of accusations of corruption on a whole host of other matters which will bring, which has brought, which can bring and no doubt will bring this entire House and its proceedings into disrepute.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, furthermore some of the statements that have been made arising from the inaccuracy are contemptuous of this House. That someone could be led to believe that there is no record being taken of what goes on in this House is a manifestation of a level of puerility that defies the imagination of ordinary people. It shows a reckless disregard for what is decent in this country and it has no relationship whatsoever with any regard for the truth. All of that because of an inaccuracy of a Reporter who purported to suggest that this Honourable Member said to this House that the Honourable Members in here will be editing Hansard.

No Honourable Member has ever in here officially been the Editor, or has edited, or unofficially been the Editor of Hansard. Hansard is a special publication, and the laws and rules of this House allow an Honourable Member

to see his own speech, and from time to time Honourable Members have seen their own speeches.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But, Sir, I am not even going to...

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, please.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What I am showing, Sir, is that this inaccuracy is not the first inaccuracy about the proceedings in this House to go out in the newspapers. Because Honourable Members do not come in here every Tuesday and raise questions about what has been reported of what they are supposed to have said, it does not mean that Honourable Members have not suffered.

I have been a victim of inaccuracy in the newspapers I say nothing about it because I believe that when you are in public life you are expected from time to time to have all kinds of statements made about you. Nepsha, Kiah, Sam Cow and the duppy can go into any school room anywhere and make any kind of foolish statement about anybody any time, but if you are in public life you do not raise questions about these matters because you expect it. But when you come into the Honourable Chamber and you make a speech, it is the duty of the Press to report it accurately, because inaccuracies lead to the foolishness which has occurred with Gladstone Holder running off at the mouth *ad infinitum* about a matter that has no substance, and in that same article he has the temerity and the decency to raise a question about another Honourable Member's statement, an Honourable Member with whom he obviously is deeply in love. 12.40 p.m.

He asked the question whether the editor of that newspaper took the trouble to check the reporters' notes before writing the article. The same honourable gentleman could not check with the reporters' notes before going off to write long columns about corruption and the corruption that will flow from Members editing Hansard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if Members edited Hansard, all that he said would properly flow. If birds did not have wings, a whole lot of other things would happen. It is like when we were going to school at Combermere School they had a geography master who used to tell a story about a fellow who had to write an exam, and they asked him about something to do with the tropics; he said "I don't know anything about the tropics, but if you had asked me about the temperate zone" ... and then he wrote fifteen pages. That is exactly what has happened with us, and I draw it to Your Honour's attention as a matter which ought to be sent to the Committee of Privileges for its further consideration.

I myself have no particular wish to see any person punished. What I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that this matter should be dealt with and be turned over to the Committee of Privileges for its further consideration.

I believe, Sir, that I have pointed out a *prima facie* violation of the Rules, and it is for Your Honour to rule accordingly, Sir. I bring it to your attention-and I give Your Honour notice that I intend to write to the particular newspaper in the terms I have outlined as well to clarify the matter, because this was done in a Friday newspaper which has gone outside of Barbados to the United States. The report of this sitting will go in a Wednesday newspaper which will only be circulated in Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please!

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will be necessary therefore for us to make corrections in the Friday or Sunday paper of the Nation. I am also going to take whatever steps are necessary to point out that in this 350th year of our Parliament it is a scurrilous insult to the integrity of this House for anyone to be suggesting that we would have reached the levels where we edit our own speeches and in the manner that is suggested by this calumny that has been cast upon the heads of the Honourable Members of this House. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Having heard the complaint of the Honourable Member, I consider that this is a matter to be dealt with by the Committee of Privileges, and I direct that the matter be referred to that Committee for its decision.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, since this Honourable House last met, we have had, as it were, the confirmation of an honour bestowed on one of the distinguished Members of this Honourable House, and indeed, as he likes to be referred to, he is now the father of this Honourable House.

Earlier we had been given the news that the Prime Minister had been elevated to membership of the distinguished band of advisers to Her Majesty called Privy Councillors. During the time since we last met that Rt. Honourable Gentleman was in London and was sworn as a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council. I believe that in this year of celebration of 350 years of Parliament, it is a signal honour for all of us when anyone of us is honoured, and it is a particular honour when the person who is being honoured is one who has spent a substantial part of his adult life being studiously connected with and determining to

push forward the principles enshrined in the concept of Parliament.

As the longest serving Member of this Honourable House, he has served in this House with distinction. I think that not even his greatest critic can deny that within the confines of this Honourable House there is none who has upheld the traditions and the conditions of Parliament and Parliamentary debate as has this Rt. Honourable Gentleman. I have had the privilege of serving in the House with him, and at all times unlike persons and Members who may have passed where the odd moment of forgetfulness would lead to a breach of that courtesy that is the standard mode and method of these Chambers, his courtesy has been unfailing, or put another way, he has been unfailing in the courtesy which he has extended to Honourable Members. I might say that those who have been in the House in his era, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is of that vintage, those who have served under the aegis of the older Members, those first Barbadians who joined in this Chamber, many of whom are now being seen on television as they articulate their views on what Parliament means to them, seem to have imbued in these two Honourable Members a certain standard, a certain felicity of communication which was old-world in its genesis and which allows for a certain patience, and none of the exuberance which is characteristic of some of us younger Members.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the cut and thrust of Parliament is probably the highest manifestation of intelligent and civilised discourse. The ability to bitterly criticise from one side of the House, to almost intellectually masticate your opponents as you savagely devour his ideas, and yet at the end to recognise that you are Honourable colleagues together, is one of the hallmarks of the parliamentary adversarial system which we, even if we did not inherit, have been able to sustain in this Chamber throughout all kinds of trials and tribulations. 12.50p.m.

For all the time I have been in this Honourable House, one of the persons in the forefront of maintaining that standard has been the Right Honourable gentleman to my left. It is not difficult for me to congratulate him on the honour because I have watched him earned it and, therefore, can happily say he deserves it.

It is for me, therefore, a pleasure at this juncture in our proceedings to offer to that Right Honourable gentleman who is now styled officially "The Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South" heartiest congratulations on his elevation to the high standing of being one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors.

I thank you.

Applause.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when I had the privilege to address this House on this particular matter, whereas I cannot recall the exact words I used on that occasion, I seem to recall that I expressed the view that I was very happy to share in the pleasure of the honour conferred on my friend and colleague on the other side.

The Honourable Member has, certainly, made a significant contribution to the public life of Barbados over the years. With him I have shared a long friendship and I am always very happy when anything that is good happens to him.

I feel a genuine sense of pleasure on his behalf and, of course, one would always hope and I wish that all things good should happen to all persons but, particularly, to those with whom you have shared a prolonged friendship over many years.

I am always very careful, Sir, to make a clear distinction between one's personal feelings on matters and the requirements of public life in the public interest. Sometimes they do require departures and positions which one must take when one puts the public interest first but this must never at any time prevent you from being able to see an individual as an individual. That is my position in life and that is why I think that over the many years I have been in public life I do not really know of any personal enemies that I have.

So, Sir, I would wish very much to associate myself fully with the remarks which have been made by the Acting Leader of the House and I am sure that the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados would bear that high honour with his usual dignity.

Thank you very much.

Applause.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps, the Honourable Acting Leader of the House was not in his place on the last occasion when a matter such as this came before the House and we really anticipated his remarks. Both the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and myself spoke on that occasion and I do not resile from any words that I have said then.

I had the honour to come into the House just about the same time as the Honourable Member who had served prior to that with distinction in the Senate and it is a fact that by virtue of his service in the Senate, coupled with his unbroken service in this House, and there are not many of us in this House that can boast of such unbroken service, he is, certainly, to be designated as the Leader of the House.

I said on that occasion, Sir, that it is an honour conferred very much on the Honourable Member personally but, as well, on Barbados and on our Parliament and I still feel that way about it.

He joins, perhaps, only two other Prime Ministers and, in fact, leaders of Government in Barbados in the history of the territory that have had that honour conferred on them and that is the late Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow and the late Right Honourable John Michael Geoffrey Manningham Adams. My lucky number is throe but on this occasion the Honourable Member has preceded me by taking the lucky number.

I think it is a signal honour and one very much deserved and I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that the Honourable Member will carry that honour with the dignity for which he is known.

We do in this House vary from time to time. In fact, politically, we do vary from time to time and I think the country is probably having to get accustomed to these variations, particularly among three contemporaries who now lead parties, three contemporaries of almost the same age, although I willingly concede that I am the eldest in age and, probably, in experience and statesmanship and the Honourable Member happens to be the youngest in age of the three of us.

We were all at school together. I believe that both Honourable Members, the Leader of the Opposition and the Right Honourable Prime Minister were Barbados Scholars at the same years and sometimes Honourable Members in this House refer to the Barbados Scholarship Club...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: ...and the Mafia. There is no such Mafia I can assure Honourable Members but there is an appreciation of the fact that when persons do achieve and do achieve in an outstanding manner that that should be recognized regardless of what our political difference is.

So I congratulate, once again, the Right Honourable Member and I am sure that as a Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council on the occasions when he has the opportunity to sit on Council or to be consulted that he will continue to give of his wise advice to Her Majesty and, particularly, in the interest of Barbados and the Caribbean.

Applause.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to join in those congratulatory remarks. In fact, while the Honourable Member who last sat down was speaking I reflected on a quotation from the Bible "He that exalteth himself shall be humbled and he that humble himself shall be exalted."

I think that one of the greatest virtues which the Right Honourable Prime Minister demonstrates is that virtue of humility and I think that all of us in this country have grown to admire him in particular for the fine qualities which he possesses.

I would also like to say that he hails from a country district, St. James, an area which I have the greatest honour to represent, and I am sure that my constituents of St. James North would like me, in particular, to extend to him our congratulations. He still lives in that area and, in fact, he is an asset to that particular district.

In giving my congratulatory remarks, I want to give him my best wishes and to wish him all the best for the future. 1.00p.m.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the very warm and very sincere comments which have been made from both sides of this Honourable Chamber and from you, Sir, on the signal honour of being made a Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council. ^T have taken the appropriate oaths and I have attended the first meeting of that ancient body.

It is on occasions such as this one that one tends to lack for words. In this very combative field of politics, it is not very often that those who are engaged in the cut and thrust of that activity are able to rise above the burning issues of the day and to allow sweet reason to prevail in all amity. This, Sir, is one of those rare occasions and the words spoken by my friends and colleagues all are really very touching and very deeply appreciated.

I too, Sir, from time to time go to the Bible for some sustenance and I will not repeat my favourite quotation on this occasion.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: But I will say, Sir, that I too extend the hand of friendship to all of my colleagues and friends and I bear no bitterness or enmity to anyone.

I have been told from time to time and I have heard from some of my friends and colleagues from time to time that one cannot make Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That came from a Barbados Scholar.

Laughter.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: And I know...

Laughter.

RL Hon. L. E. SANDEFORD: ...that from time to time we like omelettes, so eggs have been broken.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Let me say, Sir, in all seriousness, this is an honour, not only to myself but to this Honourable Chamber and to the long traditions of Barbados, and I have always viewed it as such. And I will seek to live up to the very highest traditions of offering sound and wise counsels in that body whenever the opportunity may arise.

I thank you, Sir, for your indulgence.

Applause.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government Business is the Instant Order of the Day. Order No. 1.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BAKERS, ST. PETER, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BLACK BESS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOUSING RELOCATION AND FOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

Order No. 1 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Bakers, St. Peter, for the construction of the new Black Bess Primary School, Housing Relocation and for Highway Improvement.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is another of the acquisitions that Government will have to come to Parliament with under the World Bank Project. We have gone through this type of exercise about four or five times already and I believe we have to go through it probably another three or four times. So I believe that most of what has to be said with regard to schools and things like that would have been said already.

This school is an amalgamation of Black Bess School and the St. Boniface School. The only peculiar situation with this Resolution is that the land being a large area of land is enough to accommodate the school, and enough to accommodate the three houses that have been relocated already. It will also accommodate the widening of the road on Highway 2A and also the church. The church has already been relocated.

So as I said this is just a continuation of these Resolutions that we should be coming to Parliament with

fairly often. This seeks Parliamentary approval to acquire approximately 18 000 square metres of land for the purposes outlined, construction of the new Black Bess Primary School, housing relocation that has already been done and for highway improvement.

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

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should just like to make a few comments in relation to this particular Resolution.

When last this matter engaged the House, Sir, it was by way of a Resolution pertaining to the Second World Bank Education Project. At that time, Sir, I had indicated to the House that I had some concerns regarding the proposal, started by the Barbados Labour Party, I might add, to change the status of the educational arrangements for the people of Black Bess. My concerns, Sir, spring from the fact that this new proposed school is meant to accommodate a very far flung community stretching from Rock Hall in St. Andrew to Westmoreland in St. James. 1.10p.m.

You would agree, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that one school which is supposed to serve such a wide category of communities is a school which obviously is going to discommode some. It is an arrangement which is going to discommode some while befitting others. In the case of Black Bess, Sir, it poses a particular problem because the initiative would mean that the Black Bess community would no longer have a school located in the community and that the children of Black Bess would have now to make a fairly extensive journey down to Rock Dundo through difficult terrain and in some cases of course, Sir, have to pay a bus fare in circumstances where no bus fare has to be paid.

My concern also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was with the fact that village schools in Barbados are fast becoming an endangered species. Sometimes when we wonder why our communities are disintegrating, we need perhaps look no further than the fact that some of the institutions which have been bulwarks in the communities are going by the way and that many communities are losing the landmarks with which they have been familiar, and losing institutions which have from time to time been at the centre or the cement of the community as such.

I do not, Mr. Deputy Speaker, intend to tilt at windmills today. My information is that the enrolment at the Black Bess School has, in fact, dropped from 248 to 60. The school is at present serviced by a headteacher and 5 Teachers and quite obviously, Sir, and speaking with reference to all the considerations involved even though this

is going to discommode the people of Black Bess, it is apparent to me that the sheer economies of the situation could no longer permit us to support a situation where one school with a roll that has fallen from 248 to 60 is serviced by 5 Teachers together with a Headteacher and supporting staff. For that reason therefore, Sir, I understand the rationale behind the particular move to relocate the school and to amalgamate it with facilities for the benefit of a larger community. But having agreed with the concept and understanding and the rationale behind it, I would just want simply, Sir, to raise a number of caveats.

If you are going to rationalize the provision of this educational facility, we also have a commitment to do further rationalization, one of which obviously will be the bus service. Those of the other side who have canvassed in Black Bess know that terrain out of Black Bess is a particularly difficult terrain and that the area, Sir, is in a sense unique not so much because of its voting patterns, but because the road system around Black Bess is particularly used by heavy traffic of the heavy vehicles of Roger Mannings and predominantly in the crop season by cane trucks, trailers, and the like. Obviously, Sir, this arrangement will make sense only if an effort is made to make sure that a bus service is provided at the peak hour in the morning and a bus service provided at the peak hour in the evening for the persons who have to come from Black Bess as well as Rock Hall in St. Andrew. Remember, Sir, the existing Black Bess School services Rock Hall in St. Andrew as well and even though there might be 68 children now, that is 68 more people who have now to be catered to by the bus service on mornings and the bus service on afternoons if this service is going to work in a manner that causes the minimum amount of dislocation.

I would also want to say that I hope that a pragmatic use can also be put to the existing school facility at Black Bess. One of the sad things that has happened in the country is that too many Government buildings fall into complete dereliction once Government has changed from one use to some alternative use. We see it, for example, in St. Peter in the case of the Jerusalem Farm, the Jerusalem Research Facility, which is a Government property but has fallen into complete decay because Government stopped using it for one purpose and another purpose has not been identified for it.

We see it also, Sir, in relation to the former community baths which to my mind are now fast becoming an eye sore in this society. I really hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that some pragmatic use can be made of the existing school facility at Black Bess. I know that it might in some respects be governed by the Anglican Church. I am advised informally that the Anglican Church may be interested in having a church in the facility which could pose a problem if only because the Black Bess School, as the centre of the community, has functioned not only as a school in the past but has really functioned as a community

centre. I am therefore hopeful, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that an amicable relationship could be worked out between the church and the Black Bess Council, so that the community as a whole does not suffer by reason of the fact that the school will not be located physically in Black Bess but will now be located somewhere in the constituency of St. James North.

My basic concern therefore, Sir, is that it will cause some dislocation of the people of Black Bess. But as the Member of Parliament for the constituency, I recognize the compelling reasons in sheer economics and the compelling reasons having to do with the need for us to make the best possible use of this country's scarce resources which require that this particular course of action should be pursued. Therefore, this Resolution will solicit my support and I ask you to entertain the young children of Black Bess *< in your constituency, Sir, with the kind of compassion that they have hitherto and will always receive in the constituency of St. Peter. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Just one brief comment. I know that I said I would not delay the House with continued discussion on this matter. But, however, to address the point raised by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, I would only like to say to this Honourable House that we are aware and I am sure all of us are aware of the problems we face with declining numbers at certain schools. Indeed, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas when we were discussing the Turner's Hall situation raised the point of Hillaby and, indeed, the last time we dealt with an acquisition relating to a school, I had the opportunity to point out that we have made visits to all of these locations. We are aware there is a distance involved, but yours was 68 and there was one of 32. It is not economical to continue as a mere building. The same can be said maybe for St. Lucy* and Selah where we have a distance. We have a problem in terms of distance, but again you cannot maintain a school with that number. While that is going on, I must say that the reverse is happening at one or two schools because of the movement of people within the community. Indeed, if we were to look at Sharon, already we now have to consider a temporary school building for Sharon. I am sure that we will have another look at this because we have Cane Gardens going up right next door and the whole surrounding area is being developed. So we will have an increase in the population in that area and we will have to do something about that school on the plus side while you are having the other situation on the minus side. But I do appreciate your point and we have taken those into consideration and I am aware that you do support the Resolution. Thank you, Sir.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHANCERY
LANE, ST. MICHAEL FOR HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT AND ROAD
IMPROVEMENT

Order No. 2 was called - to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Chancery Lane, St. Michael for housing development and road improvement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the entire area of Pondside, Wellington Street, and Nelson Street needed to be looked at and, therefore, the Government decided - well both Governments, in fact, decided that a comprehensive stage development of the Pondside area was needed as quickly as possible. To carry out this comprehensive development of that area, certain lands had to be acquired and, in fact, 12 portions of land were acquired originally to construct the Pondside Housing Complex. 1.20p.m.

In order to continue this comprehensive stage development of that entire area, we are now seeking parliamentary approval to acquire a further 20 portions of land in that area which make up all the properties between Pondside and Bay Street.

The idea is that all the properties between Pondside and Bay Street should be acquired and the structures, most of which are fairly old, should be demolished to facilitate future development. All the buildings fronting on to Bay Street on the landward side are being acquired for road improvement and the other parcels of land are being acquired to facilitate additional houses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it has to be said as well that from the old building known as The Exchange at the corner of Bay Street and Wellington Street to the last property at the corner of Waterloo Alley and Bay Street are being acquired for road improvement.

There is a plan available. If Honourable Members would like to see it at some future date they can make their desires known.

With those remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution to acquire 20 properties situated at Wellington Street, Bay Street, Waterloo Alley and Chancery Lane for housing development and road improvement do now pass.

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the need for road improvement in that immediate area of Bay Street is very clear to all of us who have to use that area. One knows that the area right from near the corner of Wellington Street, after you pass Bethel Church, suddenly becomes relatively narrow and then it widens again beyond the Family Planning Centre, so that any plans to improve the road in that area would obviously be welcomed, certainly by this Honourable Member.

As the Honourable Minister correctly said, I do not think there would be many people who would be put out in any sense by the acquisition of those properties, because they are mostly old properties and some of them are sort of business places. I do not believe there is going to be much of a problem in terms of the persons who occupy those premises.

As far as those living behind that street in what is known as the Pondside area are concerned, that is mostly ' what we call rented land and those persons would only be too happy to have improved housing facilities in that area.

As was the expectation of the persons who lived in the other section of Pondside where the new housing estate was erected, they had the same hopes in terms of being able to live in that area. Certainly; people in the City in general would have hoped, and were led to believe, that they would have been able to have a better place to live as a result of the erection of that housing development.

I believe that if Government is planning to improve housing standards for persons, particularly in the low income bracket, there has to be a very clear policy in the sense that one has to decide what is improvement in terms of an area like the Pondside area, which technically was a very depressed living area. It was, for all intents and purposes, a residential area as against a commercial area, so one would expect that the policy would be that you would want to improve that area, and not necessarily that you would be looking at an area like that to put in a housing estate to house persons from everywhere else in Barbados who need that sort of housing.

Clearly you are looking to improve that area and not to create or erect a housing area similar to, say, Wildey where prior to there being a housing area there was an open field. You were not improving a housing district that existed before, you were creating a housing area which deals with the problem of the needs and that great backlog of applicants for rental units.

If we are clear in our policy, and we should be, then the Pondside Housing Area was erected to improve the standards of living in that area. That was said to the people of the City of Bridgetown by the former Barbados Labour Party administration. It was said to them by the late Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow as Prime Minister, and it

was echoed by the present Honourable Minister of Housing, so that one got the impression that it was the stated policy of Government, even though it was not written down anywhere, that these houses would be, to all intents and purposes, for the persons who live in the City who need assistance in this type of housing, and there are many of them.

I do not know whether Honourable Members are really aware of the plight of people who live in the City of Bridgetown. I do not know if they are sensitive enough to the needs of these people, because if they are then they will have to agree with me that the people of the City should have first call on those houses at Pondside. I am not saying the people of the City who support me, or the DLP, or the BLP, I am saying the people of the City. I am not interested in who they support, the point is they should have first call on those houses, and this did not happen.

Sir, while I would rise to support this Resolution, I will do so only with the clear understanding that the expansion of the Pondside Estate, to which the Minister alluded, will take place. He alluded to the fact that the land was being acquired for road improvement and for the expansion of the housing estate.

I would hope that by the time these houses are ready, whenever that is, that Government would have been very clear on their policy as to who and what group of people these houses are being erected for. Let us not fool ourselves, and let us not start with this nonsense of believing that these houses are paid for by all the taxpayers of Barbados and therefore anyone can get a call on them. I do not believe if you are coming up with a housing policy that that is the attitude to adopt. 1.30p.m.

It has been said by an Honourable Member in this Chamber already that all the taxpayers in Barbados paid for the erection of those houses, so they should all have a fair crack at them. The housing area was not developed for that reason. The last administration and this administration made it clear that it was not developed for that reason; it was developed to give the people of the City better housing conditions. If the Honourable Minister wants to challenge me, I will bring the minutes of a meeting where he said so himself, when I was a member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while we are on this point, the whole question of housing in the City is a very burning issue. It is one of those constituencies that has been neglected in terms of low income housing. It has been neglected up until 1976. If you want me to say that, Sir, I will say that, because prior to that there was no Government housing area in the City of Bridgetown; so that should clear up any confusion you may have on that. The whole question of housing has not been addressed, low income

housing, the whole question of rental units, units that one could purchase. The former administration had a programme - I believe if the Honourable Minister dug through the files he may find it - to raze Cats Castle area and erect a new housing estate out there. The former administration said that they had such a plan. As I said, I never was in Cabinet, I never was in the Ministry of Housing, and I don't know if the file is there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where is Cats Castle? *

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Cats Castle is in the City of Bridgetown. It is an area that is full of depressed houses, just like the Pondside, just like the Waterloo area, just like Chancery Lane, and it is not very far away from it either, Sir, just five minutes walk and you are there. It is the same constituency and it has the same problems. As a matter of fact, Sir, it is quite near to the office of a lawyer who has his office in Mason Hall Street; it is just down the street *'' from there. And he has a very nice building too in my constituency.

Sir, in all seriousness one must be very concerned if we are truly representative of the people. If we are honest when we keep talking about looking after the masses, and the working class people, we must ask who are these masses and working class people if not those people living in Pondside. Or are we talking about all people who work. I ^ heard someone on the radio recently say a lawyer is of the working class too because he works. Some lawyers tell me that is true; I know some don't work but they get paid.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that we come in here time after time and debate on housing, particularly this type of housing and we do not hear any clear policy as to what we are doing in terms of housing and what the Government is doing in terms of types of housing areas. The general public and most Honourable Members are not clear as to *» what type of housing we are talking about when we talk about going into a place like Pondside, ripping up old houses and rebuilding new houses. Whom are we talking about when it comes to these houses? About the people who live there now? Are we talking about a general national housing area where you are going to bring people from St. Lucy and elsewhere to move in there, or are we talking about improving the living standards of these people? It is basically that kind of question that has to be answered if we are going to be clear on what the policy is. **

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I did not get all at the Pondside, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In fact, I did not get any because I don't live in the Pondside. Some people from the City got houses in the Pondside, it is true, but I did not get any in the Pondside. Some of the people in the City whose right it was to have those houses in the Pondside are living ' there, and I am always, very watchful that they don't get

victimised. I try to beg them hard to keep paying their rent and make sure they don't get moved because some of them are still supporting me. I will stop at this point and I appreciate your indulgence.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution brings to mind that famous statement uttered by none other than the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados to the effect that vision is vision and action is action. It is in that context, Sir, that I would like to view this particular Resolution. We have had this and similar Resolutions before this Honourable House relating to the City of Bridgetown. A lot of money has been spent, and more and more parcels of land are being acquired on an *ad hoc* basis and so far as one has not seen either any vision of what Bridgetown would be like over a period of time, and certainly very little action.

Throughout the world, Sir, there is a tremendous movement where it is recognised that decaying urban centres need to be revitalised and that cities should be so developed or redeveloped as to develop a lively urban personality. This has significant, social and economic consequences even to the area of the demand for public transport if you have significant sections of the population living and working in Bridgetown.

I believe, Sir, and certainly it is our view on this side, that we should not see Bridgetown as a place where people come to work and leave. We should not see it as a place where the aspirations of all those born and brought up in Bridgetown, with an improvement in their social lot should cause them to seek to escape from the ghettos of the city into other areas of suburbia or elsewhere. I believe the time has come where there should be a clear expression and articulation of the housing position in the City of Bridgetown, and I hope, Sir, that a Resolution of this nature would only represent one segment of an overall plan for the development of Bridgetown as a modern commercial city, but also with adequate provision for the housing of people who live in Bridgetown and also for adequate leisure for those persons.

I think, Sir, if we look at the history of this country and the history of the urban area, I feel that we should never allow Bridgetown to degenerate into a situation where it simply represents a conglomeration of concrete buildings for commercial purposes, and areas which we will clear sequentially to make room for more & more commercial buildings. It is our policy, that is the policy of the National Democratic Party, a party founded in the closing years of the 20th century, a party whose policies are geared towards taking this country into the 21st century, to ensure that we create an urban environment in the Bridgetown area which reflects the totality of commercial activity and modern living conditions for the people of Bridgetown which they would share by day with the rest of the Island, and we hope

to see more and more cultural activity return to Bridgetown by night.

Having said that, Sir, I appreciate that *pari passu* with that kind of development, Bridgetown itself is expanding significantly on all sides, and that part of what I am talking is already taking place on the outskirts of what was once suburbia, will become part of the greater Bridgetown area, as you look along Hastings, Spring Garden and the areas into Bank Hall and so on. 1.40p.m.

I believe that the time has come when the Government should come up with a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the entire Bridgetown area and see how that physical development relates to the overall development of the country rather than finding ourselves in a position where we are just sticking houses here and there among commercial areas without any long-term planning for the area.

Now, Sir, as I indicated the Bridgetown area is expanding out and Collymore Rock is the kind of area where I see the City expanding very gradually where you are getting a fairly high density of commercial office type activity and some kinds of commercial activity in that area.

One would hope, Sir, that that is the kind of development where one would like to see some kind of housing development going on as well in that area, in areas like....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Some housing developed in that area. It is a constituency that I share on the one side with the Right Honourable Prime Minister on the other side so I am just advising of what could be done in respect of St. Michael South as well and, of course, there is some of the City as well in St. Michael South.

But my plea is, Sir, that we should look at Bridgetown in a comprehensive way and that all these acquisitions should be fitted into a particular overall pattern otherwise what is going to happen? We are going to end up spending a lot of money with a halfway house situation. We are going to have a few modern houses here....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No half-way house. You can have a few modern houses here, then you are going to have some commercial districts here and then, at the end, you could end up with a complete jumble unless the whole thing is planned and I think that it is in the interest not only of the physical and economic but, also, in the cultural development of this nation to ensure that Bridgetown develops in a planned and organized way.

I believe, Sir, that our policies are the correct policies in this regard and I believe that we should not simply be focussing on land acquisition Resolutions purely in terms, Sir, of the plot of land as described in the Schedule but, also, to see what that means in terms of the wider development of the urban area.

I myself have the honour to represent an urban area and I would like to see a major development in the areas of Bannister Land, Delamere Land, and Carrington's Village generally.

One recognizes that the Belleville area by the influx of time is becoming more and more commercial. I think it has almost gone probably over 75% commercial at the moment and, again, there has been no clear planning as to the separate roles of how future housing and future commercial development will take place in that area.

I would like to see developments, for example, where you have a commercial sector at the bottom. You take a place, Sir, like on the ground floor, or the first and second floors, and above that you have flats that people can either rent or they can purchase as condominiums.

We also have to be careful to recognize, Sir, that this kind of land that we are acquiring now, this is land that has and will have tremendous value in the future.

At the moment I believe that land in Swan Street would be selling anywhere in the region of \$200 or \$250 a square foot. I am quite sure that as a distinguished luminary of the legal profession you would be more aware of those prices than I am. It is only a matter of time when other lands in Bridgetown would have that kind of value and higher values so it is important whilst we develop these lands to recognize the future value of what you are developing and make sure that that is taken into account when you do these developments.

Areas around Church Village are prime areas for development into a mixed commercial modern housing type development and in this way I think we would be able to enhance Bridgetown, not only for those living in the City but for the entire country.

I would also like to support the view held very strongly by my colleague, the Honourable Member for the City, my very distinguished and highly articulate colleague, a great defender of the people of the City. Almost by genetic inheritance he has committed himself to the people living in the City.

I feel that when you build houses in the City that there is a tremendous demand by people in the City for those houses and one should try to maintain the homogeneity of communities of that kind. I think that this should be given the highest priority.

Similarly, when you come to Valery in Britton's Hill and you do any kind of housing development or land development, the people of Britton's Hill whether they live in St. Michael South Central or St. Michael South, should be given some kind of priority, otherwise, Sir, I will object both on my behalf and on behalf of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, and quite correctly.

I would not be selfish in my objections, Sir. I will just object on behalf of the people of Britton's Hill who represent a community particularly, Sir, when in a community like where you find the kind of public spiritedness where the Valery Club would have asked permission of the Ministry of Housing two years ago for a spot to put up their own pavilion - that they are prepared to put up with their own money to serve St. Michael South, St. Michael South Central, St. Michael South East and the City because the people of St. Michael South East use Valery as much as those of St. Michael South Central and those of St. Michael South and they cannot get a reply. They have worked hard for the money. They have held dances. They have held dinners. They have the money in a bank account.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have gone up there with the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Tourism some time ago and we indicated to them that it would be in order for them to have to put their pavilion there. They wrote a letter to the Ministry of Housing and so far they have not had a reply and I am quite sure that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South who is looking at me in a very concerned manner, is very upset that there has been no reply to that particular letter but I would urge him not to be too harsh because it might not have reached the Minister's attention as yet. It is only two years but I suppose it will get there. But to revert, Sir....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is trying to correct me, Sir. He said I should say "but to back back to the substantive Resolution." 1.50p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I hope, Sir, that when the Minister responds that he would certainly be able to enlighten this House as to his perspectives of what should constitute an overall housing development in the City of Bridgetown. In particular, we would like to hear his views on whether or not he shares the view that when you do development in these areas where there is a very high demand, that priority should be given to those persons living in the area so as to avoid continuing conflict between people being brought in to the area and those living in the area who are desperately in need of housing.

There is no point. We are trying to create not only concrete structures. We are trying to create peaceful homes for the people. And therefore, we should not embark on any policy that would have intrinsic to it the genesis of disruptive activity within the various communities.

I also want to point out, Sir, that where there is an overall policy for the improvement of the housing stock throughout the country that it represents no perversion of the use of public funds, if such priority is given because quite clearly, you cannot do all the housing all over the country at the same time. And somewhere along the line, there has got to be some priority. Therefore if a particular area is done earlier than another area, the fact that that is allocated to the people living in that community, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Just as there is nothing wrong with doing a road in a particular area before you do a road in another area. The reason, Sir, why I stress that is because I have heard the view expressed that if a housing area is done in a particular area and it is dedicated to the people in that area, then there has been some suggestion that that could be a misuse of public funds. That is not correct. Provided there is a clear policy that what you are aiming at at the end of the day is to ensure that all people have access to good and appropriate housing, as is the policy of the National Democratic Party.

Sir, with those few remarks, I do not have any particular objection to this Resolution. But one would very much like to be assured that this represents part of an overall policy for development of the urban area. And I am particularly interested, Sir, to see St. Michael Central involved in that kind of development, because that is also another area

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you still on the same Resolution?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir. I am finishing. I have to touch St. Michael Central. That is the kind of area that should lend itself very naturally to that combined commercial and housing redevelopment.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first let me say that the history of Pondside, and I am not going to be long, but I would have thought that the Honourable Member for the City would have known the history of the decision with regards to Pondside. That housing complex in Pondside - quite apart from what the Honourable Member said - was to be at Campion Land opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am telling you.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am telling Mr. Deputy Speaker

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: that the housing complex that is now at Pondside was to be at Campion which is opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Now, I am coming to the significance.

Aside.

' Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: It was shifted because of a decision - I am not hitting at you, I am just giving you the history - taken by Cabinet at the request of the then sitting Member for the City to put it at Pondside.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: The then sitting Member for the City.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Now, the point that I am getting at is that the argument about Pondside being for the people from Pondside then

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Oh dear, Sir, you have gone to the City now. You just said

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair. But remember you said that there were a lot of City people that got them. So therefore there is no argument. So we are on all fours then.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: You see, the original statement was that if you are building in Pondside, therefore the people in Pondside should get them.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir, I said the objective was, as enunciated by two Administrations that the housing area that was erected in the Pondside would be for the people of the City. That is what I said. I also said later in my speech that some people did get housing in the Pondside area and I also asked for a clear

policy as to what the housing district is for. That is what I asked.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to get into any argument with the Honourable Member.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment. You are not arguing with the Honourable Member. You are addressing the Chair.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Yes. But I have to respond to what he said. And I wrote down what he said. He said that both the past Administration and the present Administration and the present Minister of Housing at a meeting that I spoke at said that the houses would be for the people of the Pondsides.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: He then went on to say

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to hear one Honourable Member at a time, please.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: He went on to say during his speech that he does admit that other people from the City area were accommodated in Pondsides. He did admit that. He said that. He admitted that people from the City area got places in Pondsides. Okay, that is not the point, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The point I was trying to make is that the statement about the houses being built in Pondsides were for Pondsides people came about just before the last General Elections. That is what it was.

I do understand and I do take the fact that the City, with regards to Barbados and with regards to housing is a peculiar problem. It does not lend itself to the sort of situation that you would find in other constituencies. The City is a peculiar problem and has to be tackled as a peculiar problem. I admit that and I will concede that to the Representative for the City.

Now, the Leader of the NDP, the Leader of the Opposition said a lot of land is being acquired in the City. Mr. Speaker, since I was the Minister of Housing - now my memory may not be a good one - but since I was Minister of Housing, I do not remember coming to this Honourable House on any other previous occasion to acquire land in the City. Now if I am wrong, I will be corrected. The land that was acquired for building the Pondsides houses that have already been built was acquired before this Administration took office. So I would like the Member to straighten out what he means by a lot of land being acquired in the City. Say by which Administration.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what do you rise.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. I simply said that over the years.....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: a lot of land has been acquired in the City.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Halls Road, Martindales Road, all over the City. Culloden Road. All over the place land has been acquired.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am hearing *sotto voce* in here.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy, just for the record. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Over what period are you talking about?

Pardon, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just for the Record, Deputy Speaker. 2.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am hearing *sotto voce*.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just for the record - Deputy Speaker.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: But the point I am getting at - now the Honourable Member just said that he said "over the years". He never did because I wrote it down. He said a lot of land is being acquired in the City and I wrote down after what he said - "by whom?" Because this is the first time that this Administration has come to this Parliament to acquire land in the City. All the other times the lands were acquired before this Administration took office.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am going further, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will just ignore the statements being made. The statement was also made that we are sticking houses here and there in the Bridgetown area. Who or which Administration was sticking houses here and there? I

have not seen in Bridgetown where the past Administration stuck any houses here nor there in the Bridgetown area. I do not understand.

Now the Honourable Member said that we should carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the City. Hold on. I will just read to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I had it here not too long ago. Yes, I usually have my things. Okay.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: While you are looking, just let us have one Honourable Member address the Chair at a time please.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was a Member of this Cabinet at the time that this decision was taken and I just want to read part of a decision that was made. At the third meeting of the Central Planning Committee held on January 30, 1987 - I believe he probably was a Member of the Central Planning Committee as well, but I am not sure if he was there - the committee was informed that the Cabinet had discussed the need for a comprehensive stage development of the Pondside area as far as Bay Street and for land to be acquired for the purpose. He was a Member of the Cabinet when that decision was made. I go on, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The committee was also informed that a comprehensive physical development plan for the area was being prepared as part of the Bridgetown Physical Development Plan. At this meeting the Central Planning Committee decided among other things that the properties between the Pondside Project and Bay Street should be acquired and the structures demolished to facilitate future development. So precisely what the Honourable Member is calling for, a decision has been made to do that and he was a Member of the Cabinet when the decision was made.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: A decision was made when he was a Member of the Cabinet and he knows that that is what we are doing.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I believe, Sir

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what do you rise again please?

Is this another speech?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The burden of the presentation of the Honourable Member is that I knew that the policy of the Government was precisely what I was saying and,

therefore, I was in a sense misleading this Honourable House to call on the Government to state that policy. All I can say, Sir, that the Honourable Member talks about one particular area of Bridgetown. I am thinking of a total development of a city and that is what the burden of my speech is about. It is as simple as that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If the Honourable Member cannot grasp that, that is not my problem.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was another bit of confusion with the Opposition because the Honourable Member for the City was saying that we should build houses for the people in Church Village and the Leader of his Party got up and said that we should build offices. That is another confusion. He said that we should put offices there.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I never spoke about Church Village.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is this a speech?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I never spoke about Church Village at all I spoke about Cat's Castle and I forgot to speak about Greenfields. I did not speak about Church Village. Across here speaking to the Honourable Minister which had nothing to do with that, I asked him if he is chasing the people out of Church Village. He said, "yes". He said that he was chasing them out and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was telling him, if he is going to chase out the people from Church Village, well put some office buildings there.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I think that the Honourable Member has either some autistic or otistic problems, one or the other or both. I was most particular. Only in passing when I was speaking of mixed commercial housing development with commercial development on the first and second floor and housing above that, I said that Church Village will be the kind of area that will lend itself to that kind of mixed development. I was most precise in saying so - a mixed development.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing may continue.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a point of order.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, unlike his other colleagues is a doctor, Sir, and when that Honourable Member makes a statement which can be interpreted as a diagnosis from where he sits, I believe it can be offensive. I heard him say that the Honourable Member is either autistic or otistic.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I never said that.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am dealing with the word "autistic", Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: They seem to have a Pavlovian reaction to every time he utters a word they have to "ah". You have a Pavlovian reaction.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Could the Honourable Member please pause. Will the Member please pause?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am saying that "autistic" should be withdrawn from the record. You do not know what Pavlovian mean. Do you know what Pavlovian mean? So how could it be offensive?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing no one at the moment.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member knows that it is a disease. What?

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing the Honourable Member, the Minister of Housing. Would you like to complete your speech? 2.10p.m.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I have covered most of what was said. A simple Resolution to acquire property in order to carry out a phase

of comprehensive development has led to all of this. Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those few remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business. However, Sir, there is for consideration a Message, which I believe Your Honour is familiar with, from This Place to the Other Place inviting the Members of That Place to join this Honourable House for a joint Commemorative Session on Monday, 26th June.

I am therefore inviting Your Honour to invite this Honourable House to send the appropriate Message to invite all Members of the Other Place to join us on Monday morning in the terms of the Message which has been handed to Your Honour.

The question that the Message be sent to the other Honourable Chamber for a joint sitting on Monday, 26th June, 1989 at 10.45 o'clock in the morning was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business. As you know, on Monday will be the exact day on which it is agreed that we will celebrate - and I use the term "celebrate" advisedly - we will mark the occasion of the 350th anniversary of what is believed to be the first sitting of Parliament in Barbados when the House of Burgesses met at a place not far from here. I have already indicated in the previous sitting of this Honourable Chamber the procedures which we propose to follow.

I therefore now move that this House be adjourned until 9.45 a.m. on Monday, 26th June, 1989.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 2.17p.m.

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