

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th August, 1990

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

PRESENT

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

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, 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. 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. 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. N. K. SIMMONS, (Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)

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

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

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. 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, Prime Minister's Office)

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 Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of the Meeting of this House for Tuesday, 24th July, 1990.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of this Chamber for the meeting that was held on 24th July, 1990 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statement for the month of March, 1990 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

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

Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1990.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances Regulations, 1990.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Regulations, 1990.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1989.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS ,

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. E..E. GREAVES, a Bill to provide for the extension of certain benefits enjoyed by certain enterprises pursuant to the Fiscal Incentives Act, Cap. 71A was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, a Bill to amend the Companies Act, Cap. 308 was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, a Bill to amend the Travel Ticket Tax Act, Cap. 92B was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73 was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, a Bill to amend the Consumption Tax Act, Cap. 63 was read a first time.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I propose to make one statement now and a little later, with the permission of the House, to make a second statement.

STATEMENT BY THE RT. HONOURABLE L. E. SANDIFORD, M.P., PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that this Honourable House is meeting since the tragic events which took place in Trinidad and Tobago from 27th July to the 1st August, 1990, when Abu Bakr and his Muslimeen terrorists surrendered after having occupied the Red House and the Trinidad and Tobago Television Station, holding hostage the Prime Minister, Members of his Cabinet, Members of Parliament and other citizens.

I was myself already in Kingston, Jamaica, to attend the Eleventh Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community when the news reached me. In a statement issued then, I expressed deep consternation and

repugnance at the event and I condemned the criminal action of the hostage-takers.

I repeat now what I said then, that attempts to overthrow duly elected and constitutional governments by force of arms, by terrorism, by coup or by the taking of hostages are not only dangerous, but are contrary to the principles and practices of CARICOM Governments. We in Barbados must take a stand on what is right and principled, and must support democratic processes for settling disputes.

In the context of developments in Trinidad and Tobago, which like Barbados is a member of CARICOM, my Government therefore put both the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force on the alert and offered the territory of Barbados as a staging point for supplies and men destined to assist Trinidad and Tobago.

While the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of this Honourable House co-ordinated action in Barbados and consulted with all appropriate persons, including the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Minority Opposition, I was myself consulting with fellow Heads of Government in Jamaica in order to have a co-ordinated approach on the situation in Trinidad and Tobago. We agreed on arrangements that could be made to assist the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the event that such a request was made. •

Heads of Government in Kingston kept in close touch with the situation through the Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago who was leading his country's delegation to the Conference. At an early stage CARICOM Heads of Government had offered any assistance which the circumstances might have required to support the legitimate government in Trinidad and Tobago.

When the hostage situation was brought under control, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities formally requested a detachment of one hundred and fifty (150) Defence Force personnel for non-combative roles and as relief for members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force.

In order for Barbados to respond to the request from the Trinidad and Tobago Government, and in accordance with the statutory provisions governing the use of the Barbados Defence Force, the Governor-General issued the appropriate proclamation. This was done on August 3, 1990, and on that date, forty-eight (48) Barbadian officers and ranks left Barbados for Trinidad and Tobago to participate in the operation. 12.30p.m.

They are part of a CARICOM detachment which includes personnel from Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and Jamaica and which is operating as a unit under the overall command of Colonel Maynard of the Regional Security

System, supported by Major Benson of Jamaica and Major Alvin Quintyne of Barbados.

The situation in Trinidad and Tobago should return to normalcy shortly. Our forces are not expected to remain in that country beyond the end of August, 1990.

The events that took place in Trinidad and Tobago have underscored the need for CARICOM States to pay closer attention to security arrangements in our countries.

The economic and social development of the Caribbean cannot be separated from the defence and security needs of the region. In my opening statement to the Heads of Government Conference in Jamaica on July 31, 1990, I said:

"The events in Trinidad and Tobago have grave implications for the security of all CARICOM States. No one can now deny that closer co-operation in security matters among the Member States of CARICOM is a crying necessity."

And I added:-

"I think the time is now for us to look at the creation of a broader regional system of security. I should like to propose for the consideration of my fellow Heads of Government the expansion and consolidation of the existing Regional Security System in the Eastern Caribbean to include as many CARICOM States as possible."

And I concluded with these words:-

"The preservation of law, order and national security contribute uniquely to growth and development through the promotion of stability. We must therefore expand our integration efforts to include the area of regional security; and we must also seek further co-operation with friendly governments in our region and beyond. One thing is sure, no single territory can do it alone. We have to work together if we are to ensure that the Caribbean remains a zone of peace, prosperity and democracy."

In this connection, I welcome the decision of the Heads of Government to establish a Committee of Member States to review existing arrangements in support of regional security and to report before the Twelfth Meeting of Conference in July 1991. I have accepted the invitation for Barbados to convene this Committee.

As Minister responsible for security, I intend to ensure that Barbados continues to pay special attention to its security arrangements.

We all offer our sympathy for those who died and who experienced pain and suffering as a result of the tragic events which took place in Trinidad and Tobago. I express the hope that such an occurrence will not be experienced again in the Caribbean community or elsewhere.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Mr. R. P. B YER: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to congratulate you on the arrangements made in terms of the security of Parliament and for the Members of Parliament. As a young Member myself I have in some way been embarrassed by the lack of security previous to today.

It came home to me very forcefully in 1988 after the Budget debate when I entered the yard of Parliament and was confronted by a very hostile crowd because of what I had said in Parliament. Being minded of the provisions of Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, Cap. 9 of the Laws of Barbados, I remember seeking your counsel as to how I should have responded given the situation that faced me. I thought at the time that what you told me and how I should deal with the situation served me well.

One person in that crowd, I remember, came up to me and told me in very crass and harsh language what he thought about what I had done and given the situation that occurred in Trinidad, I could have been at the wrong end of a knife or some similar object.

I also had to complain to the Royal Barbados Police Force for a person who also came very close to assaulting me on that very day. It then came home to me that as a Member of Parliament, I ought not to have been confronted in that way in public or even in the precincts of Parliament for any reason whatsoever.

I know in England that security for Members of Parliament is very high. Of course, we had a situation where a Member was assassinated by a member of the IRA a couple of weeks ago. But in terms of the security for Members of the House of Commons in England in the precincts of Parliament that security is very high.

I remember going there in 1987 to a seminar and every day that I went to the House of Commons, and I am certain that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-East can verify me in this, also the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and Honourable Members who have gone before - but these are ones within my memory - can attest to the fact that every day you go into the House of Commons, you have to produce your I.D. Card and you also have to go through the kind of security arrangements that you have to go through when you are leaving Barbados as a passenger, metal detectors and so on and it is unfortunate that what happened in Trinidad has now served

as a catalyst for the security arrangements that are being implemented today.

I remember also that I have had occasion to say certain things in this House of Assembly about a Barbadian citizen and a member of the Indian community and I was confronted in the vilest of ways for having made statements of the kind that I made which, in my opinion, were justified. But every night I would go home and run through my answering service and I would hear the kinds of comments by which I knew then that I was exposed to danger. But I have often said, Sir, that I am not afraid of death. I am only afraid of the way that I die.

I am very glad and I congratulate you, Sir, for instituting these measures. They were long overdue. I believe that as Members of this Assembly we have also to insist upon the application of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Barbados dealing with Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act. Now, if I may read in particular section 24 that I referred to earlier on, just to bring home to strangers the importance of that piece of legislation and how it impacts on Members in this House, that section reads as follows:-

"Any stranger who -

- (a) assaults, hinders, obstructs or insults any member coming to, going from or being within the House or the precincts of the House to which the member belongs; or
- (b) interferes with, resists or obstructs any officer of either House while in the execution of his duty; or
- (c) creates or joins in any disturbance which interrupts or is liable to interrupt proceedings of either House while it is sitting,

is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction thereof * by a magistrate's court to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for six months or to both such fine and imprisonment." 12.40p.m.

That is the one section in this Act that I can cite that deals with the protection of Members of the House of Assembly, and given what happened in Trinidad it is not sufficient for Members of this House to go on to live in some world where one of the rules of conduct is that those people who cheer you are the ones who jeer you and the ones who jeer you are the ones who should cheer you. That is not enough, Sir.

I do not believe that any Member of Parliament ought to be abused or be open to abuse for anything that he says or does in the interest of the people that he represents. I am

very clear and very strong about this. I for one will not stand for it. I chose my own path and I dealt with the situation I was faced with. I would hope, Sir, that given my experience, given the experience of other Members, that the security arrangements will for ever be in place and that they will be reviewed from time to time and be improved. I am very strong about this. This has nothing to do with whether persons seeking to come into the House of Parliament daily are members of the party to which I belong or any other party. I feel strongly about it in the absence of those considerations.

I am speaking on it with a certain degree of passion, because it is something that was always on my mind. As I said, Sir, it is long overdue. The very week that we had that attempted coup in Trinidad I remember the Leader of the Opposition was on his feet speaking, when we were debating the measure that touched on the Royal Barbados Police Force. The Leader of the Opposition said then that the Royal Barbados Police Force could be relieved of some of the ceremonial duties and in their stead - I hope I am quoting him correctly - the Barbados Defence Force could have been used. I looked at him and I said *sotto'voce* - Sir, just permit me this - to him that I believed the Barbados Defence Force should also be used for the protection of this House. I do not know if it was picked up in the notes, Sir, but he replied that he could not make a statement on it because he had not researched and studied that or what it would imply. I suppose that he is wiser than I am on the politics of Barbados and what Members would say, because he was flogged in his absence for things that he said in relation to the Police Force and security arrangements and I tried as best I could to defend what he said. Sir, the very Friday we had what happened in Trinidad occurring.

So I am even stronger in my resolve today that part of the security arrangements should include elements of the Barbados Defence Force. That is my view about it. When we are using the Barbados Defence Force for the keeping of the peace and so on, we have to look at the legal implications, because I am not so sure that is covered by statute, of a clash of functions. We know what the Defence Force is for and we know what the Police Force is for, but it is always that people want to protect their own territory, so I believe that we ought to take these things in mind.

In closing, Sir, I want to once again congratulate you and thank you for allowing me to intervene at this moment, knowing full well that we have a matter of equal importance to deal with under this Head.

Thank you very much.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it is not with a little pain that I rise to pay tribute to someone who, though not a Member of this House and who never has been a

Member, died, the wife of the Honourable Member for St Michael West.

On 4th August, this month, Marjorie Taitt passed away. Today we mourn the loss of a wife, a mother, a nurse, a social worker, counsellor and friend, and I believe I can say that I knew her in all these roles.

I first made her acquaintance, Sir, in the 1960s while she was resident with her family in New York. It was my great privilege on one occasion to have been a guest at their home and to have experienced some very gracious hospitality.

She was a quiet lady, never one to seek the limelight, but even her self-effacing manner could not mask the dignity of the person. I believe that quiet dignity was the inner strength of character and purpose.

She devoted herself to her husband and to her children, making her home a family home where love and Christian principles prevailed. I have never heard it said of her that she ever said one unkind thing about any individual. The term "role model" is a much used term today. That is because there is a concept that if ever the younger Barbadians need models after whom to fashion their lives and their standards of behaviour, it is now. The life of Marjorie Taitt offers an excellent example of the role model.

Her home was a home for the young, the old and those that fit in between the young and the old. There were times when her home was almost overrun by numbers of persons uninvited, but Marjorie remained her smiling, serene self.

It is not amiss to inject a little lightheartedness here. Permit me to say, Sir, that she was not a member of Queen's College - I am not sure if the term that is used with Harrison College can be applied here, Sir, I have heard the word "Mafia" applied to Harrison College - but she was a graduate of the then St. Michael's Girls', now St. Michael School. In her professional life she qualified as a nurse, graduating from New York State with a degree in nursing. It was a profession that she elected, or was forced by certain circumstances or otherwise to discontinue to take care of her husband and children. Then when she set a proper course for the children, she returned to the world of work, this time as a Life Underwriter. In between she found time to graduate with a General Arts Degree from the University of the West Indies.

It is not by chance that the professional roles that Marjorie chose brought her into close contact with people. The roles were unconnected but yet linked. They both addressed the welfare of the individual. Marjorie was at her most caring and her best in these roles.

It is my understanding that she suffered greatly in the weeks leading up to her death. From all accounts, it was a tribute to her strengths that she survived so long. 12.50 p.m.

Marjorie was endowed with gifts that are all too rare in the modern Barbados; that is why her passing will be a great loss to her family, to her friends and to the community at large.

To her sorrowing family, relatives and friends, and on behalf of the Government, Sir, deepest sympathy is extended.

Before I sit, Sir, I should like to move a Resolution which reads:

"WHEREAS the late Marjorie Taitt, wife of the Honourable Member for the Constituency of St. Michael West, passed this life on 4th August, 1990.

AND WHEREAS the said Marjorie Taitt left a fine example by her dedication as a wife, mother, nurse and in particular her social work as Chairman of the Child Care Board;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the said Honourable Member for St. Michael West and other family and relatives of the late Marjorie Taitt."

I so move, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed with great sadness that I rise to second this very sad Resolution before this Honourable House today.

Death is always, Sir, a very painful experience to those of us who are left behind, to friends, to relatives and even to those who even have merely an acquaintance of persons. When it occurs in youth it is even more painful. Indeed I feel very deeply at a personal level, and I understand the kind of pain and suffering which the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and his family would be going through right now.

I have known Marjorie for many, many years. Like the Honourable Leader of the House, I first met her in New York and I am one of those persons who have had the benefit of the hospitality of her home on many occasions on many visits to New York City. I can certainly confirm that she brought a dimension of friendliness and hospitality to all who came and visited that famous home in Brooklyn in those years, and of course this continued here in Barbados.

What I think is particularly sad from my point of view is the rarity of an illness which is usually quite simple and in which probably 98 per cent of persons recover; but you

do get the occasional instance where it takes this unfortunate course. I have been in touch with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West right from the beginning and right through the illness, both myself and my wife, to give whatever support we could in the circumstances. Certainly, Sir, in my own professional experience, it is an extremely rare thing, and I think that when death occurs it is painful, and when it occurs in a situation of rarity and sheer bad luck, then it makes it even more painful to bear.

I certainly support the statement by the Honourable Leader of the House that she showed remarkable fortitude in her struggle to survive the illness over the past weeks, but I think that if there is any kind of consolation that we can feel, it is the fact that she has had access to the very best in medical care and the very best in medical technology anywhere in the world in an attempt to arrest and deal with the problem.

Sir, again as the Honourable Leader of the House has said, Marjorie was always a very pleasant person, never got herself embroiled in the personal dimensions of politics, and was able to isolate those members of her family who were not involved in the political process, and to perform extraordinarily as mother and wife in that situation. I have never heard, nor indeed which is most unusual for Barbados, I have never heard anyone say that she said anything unpleasant about anybody, and that is a very remarkable achievement for this country, not only not to have done it, but not to have even heard it said that she had done it.

We all know, Sir, that she has been a devoted Christian and an excellent nurse who no doubt was of tremendous value, if I may introduce a light-hearted moment, in getting her husband to understand some of the basic principles of health. I am quite sure that she would have given that kind of support.

On Saturday evening about 7 o'clock, I happened to be at a house in St. George, and perhaps the best tribute I have heard just completely out of the blue came from someone who had worked with her for many years who said to me, she was the most complete, caring person that she had ever met. This is someone who had seen her in her capacity certainly as a mother, as a nurse and in relation to her performance in connection with the Child Care Board.

Sir, in these circumstances, again let me associate myself by repeating that this is a very sad occasion and it is most appropriate that I should take this opportunity to second the Resolution. On behalf of my family, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the National Democratic Party I wish to express our condolences and our deep pain and sorrow on her passing, and I hope that a consideration of her qualities, a consideration of what she achieved and what she imparted would in some way lessen the pain, because,

Sir, I am of the view that such persons continue to live on, and as time passes, the pain decreases, but those qualities are always to the fore and are always a source of comfort.

With those words, Sir, I hope there might be some solace to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. Thank you.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate the Barbados Labour Party Opposition and myself with the sentiments which have been expressed by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the House, and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and to associate ourselves fully with the Resolution which this House is asked to pass. 1.00p.m.

Sir, it must be a source of great pain for the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, not only to face up to this particular unfortunate and sad crisis in his life, but also to have to sit through a Resolution of this nature. We are all very human, Sir, and death is one of perhaps the most painful exercises that we could ever contemplate.

I did not have the same personal knowledge of the late Mrs. Taitt as both Honourable Members who have spoken had, but I have had the privilege of meeting her on several occasions, particularly on public occasions, as well as I have met her almost on a daily basis at her place of work where she was at the Manufacturers Life Assurance Company. I therefore had the opportunity to observe the quiet and dignified manner in which she always carried herself.

She was, perhaps, one of the most courteous of persons that I have ever met. She never failed on any occasion to speak, not only to those whom she knew, but to other persons who would be passing in the building at the same time as she was and one observed that here was a woman who had a caring and consideration for her fellowmen.

Sir, I have heard her School Mistress, Miss Pat Symmonds, speak warmly of her for many a year, as one of the people from the St. Michael School who was early marked out for distinction in her life. I am sure that her death will cause those persons who have been close to her from school days to recognise that St. Michael's and Barbados have lost one of our outstanding women.

I understand, Sir, that she was a nurse for many years. I myself never came into contact with her in that capacity. But I have observed her as a mother, as a wife, as a person serving the public at large and as a chairman of one of our very important boards which in itself caters for the young in this country. In those several roles she performed excellently.

Those of us who have observed the Honourable Member for St. Michael West have always seen him well-groomed, well taken care of. I am sure at times (like many of us have to, when we leave this House or when we leave the political hustings and go home, uptight as we are) we always look forward to the calming influence of those close to us and I am sure that she provided that to the Honourable Member.

She has produced children, Sir, who already have shown her influence in no small measure and I refer in particular to her daughter who has recently been called to the Bar and who shows all of the promise of being a very thoughtful, careful and considerate person and even more important, Sir, a person of quiet dignity and outstanding intelligence.

I trust that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would be able to bear his loss with the fortitude of which we know he is capable and that the family in this hour of crisis would take solace from the fact that everyone who has come into contact with this lady has thought well of her.

I hope that consolation, therefore, would assist him in some way in passing this hour which, obviously, is a very distressing one for him and his family.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the Resolution and all of the sentiments which have been expressed by all those who have spoken before me.

As a woman myself, I can admit to feeling almost envious, in a nice way, of Marjorie. She was always so calm, so serene, so unassuming and there are many of us who would have liked to have been able to combine the various roles that she did with the same degree of success. A professional woman in her own right, a wonderful mother and a wife to a parliamentarian - that can be no easy matter, but she managed to do those three things without even appearing to get flustered.

I am sure that during the years while the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has been in the House, it could not have been easy because as a parliamentarian myself, I know exactly what that is, but she bore it all and with the quiet dignified smile, I think I see her now.

I am sure she would not want us to say too much even today because she was not that sort of a person but I could not let the time go by without adding my expressions of sorrow and sympathy for her family. But I am sure that she has left them fortified in a faith in God as she had a very solid faith in her Maker and while she was on her sick bed I do know that all of those qualities that she had must have been brought to bear.

I was very sad when I came back from a visit overseas to hear that she had been sent to the Hospital in England and I tried to remember when last I had seen her and what she had told me. She was always giving me some small word of wisdom. I would always say, "but Marjorie, how can you be so cool and calm all the time?" And those of us who knew her well understood all the various little bits of advice, very short, very quiet, that she would give.

I wish on behalf of my family, too, to express our sympathy with the family and to say that she set the example that many women today could follow. I am sure that all of the little children and those persons who worked at the Child Care Board will remember her always as a caring person who was interested in all aspects of community life in Barbados.

I thank you.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the previous remarks. I intend to be brief because I know the personal feeling that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would have at this time.

I myself met Marjorie in the 1960's in Brooklyn when she lived there and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West was with the IDC and then later was Consul General in New York. It was during that period when both the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and myself were officers in what was then known as the Combermere Alumni Association. We had several meetings in the home where we got to know Marjorie even better and she even at that time in her sincerity, would discuss the camaraderie between Combermere and St. Michael School. Indeed, she cherished her school and looked forward to the day when people would refer to Combermere and St. Michael as the schools of Barbados. She was so sincere about her roots, if you will. 1.10p.m.

Sir, she was always supportive of all things Barbadian. Her warmth, her sincerity, her compassion and indeed her caring for others, especially the young, were always evident. She was during those years to bear three children who again I had the pleasure to see grow up as youngsters to what they are today. Indeed we became very close from their young days.

They returned to Barbados, as we know, in 1971 when the Honourable Member became Minister of Trade and Marjorie continued that caring, that loving for people, especially the young. Those of us who from time to time would have visited Marjorie - whether it was a Wednesday night or a Friday night, at some time we found time to go and visit Marjorie - would reminisce about her beautiful days of caring.

I recall those early years in the sixties where one only had to mention the name Marjorie Taitt and those of us who were in the group at that time automatically felt and experienced the warmth and belonging, because that is what she extended to us.

I said I would be brief, Sir, but I want to say on behalf of my family, certainly on behalf of all those people who were associated with me at the time when we were together, the Combermere Alumni and others, I would like to extend to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, their two daughters and son, and indeed the constituents of St. Michael West my deepest sympathy.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is with some deep sadness that I rise to associate myself with the views expressed in this Honourable Chamber today. It is for me a sort of personal experience, because my association with the Taitt family goes back to my school days when Branford and myself were at school, and I knew Marjorie then. But our relationship was to become even deeper, because as a student in the United States the home of the Taitts was sort of my home and I owe my professional being to the sort of support that was given to me by the Taitt family. Indeed, our association was so close that young Branford is my godson, and I can speak with a sort of depth of heart that most people find it difficult to do.

There is some significance in the fact that after Marjorie was sent overseas to England, when her children, Monique and Branford, were travelling to see their mother, I happened to sit next to them on the plane. I had the strange experience of seeing Marjorie twice while she was hospitalised in London, once after her first surgical procedure, and there I saw the true Marjorie, the witty Marjorie, full of life. I had many discussions with the doctor who did the surgery, who was absolutely confident that he had a superior patient with intellect, a person who had a joy for living, and he was confident that after her second operation he would be able to return her to her family in pretty good physical shape. Then I was again to see Marjorie just a few weeks ago, before her death, and it has been a very difficult experience for me, so I know what the family is experiencing.

So on behalf of myself I would like to say to the Taitt family that she has given of her best and has been a model for women in this country. Her life is an example for many people. You have lost your mother and you have lost your wife, but she is an example for good in this country. May God's blessings go with Branford and the family.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, it is usual for us to eulogise about the lives and times of our colleagues in Parliament and their close relatives. I would therefore like to take the opportunity to associate myself with the remarks, not only of the Leader of this House but Members on both sides, as we pay tribute to the late Marjorie Taitt.

I have to be very honest and say to you that I have known the late Marjorie Taitt for 40 years and loved her dearly, she and her children. She died at the relatively young age of 54, and we are apt to be very sad. Indeed, I have been sad for some time now, even diminished, but I have consoled myself with the idea that we must give thanks to God for a life that was a shining example to all who have known this lady. She was a devoted and dutiful wife, a caring and loving mother, a lady with a ready smile and of exemplary character.

Mr. Speaker, about ten weeks ago, while I was just about to leave the hospital, I was amazed to learn that the late Marjorie Taitt had just been admitted and I strolled down the corridor and entered her room and she beckoned me in. I sat there for three hours and spoke with this lady. It was as if she had been waiting for many years to tell me a thing or two, and I left that room fully enriched and I thank God that I had been able to speak with her, longer perhaps than anybody else, in the last ten weeks. I can only say that I have been enriched by the experience.

She was loyal and she felt that loyalty was one of the greatest human virtues. She never really devalued anyone to value herself and therefore I would think that although saddened at her passing we should look at the brighter side, look at the contribution she has made, for it is not how long you live but rather the contribution you have made while you lived.

In conclusion, Sir, I just wish to say that as a politician's wife she understood the peaks and valleys of this rugged life, but like Job she understood that amidst all of the vicissitudes of life she knew that her Redeemer liveth. Therefore, Sir, although it is with a sad heart that I utter these words, I wish to say that she has been a shining example not only to the women of Barbados but to all of those whose lives she touched. 1.20p.m.

I would like therefore to offer my condolences to her husband, my great friend, her two daughters and son, and the entire family circle, and to wish that when peace like a river attendeth her way, and sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever her lot He would teach her to say, it is well with her soul. May she rest in peace.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise with some sadness to support a Resolution of this sort occasioned by the death of someone whom I knew as a true friend, as a very sincere person. It has been said, Sir, that only the good die young, and if there is any truth in that statement, then I think it finds a full place in the life and witness of Marjorie Taitt.

It is not my intention, Sir, to be repetitive of anything that was said here this evening, but certainly it should not be burdensome for me to say that Marjorie Taitt displayed

those qualities and lived the kind of life that all young persons in this country should wish to emulate, and should wish to strive to their utmost to follow because in so doing they could only make this country proud of them as citizens.

The said Marjorie has been a true friend to me, and I even saw her closer as she chose to accept to be the godmother of my daughter. As a godparent myself, I recognise the responsibilities that a godparent carries, but I can say as a matter of truth that all that I have tried to be as a godparent, Marjorie has shown me a way in which I have still been failing. I suppose this is reminiscent of her qualities as a mother, as a wife and indeed as a citizen of this country, because when one looks at her professional life, then they also recognise that she has carried with her into whatever sphere of life she has gone those qualities that make her stand out as a shining example for all to follow.

I know it is not easy for her immediate family to sustain this loss, but I certainly believe that some comfort can be taken in the fact that she has made a tremendous contribution, and that if the qualities that she exhibited could be followed by our young people, then none of us need be ashamed of the produce that we have had.

I would wish, Sir, on behalf of my family and certainly in greater detail on behalf of her goddaughter to say that I wish Branford senior, Branford junior and the girls my sincerest condolences, and to hope that God would so richly bless them that what they will see of her passing is what she has left for them to follow, and that they may in her footsteps bring to fruition all those things that she would have hoped for. May she rest in peace.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, clearly very sincere tributes have been paid to Mrs. Marjorie Taitt as a distinguished person, a dedicated mother, a loyal wife. I suppose one of the greatest tributes that can be paid to a person is the knowledge that she was loved, respected, adored and cherished by her husband, by her children and clearly by all who have been associated with her.

The fact that all can speak so highly of Marjorie Taitt is indicative of the quality of the life she led and of the character of the person that she was. I have known Marjorie Taitt myself, Mr. Speaker, for a long time. She was clearly a very gentle soul, an unassuming person and you always felt that when you spoke with her that you were in the presence and in the company and in dialogue with a very genuine and sincere person. I know, Mr. Speaker, that she will be sorely missed by her husband and her children. As I spoke to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West a few moments ago, he said to me, "don't be too long because you know Marjorie would tell you you are talking too much; shut up!" That was the type of person she was. She would not like to hear long encomiums spoken of her, but I

think we would do a great injustice if we did not record for posterity the quality and character of the person she was. Outstanding among her characteristics of course was the fact that she was, as it were, an anchor for the family, a family to whom she dedicated her life, whom she believed in, a very safe haven, if we put it that way, in a time when her husband was clearly involved in the storm and tempest of political life, and I am sure that he and his children would have appreciated the opportunity to return to that same haven in the storm and tempest of political life in which he himself would have been so much embroiled.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the strong Christian faith of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and of his children and of the family will be a strong support for them at a very painful time like this, and I would like to join all others who have spoken in associating myself with the tributes to the family and to extend to the Taitt family on my own behalf and on behalf of my own family our sincerest condolences, and trust that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and his family will find strength in the tributes that have been paid to his dearly beloved wife. Thank you.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, just a few brief words in support of this Resolution. The passing of Marjorie Taitt just like the passing of many other people in my brief life time as a young person has demonstrated to me two very important lessons. The first is that by the nature of the speeches that have been delivered in here today, it is clear that her associations and her impact on individuals have spanned several generations. It not only spans her contemporaries in age, but she had a significant impact on persons of my age and younger. 1.30 p.m.

In fact, my regular visits to the Taitt household had very little to do with the entertainment that was provided on the back patio by her husband. It had a lot more to do with the female Taitts, all of whom were very charming, Marjorie, Sharonne and Monique, and we became very dear friends.

Now, Sir, when I visited Marjorie on the Thursday before she departed to London after receiving a tip off, I believe, from the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, I entered her room in complete elation because only the day before my wife and I became proud parents so I was still in that elation that one feels after an event of that nature. The lesson that I learnt relates to the power of positive thinking. I therefore entered that room, sat with Marjorie and a number of young people, her daughters and other young people from where she worked and elsewhere, and at no point did I get the impression that there was really anything wrong with Marjorie Taitt. If I were a doctor I would probably have instantly signed an order to have her released from hospital. She looked happy. She looked as though she was still ready to conquer the world.

It just demonstrates that if you are looking at the positive in people, if you are entering a situation with all the positives at the back of your mind, you never really see the problems or the difficulties they might be experiencing.

Perhaps, a third lesson is the admiration that I have for her husband and the manner in which he stood by her side right through this particular event in their family's life and has not even had time to sit back and reflect on the disruption that he would face in the years to come and some of the additional tasks that will now be thrust upon him.

Many of you talked about the quiet and unassuming nature, of Marjorie Taitt. Well, that is because you are probably her contemporaries. For young people like myself, Marjorie Taitt would sometimes shoot a sharp question at you. "Why are you wearing that tie? Why did you say that in the Budget speech? Why did you tell my daughter that?" That was her way of eliciting a response from young people or encouraging them to think and to respond.

I believe that based on the views I have heard her express, regardless of whether her husband was in politics or not, Marjorie Taitt would have held the same strong political and social views, and also the same religious views. I think those were part of her personality and the fact that her husband was younger, I believe, than she, meant that she, to some extent, dictated the pace in relation to some of those things.

Do not fool yourselves about it because on one occasion I was speaking to the Taitt ladies at the dining table - and if you understand how the Taitt household functions you would know that the entertainment at the back relates to the master of the house, entertainment in the kitchen or dining table relates to the ladies of the house and the other male youth, you have to join him in his entertainment which at that time was the television set - and I was explaining something to them about politics and as I finished, Branford summoned me to the back and said, "Look, I do not want my family involved in my political * problems so I do not want you discussing these kinds of things with them" to which I was completely taken aback.

Therefore I explained when next I was asked a question and he was within earshot that I do not discuss those things, Marjorie subsequently summoned me to the bedroom and I sat at the foot of the bed and I explained the entire scenario to her and the problem which I can relate to him later was eventually ironed out very, very swiftly. So she had an impact in ways that one would not easily assess.

It was not the father who was looking for the chaperon on the first night of his daughter's going to a fete at Cave Hill, it was Marjorie who indicated to Branford that David Thompson would be at that fete - whoever he may be -

and, therefore, it would be suitable for the person to attend. She made some decisions as a mother in that household which, knowing the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, you would not easily expect to be the case. He now has to make those decisions on his own.

I do not sympathise with him in that because I know that she has probably taught him many of the lessons that he knows. But I do want to extend my sympathy to the entire Taitt family back here in Barbados and hope that their loss will be tempered by the contribution that she has made to Barbados as a whole, certainly so when they reflect on the things that have been said about that great woman, Marjorie Taitt, and her impact on people of all generations in Barbados and her contribution to making the Taitt household the kind of household that as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North said, attracted many uninvited visitors like myself on many occasions. My sympathy to you Branford.

Thank you.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I want to be associated with all the remarks that have been made so far. I believe that all of us here are aware of the fact that Marjorie was Chairman of the Child Care Board and, therefore, not only on my own behalf and my family's behalf, but also on behalf of the whole Child Care Board family I would want to extend my sympathy to the Honourable Member and his family.

It is strange what you hear about people after they have passed on. Last Friday, I believe, we opened a book for signature at the Child Care Board. I went down at about 8.45 a.m. and the Director of the Child Care Board called me into her office to explain a few things. She said that not even she knew what Marjorie used to do for people because now that she has gone, a lot of people are calling, expressing their sympathy and wondering what they would do now that she is not around. She said that she did not even think that her husband really knew that part of her life because there were a number of people calling to say that she was paying their children's school fees out of her own pocket, she was doing this and doing that and they wanted to know if the Child Care Board could continue and do it for them.

I thought I would mention this because there are a lot of things which she did and we talk of her caring and sharing and I wanted to give an example of that. I myself did not know. Whenever she came to me I could only remember her as coming, standing and smiling. I would like to remember her for that smile. However, angry or annoyed you might be, once that smile flashed, everything disappeared. I daresay that the Honourable Member, he too could not be very angry at times with her because she was so calm, cool and collected.

I can only extend to you, my dear friend, all the best in this time of your need and if there is anything I can do at any time, I am here ready.

Thank you very much.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief. But let me associate myself with the remarks which have been made on behalf of Marjorie Taitt.

I first met Marjorie in 1969, I remember quite vividly, in New York on the evening when young Branford was baptised. I happened to be doing a short stint with the Barbados Government at the United Nations on that occasion. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West who had previously come to the airport to meet me and about this we have always had a standing joke, invited me to the after baptism fete and it was on that occasion that I met the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East because he took me back to the train station, I remember quite well, and Marjorie indicated to him to make sure that I got on the train so that I could get back to Manhattan. 1.40p.m.

It was an occasion on which, as I said, I first met her and from that moment I was very impressed with her gentleness and obviously her caring, motherly attention. She was indeed a complete family woman. I subsequently have visited the Taitts' home on many occasions, invited and uninvited, and have always been treated in a very generous manner. I know that the family will miss her considerably.

I myself have benefitted and have been at the receiving end of what could sometimes be described as a sharp tongue, having of course gone to the house sometimes to discuss matters of import. I benefitted from what advice she would offer either before or after.

I would hope that this passing will strengthen the family, as indeed I know it is a strong family. I would hope that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West will take courage and be able to continue to be the kind of family man he has been and be able to carry on the responsibilities which will be thrust on his shoulders now as a result of the passing of his wife.

I would therefore, on my behalf and on behalf of my family, extend my deepest sympathy to the Member for St. Michael West and his family.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I wish just briefly to add my own words to those of all Honourable Members who have spoken. The Resolution of condolence has been introduced in a very feeling and moving way by the Leader of the House and it has been very generously seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of

the Minority Opposition has also spoken in a very gracious way about the late Marjorie Taitt.

Like the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other Members, I myself also experienced the hospitality of the late Marjorie Taitt. Like them I first met her during the 1960s when I paid a visit to New York, I believe my first visit to New York, and the welcome, the hospitality and the generosity of the family were most overwhelming. I was made very much at home and accorded one of the bedrooms - I do not know if it was Branford's bedroom that I was accorded - and all of the hospitality that one could expect was extended to me on that particular occasion. Ever since that time I have had a very soft and tender spot both for Marjorie, for Branford and for the rest of the family. Indeed, I subsequently visited and can attest to the fact that the Member for St. Michael South East does owe a great part of his professional being, as he said, to the hospitality of the Taitt household in Brooklyn, because on more than one occasion I subsequently met him there in the basement and he was holding forth on all kinds of subjects apart from medicine.

I think that was the nature of the household that it sought to bring out all kinds of arguments, viewpoints and issues, which was part of the Barbadian diaspora in the Big Apple, as they call it. I think that kind of centre and that kind of hospitality that was extended was part of the formation of a generation of young and not so young Barbadians and contributed to very strong nationalistic tendencies, in spite of the fact that they were in a strange land, in a foreign land, and strengthened their ties to the homeland.

I have attended many funeral services and other occasions on which obituaries have been made, and I have listened to many who speak on such subjects, including our very distinguished Chaplain, and I am always struck by the thoughts that are expressed on those occasions, that death should not be an occasion of unrelieved mourning and gloom, but that there is hope and that there is a brighter side. I believe that Marjorie, of all people, if any of us had to take a bet as to who would go through those pearly gates, I am sure that she will be one step ahead of Branford and myself in this particular regard.

I think it is a tribute that we can all pay. As the Leader of the Government I wish to pay a tribute to the very sterling services she has rendered to Barbados in her capacity as the Chairman of a Statutory Board, and indeed in all other respects. As the wife of my friend and colleague of long standing, she certainly has had to play a role that most of us really cannot imagine, even though the Member for St. John has sought to illuminate some of those corners, even going to the foot of the bed. I think sometimes in politics we tend to look at the public life and the public persona of individuals and do not always think and give

consideration to those other aspects of life and the personalities of those of us who participate in public activity.

The disarming smile and the quiet demeanour, certainly in my view, underline a very tough person. I speak without fear of contradiction that Marjorie Taitt was a fighter if she was nothing else, because no one could have undergone the kinds of trials of living abroad, getting an education, looking after a husband and making it while maintaining a standard of living in the face of scarce resources as she herself had done. She was, if nothing else, a born fighter and she died as a fighter. 1.50p.m.

I would like to pay a tribute to that strength of character, that resilience which she exhibited in her own quiet way. I would like to extend the condolences of myself and my family to the immediate Taitt family, to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West himself, to their son, Branford Junior, and to their daughters, Sharonne and Monique, and to the other members of the family. I know that this will be a sad loss to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I share these moments with him as all of us do; I pay tribute however to the life of that great fighter Marjorie Taitt.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is very difficult for me to prolong the tributes to a dear friend, a person whom I admired very greatly. I have also taken some time to face up to the fact that she will not be with us anymore, and how to convey to her husband a feeling of solace. It was extremely difficult, and I will tell you that this is the first time I am gathering strength to say to my colleague how sad I was on hearing of the passing of his wife, that it was almost unbelievable of a lady whom I had seen probably not too long ago with a very charming smile, a smile which, as the Prime Minister said, disarmed you. She put you into a frame of mind of easiness and almost of gentility. It is that kind of person that I admired particularly for her humility. It is one of the qualities that we seldom find in people who develop the sense of responsibility and leadership.

What you have said today reminds me of the Hymn, pa.; of which says: "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all." All the bright things that you have said for her today, and all the beautiful things that you have said, she could only have accomplished through the natural desire and upbringing of being a Christian lady. We seldom forget that the basis and development of human character stand very much on the planks of what our Christian upbringing has taught us. To me, she was an amazing person to be the wife of a politician. Only last night I was speaking to a young lady and of all the things she was saying to me, I suddenly said to her: "Would you marry a politician?" She said "no". The amazing thing about Marjorie is this: her husband has the flair for

sometimes appearing to be more familiar particularly with the females and she could take it in her stride as if it were a natural development without any feeling one way or another, and I wish that most of those people who come into this public life would seek to encourage other women to develop that feeling of naturalness in those circumstances. I know for some it is not so easy to see your husband putting a kiss on or hugging a person, whom you » do not know, maybe a charming person, but she was able to adjust in such a way as to make his life comfortable, and in that atmosphere I believe her husband will have extreme difficulty in adjusting to a new life, a life without, one would say, that main prop.

My association with the Taitts properly goes back a very long way, but even in this kind of tribute I would want to remove all political association or any kind of impact of the political situation in terms of my life and their life. I want to say that that home demonstrated something which ** has motivated me from year to year. The Christian feeling that comes out on Good Friday is an occasion which I never missed at the Taitts. The Taitts rendered Stainers Crucifixion, and even though it would be rendered at St. Michael's Cathedral, I would rather go to the home of the Taitts, because Marjorie, as the hostess to us, was one of those people who made you feel very happy and very much wanted. She was always a sociable kind of person who could put you in the happiest of minds. I am certain, if I *» should reach the next Good Friday, that we shall all miss her. We shall miss her taking part in that programme. However, I think the inspiration that has been left is that she has put God as part of and foremost in her life, which has caused her to be able to live the kind of life which, as some of you have said, has been exemplary as a role model, a mother, a good wife. All these qualities I am sure will stand her family in good stead in bearing up against their sudden loss.

To Branford, I do not know how to express my "*" feelings on an occasion like this, deeply saddened by your loss, but even more so to see that you can still make a smile while you are in a form of distress. You, too, must draw from the strength and courage and the examples at home to carry you to the same heights or higher heights than those to which she has gone. So on behalf of myself and my family, I extend sincere condolences to you and all your relatives and hope that in the coming weeks and months you will find a place to rest your head peacefully, knowing „ full well that the very person who made all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small will be with you until the end.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, before you ask Honourable Members to rise in assent of this Resolution, I wish you to give me the opportunity to thank my «, colleagues. I think you can appreciate this is the most difficult speech that I would have made in this House, because it is one that I would rather not have to make, but I

could not pretend that I am not moved by the depth of sincerity which has come from each of my colleagues on all sides of this House and from Your Honour as you speak about the best person I have ever known.

I fell victim to that smile thirty-three years from the 14th February, Valentine's day, in 1957, and for 33 years she was my woman, and 28 years of that she was my wife. She was my best friend; she was a person who has been described by all of you in such a way as to allow me not to have to say those things. 2.00 p.m.

But I who have known her best can say to you that I have never met a more honest person, especially in her intellect.

Many people are not aware, except perhaps Miss Pat Symmonds and some people to whom the Honourable Member for Christ Church West referred, of the powerful intellect which Marjorie was and the number of books which she used to read and sometimes argue about with her neighbour across the street and myself, but she was always so unassuming and so giving that she never tried, and I suspect it is because of my own career, at any time to move farther ahead than where she could be a friend to the person with whom she was conversing at that time.

The children will tell you that she never permitted - anyone to hold improper thoughts for long. They will tell you that she was in the truest sense Christian in her approach because she did not even allow us to despise those persons whom we would more warmly have wanted to despise from time to time.

The only time my wife got angry was if anyone said anything about her husband in her hearing. I know that on more than one occasion friends of mine have said that they were not aware that my wife would defend me politically so vigorously because they had let slip some remark, she had heard it and she had gently chided them.

She had a pristine belief in the things that were honest and I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Prime Minister, had a way of beginning his political speeches with a quote from a poet and he would talk about those things etc. of good report and my wife would always say when she heard him that it is refreshing to imagine even if it is not true, that from a political platform you could get only things of good report.

We always used to have a joke about that because she took her politics seriously but she never took herself seriously. She took her Christianity seriously but she never took herself seriously. She took her family seriously, as all Honourable Members know, but she never took herself so seriously that she could not laugh at herself or allow other people to laugh at her.

It is ironic that her death should come about, as my colleague the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, in what can only be described as a freak way, that she should take a medicine to correct a problem and that medicine be the trigger for her own demise is something which will remain with us forever. I think it is fair to mention that in the context of how life is. When we reflect on how difficult it is going to be for all of us, we have come to accept this must be an act of God because it did not come about by anybody's hand. It did not come about by any untoward act on her own part but as the Honourable Member is aware, she took her medicine dutifully as a nurse would, and it was her medicine that in essence led to her demise. We blame no one. We just marvel at the strange ways of God and how things happen.

I want to take this opportunity not only to thank Honourable Members here, but to thank the entire community of Barbados for the support which we have received ever since the country became aware that Marjorie was ill.

We have received the strongest support from all quarters but more particularly, from what I choose to call the little people of Barbados who have called, or written, or stopped by to say they are sorry and we may never get the opportunity to thank all of them. I would like to say to all and sundry we truly appreciate the efforts and the support which we have seen.

I would like in particular to thank the Honourable Members of this House who have spoken and those who have not spoken for the support which they have given to us.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to explain to anyone, and I hope that it will be a long time before there is any Honourable Member in this House who would feel what I and I know my family could be going through at this time. But we are heartened by the fact that the relationships which Marjorie had were not relationships born of her association with me but relationships which she was able to forge with each of the Honourable Members and each of those persons she has met in her life. That she has been able to affect them as an individual, is a source of solace to me because it means that all that we have been doing through the years has not been in vain and that our relationships as people have been more important than anything else.

I would like to thank God for the life which he has allowed me to have for 33 years with this woman and I remember in particular her years in the United States when functioning for Barbados as the wife of the Consul General, she was able - and you would permit me, Mr. Speaker, for a few moments - to bring to the whole question of representation of Barbados since we were starting out as a very small country in 1966 without any experience, without much expertise, she was able to bring her considerable

talent to bear to allow us to set a scene for Barbados without a great deal of cost.

One little example which I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East would want me to remember, is when we came to do the first large party for Barbados. When we got the estimate of the cost and we compared it with the budget which we had, it was obvious that we would not have been able to house, feed and make any 500 people happy. At the same time we were aware that there were at least 500 Barbadians who had to be made happy if this Independence was going to mean anything. She was able to commandeer five good Barbadian women and they transformed the kitchen at 978 into a restaurant kitchen and they produced all of the fare for 500 persons and from that day until the Saturday she died her house has been a place where people would come in the name of Barbados.

I want to thank all of the Honourable Members for the friendship which they have brought to her. I want to say to them and to the rest of Barbados that when I saw her on Saturday morning, I was comforted, not only because I am a Christian and I believe we ought not to sorrow like men without hope, but because I saw on her face a smile and I feel that if you can have a smile on your face in death, it must mean that you came to your ultimate end peacefully and in a state of grace with your God. That is what I saw as I came face to face with her dead body and that is the comfort which I will be able to carry and which I have been able to bring to the children. That will be fortified by what has been said here today by my colleagues. I want to let all of them know that I and my family will feel peaceful. 2.10p.m.

The road ahead is long, hard and difficult and I really do not know how we will travel it, but I know that we can take the first tentative steps because of the support which we have received as exemplified by what has been said here today.

I did not think, Mr. Speaker, that I would have been able to stand and speak, but I have been able to stand and speak precisely because I feel comfortable and comforted by what Your Honour and the other Members of this Honourable House have been able to say to us. I thank all of you and I apologise for our having to draw this out until Saturday, but our friends, our relatives in the United Kingdom who have taken such good care of her could not possibly get here before Thursday and we felt it would have been unfair, since they were so unfailingly and meticulously solicitous of her welfare during the two months she spent in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you, to the Honourable House and to Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: Shall we now stand for two minutes as we pass this Resolution?

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now suspended until 3.15 p.m. this day.

«

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.15p.m.

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 * and 44 for the remainder of the day's sitting.

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

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

ORDER NO. 1 - THE FISCAL INCENTIVES (EXTENSION OF BENEFITS) BILL, 1990

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this relates to a validation for two companies - Caribbean Canvas and Awning Company Limited and AHI Plastic (Caribbean) Limited - of the concessions which were granted under the Fiscal Incentives Act.

In accordance with section 27 of the Fiscal Incentives Act Cap. 71 A, the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation carries out appraisals on companies after the initial three years of operation under the Fiscal Incentives Regime and based on its findings makes the recommendation to the Minister. This recommendation may result in a company being declassified into a lower grouping in cases where the company has not fulfilled its projections, particularly in relation to value added, or reclassified to a higher grouping where companies have performed creditably, or in cases where performance has been substandard, declassified.

These two companies in respect of which validation concessions are now sought are Caribbean Canvas and Awning Company Limited, which manufactures awnings, food covers and container covers, and AHI Plastics (Caribbean) Limited.

It has been discovered that the requests for extension of the concessions came after the expiration of the period and the Industrial Development Corporation, through the Incentives Committee, having considered the requests decided to extend the concessions for these two companies. In keeping with what has been happening before we had to seek parliamentary approval for the extension and this is the purpose of this particular Resolution, which seeks to validate these concessions here and we need to extend the benefits through this particular Bill.

I therefore want to indicate that we would want to extend the expiry date for Caribbean Canvas and Awning Company Limited to 30th November, 1991 and for AHI Plastics (Caribbean) Limited to 31st March, 1993.

With those introductory remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. M. A. KING, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair. 3.20p.m.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE LAND AT LAMMINGS IN THE PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH

Order No. 2 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of land at Lammings in the parish of St. Joseph for housing development.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, there is a great demand in St. Joseph for house spots for houses which need to be removed. There are houses that are precariously perched in certain parts of St. Joseph, and I think we needed to identify a location in that parish where we could relocate those persons, and also there will be a few house spots left for some other persons in St. Joseph.

This Resolution seeks Parliamentary approval for the acquisition of 3.9 hectares of land at Lammings, St. Joseph, for the purposes which I just outlined.

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

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is ready with the Ministerial Statement, and I am therefore seeking your leave to recommit in the Order of Business, specifically paragraph (1) Statements by Ministers.

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

STATEMENT BY THE Rt. HONOURABLE L. E. SANDIFORD PRIME MINISTER AND MINIS- TER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ON THE INVASION OF KUWAIT BY IRAQ

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this statement is on the matters relating to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

As is well known, Barbados joined the United Nations Organisation in 1966. The State of Kuwait did so in 1963, and the Republic of Iraq in 1945. In taking this step these countries, along with other member countries, expressed their determination "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, reaffirmed their faith in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small", and undertook "to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours".

Barbados, Kuwait and Iraq along with other member States of the United Nations obligated themselves "to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace", to respect "the principle of the sovereign equality" of all UN members, "to settle their international disputes by peaceful means", and to "refrain in

their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State".

On August 2, 1990, military forces of Iraq invaded the small neighbouring State of Kuwait. On that same date the United Nations Security Council by Resolution No. 660 condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, demanded Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its forces to positions on which they were located on 1st August, 1990, and called upon Iraq and Kuwait to begin intensive negotiations immediately for the resolution of their differences.

Iraq did not comply with that Resolution, and so on 6th August, 1990, the Security Council adopted Resolution No. 661 by a vote of 13 in favour with two abstentions. By Resolution No. 661 the Security Council re-affirmed Resolution No. 660 and expressed deep concern that Resolution No. 660 had not been implemented, observed that the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq was continuing with further loss of human life and material destruction, determined that Iraq had usurped the authority of the legitimate government of Kuwait.

By the same Resolution, and in order to secure the compliance of Iraq to Resolution No. 660, as well as to restore the authority of the legitimate government of Kuwait, the Security Council, acting under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter, decided to impose an embargo on imports from or exports to Iraq and Kuwait including commodities, products, weapons and military equipment as well as any transfer of funds or financial and economic resources. There are, however, some exceptions on medical or humanitarian grounds.

Resolution No. 661 finally calls upon all States, and this includes Barbados, to act strictly in accordance with the provision of the Resolution.

Rather than comply with these Resolutions, Iraq announced that it has annexed Kuwait, declaring a comprehensive and eternal merger between the two States.

On 9th August, 1990, the Security Council therefore passed a further Resolution (No. 662) expressing grave alarm over the declaration by Iraq of a "comprehensive and eternal merger" with Kuwait, and once again demanded Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. The Security Council declared that the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq under any form or pretext had no legal validity and was null and void. The Security Council further called upon all States, international organisations and specialised agencies not to recognise the annexation, and to avoid any action or dealing that might be interpreted as an indirect recognition of the annexation.

Barbados takes its obligations as a member of the UN most seriously. The Government of Barbados therefore fully supports Security Council Resolution No. 660, No. 661 and No. 662 on the invasion of Kuwait. 3.30 p.m.

Indeed, soon after the outrageous invasion had taken place, the Government of Barbados joined with its ** CARICOM partners during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Kingston, Jamaica in expressing concern over the Iraqi invasion of the small State of Kuwait and the flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Barbados expresses its abhorrence at the aggressive action taken by Iraq, an action which has been condemned worldwide, and the Government of Barbados will therefore act in accordance with the terms of the Resolutions. We will take steps to prevent the importation from or the export to Iraq or Kuwait of the goods and services prohibited under the UN Resolutions. All nationals and residents are requested to support the stand taken.

The Government of Barbados reiterates the importance of full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and of the settlement of international disputes without the resort to the threat or the use of force. Barbados is therefore unalterably opposed to ** the action of Iraq in invading Kuwait and is alarmed at its failure to comply with the Security Council's Resolutions.

One very important effect of the Iraqi invasion is the impact on the price of oil, which is one of the most heavily traded and crucial products in world trade. The standard of living in Barbados and our country's further development are all intimately bound up with the availability of energy for cooking and living purposes, and for agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, transport, and mechanical purposes as well. Barbados depends very heavily upon oil and gas to meet its energy needs. The energy policy of my government is based on those realities.

Up until the nineteen sixties, all of Barbados' crude oil needs were met from external sources. However a purposeful policy of seeking increased utilisation of our natural resources and an import substitution thrust led to a change of direction. The oil shock of 1973 to 1975 gave further impetus to the new energy policy, and by 1974 * Barbados was supplying some 5% of its needs for crude oil. The second oil shock of 1979-1982 further emphasised the need for a strengthened energy policy. By 1982 Barbados was producing just less than one quarter of its crude oil requirements.

The oil market is a very volatile one both in terms of<*> the supply of oil and in terms of the price of oil. Barbados is a net importer of crude oil, and so when the price of oil is high, our economy overall suffers but the local energy

sector benefits. The converse is true when the oil prices are low. A stable regime of prices at affordable levels is therefore in Barbados' best interest.

The invasion of Kuwait has already sent shock waves through the oil industry. Already in some countries, including the USA, adjustments are being made in respect of the price of petroleum products. The impact which the current situation will have on petroleum products in Barbados is not yet known but it is to be anticipated that there will be some price increases in the near future. The latest information out of Venezuela is that the price of crude has increased from US \$14 to US \$19.34 per barrel. The Government is monitoring the situation very closely.

However, because Barbados is not a country richly blessed with oil, we cannot throw our hands up in despair. Rather as a people we must take whatever measures we can to mitigate the worse effects of the conflict in the Middle East.

It is patently untrue for anyone to state, as was reported in one section of the Press recently, that the Government has no energy policy. The 1988 to 1993 Development Plan clearly sets out that policy on pages 172-177, including the following:

- (1) To reduce dependence on external supplies of crude and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) by expanding domestic oil and gas output.
- (2) To expand the natural gas distribution network.
- (3) To reduce dependence on hydrocarbons as the only source of fuel for the generation of electricity; and
- (4) To continue the expansion of the share of solar energy in the total supply of energy.

Following a dramatic drop in the price of crude oil in 1986, the local oil company, Barbados National Oil Company, suspended drilling operations because at the time production cost exceeded the price of crude. In August, 1989, when there was an improvement in the price of crude the policy decision was taken to resume drilling so as to increase our reserve base. Today I am happy to state that this new drilling programme has borne fruit and our levels of production has increased from 1,200 to 1,500 barrels per day. I have set a target of at least 1,600 barrels per day by the end of September 1990. With this increased production Barbados will provide about 37% of its crude requirements, up from the 25% last year.

Barbados consumes approximately 4,000 barrels of crude oil per day of which we can supply 1 600 barrels or just under 40% of our requirements. The level of production for natural gas is also expected to increase from 2.1 MCF

(million cubic feet) to 2.7 MCF per day as new wells located at Lower Greys and Edgcombe are tied into the main system. The increase in crude production is therefore expected to soften the impact which the current oil crisis may bring to bear on Barbados' economy.

It will be recalled that as part of my Government's energy policy, on Wednesday March 2, 1988, I formally declared open the Liquid Petroleum Plant project including its related pipeline and compressors. This has meant that we are utilising rather than flaring our gas, bringing thereby a cheaper source of energy to consumers.

With the increase of natural gas, the National Petroleum Corporation will be able to expand its distribution programme, and indeed work has already started in the St. Philip area to connect households in the Woodbourne and surrounding areas.

With respect to the reduction of the production of hydrocarbons as the only source of fuel, it is to be noted that the Government in association with the Inter-American Development Bank has recently completed a wind power project at Lamberts, St. Lucy. The results of this study indicate that Barbados has suitable wind regimes for the erection of wind farms. The results of the study are being made available to any organisation in the private sector who may be interested in developing wind energy enterprises.

In the case of solar energy, Government has always encouraged development of this source of energy and will continue to do so by way of incentives, as was done recently in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business - Order No. 4. 3.40p.m.

ORDER NO. 4 - COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

ORDER NO. 4(a) - SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1990-91, NO. 2-\$1,800,000-HEAD 39- MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, you might recall that during the course of his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs increased

the grants for three groups of persons under this Head. The first group was for some unemployed persons - I believe 565 - and it was moved from \$10 to \$15; for 3,057 persons who are disabled, there are three categories, from \$12, \$16 and \$20 to \$16, \$20 and \$25; and then for 7,214 children in two categories from \$8 and \$10 per week to \$12 and \$15 per week. At that time he indicated that the supplementary provision of \$1.8 million would have been provided for the Welfare Department to meet the above increases.

That is precisely what this Resolution now seeks, Mr. Chairman, and I ask that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF
LAND AT PAYNES BAY, ST. JAMES
FOR COASTAL PROTECTION
MEASURES

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, the west coast of Barbados is very sensitive and susceptible to erosion. In 1986 it was drawn to the Government's attention that a section of the sea cliff had collapsed at Paynes Bay, thereby leaving a 3-foot fissure on the cliff top. Cabinet subsequently agreed that measures should be taken to take effective remedial measures. As an interim measure warning signs were erected and the whole of the cliff was ^ fenced off.

In the meantime, an evaluation of the extent, nature and cost of the work to be done to correct this situation was carried out by the Coastal Conservation Project. The acquisition of the parcel in question would enable the Project Unit to carry out remedial work on the cliff face and prevent it from eroding further. To this end the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act Cap. 228 were invoked.

Notices under section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act have now been published and authorisation under section 4 signed. The area to be acquired has been surveyed and is known to be 1,145.7 square metres. This Resolution therefore seeks approval for the acquisition of 1,145.7

square metres at Paynes Bay to enable Government to remedy the danger posed by the coastal erosion at Paynes Bay.

I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak. "»

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

ORDER NO. 6 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT HENRY'S LANE, ST. MICHAEL
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD
IMPROVEMENT

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, Government is * in the process of acquiring seven parcels of land at Henry's Lane, St. Michael for road improvement purposes. Henry's Lane forms an integral part of the road improvement recommended in the Barbados Transportation Study 1980.

It is considered necessary to improve the junction at Henry's Lane, Collymore Rock and at the same time to widen Henry's Lane so that the improvement along * Collymore Rock is not nullified by traffic being forced to move slowly in an effort to negotiate this junction.

The proposed measures therefore are -

- (1) to increase the road width at the junction;
- (2) to increase the width of Henry's Lane; and
- (3) to provide a 1.5 metre footpath on the eastern side of the road.

In anticipation of the completion of the acquisition process, the Ministry of Transport and Works, with the kind permission of some of the land owners, has initiated some of the road improvement work in the area. To this end, the area of road in the vicinity of St. Gabriel's School has been widened and a building has been demolished to improve visibility at the junction of Collymore Rock and Henry's Lane.

*

The following seven parcels of land will be utilised during the Henry's Lane road improvement project:

270.33 square metres, the property of Dudley Gibbs;

36.11 square metres, the property of Anthony «•» Wiltshire;

31.55 square metres, the property of Miriam Weekes;

117.9 square metres, the property of Sydney Howard;

120.85 square metres, the property of David Rose;

354.87 square metres, the property of the Barbados
Diocesan Synod Trustees; and

69.74 square metres, the property of Purity Bakeries
Limited. 3.50p.m.

Parliamentary approval is hereby sought for the acquisition of the abovementioned parcel of land at Henry's Lane, St. Michael, for road improvement.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 7 - THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL, 1990

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the Property (Miscellaneous) (Amendments) Act was passed and made certain amendments to the Companies Act, particularly in relation to section 237. That amendment, Mr. Speaker, empowered the Registrar of Titles to receive at the Land Registry for recording copies of Judgments obtained in the High Court and copies of company charges, and these are made in respect of section 237 of the Companies Act.

That Act, which was passed earlier this year, in section 3 provides for a commencement date of the legislation as the 13th November, 1989. Section 3 reads:

"The amendments directed to be made in respect of the enactment specified, shall be deemed to have come into operation on 13th November, 1989."

That Bill became law and was published in the Official Gazette on 19th July, 1990. The Bill came into effect, as I indicated, on 13th November, 1989, so that at July 1990 what the Act in essence did by virtue of its provisions - because in the provisions of the Act it said that any charges to which the Act referred would have to be registered within 28 days of the Act becoming law - was to say that within 28 days of the Act becoming law charges would have to be registered, that is, within 28 days of the 13th November which is when the enactment became effective. So on 19th July, 1990, we were in the situation where we were saying that any company charges would have had to be registered within 28 days of 13th November, 1989, otherwise they would have been void. So what the legislation was doing was retroactively invalidating charges which the law required to be registered and these charges were made between 13th November, 1989 and 19th July when the Act took effect.

We discovered that this created an unreasonable and really impossible position. This amendment seeks to tidy up that difficulty by providing that the charges must be registered within 28 days after 19th July, which is the date when the Act was gazetted and when the public would have had notice of the requirement that the charges should be registered within 28 days of 19th July, 1990. The problem area then, Mr. Speaker, was in respect of charges which the law would have required to be registered between the 13th November, 1989 and 19th July, 1990.

The purpose of this Bill now is to regularise that position and also to provide that any charges which may have been caught by this legislation [Property (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act] and which would thereby have become invalid are not invalid. In fact, what it does is to save any charges which may have been invalidated by the legislation which had been passed earlier this year.

In discussing the matter with the legal profession, I understand, Mr. Speaker, that there may be one or two other little areas of difficulty which need to be tidied up, but this problem needed immediate attention, and therefore we have addressed it as a matter of urgency. At some later stage, after thorough reflection by the office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, it may be necessary to come back with a further tidying up provision.

Against that background, Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

I trust, Mr. Speaker, that the correct Bill is before the House, because the original one which was circulated is not the one which I trust has been laid, but the Bill which relates to the date of the 19th July, 1990. That is the one which we are dealing with.

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. M. A. KING seconded by Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, the Bill was read a third time and passed. 4.00p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 8.

**ORDER NO. 8 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF
LAND BY THE CROWN AT RICES, ST.
PHILIP FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES**

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Resolution seeks the approval of Parliament to acquire a portion of land at Rices, St. Philip. This land was used for the past 9 years by the Sunrise Community and Cultural Group. Because the Government Of Barbados does not own any sort of recreational area in the entire constituency of St. Philip South, I felt that it would be a good idea for the Government to acquire this portion of land for the people of that area who have been using it for the past 9 years.

We are still in the process of speaking with the owner but I felt that, in order to have the land as quickly as possible and to get it in order at the end of the cricket season, the land should be acquired by compulsory acquisition in order to get it as quickly as possible.

With those remarks I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 9.

**ORDER NO. 9 - TRAVEL TICKET TAX
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990**

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill that is before us is pursuant to the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals which I made in this Honourable Chamber earlier this year. That particular set of proposals, the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, were subject to considerable discussion and debate. I therefore do not propose to cover ground that has already been covered. By law we are required to bring the enabling legislation within a period of four months after that Statement has been made and I am so doing on this particular occasion.

The Travel Ticket Tax (Amendment) Bill 1990 seeks to give effect therefore to the proposals in relation to the travel ticket tax. It does set out the meaning of the pre-paid

ticket advice. I believe those are clearly set out in the Bill that is before us.

It is to be noted that a travel ticket purchased outside of Barbados and posted to an individual in Barbados for a journey commencing in Barbados will not fall within the ambit of this legislation and will be subject to the travel ticket tax since the proposal was not intended to embrace that kind of activity. It is necessary to make this point very clear since individuals have been making enquiries about this matter.

The proposal is designed to assist the travel agents operating in Barbados to capture more of the business conducted in the airline industry through the pre-paid ticket advice system of operation.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 10.

**ORDER NO. 10 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1990**

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Like the previous Bill, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is to amend the Income Tax Act Cap. 73 which is pursuant to certain proposals made in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals which were made by me earlier this year and I do not therefore propose to go through details which may be tedious to this Honourable Chamber.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1990 that is before us now seeks to give effect to the proposals to which I made reference. It covers such areas as bonus shares, foreign currency tax credit, export allowance, carry-forward of losses and inter-company loans.

One related matter, Sir, in the 1987 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals - one of the proposals was that contributions paid as levies would not be tax deductible from that income year. 4.10p.m.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 1987 (1987-26), which gave effect to that proposal omitted from its provisions the health service contribution payable under the National Insurance and Social Security Act, Cap. 47. Section 7 of this Bill seeks to correct that omission and to make the health service contribution a non-deductible contribution for income tax purposes.

Another related matter deals with section 8 of the Bill. Section 37B(1) of the Income Tax Act makes provision for an individual who purchases new shares in a public company at a cost of not more than \$10,000 to deduct an amount equal to the cost of the shares in calculating his assessable income.

A taxpayer who during an income year had purchased new shares in more than one company claimed the \$ 10,000fr he had invested in each company as a tax deductible allowance, but the Inland Revenue Department disallowed the claim. The Department took the position that he was only allowed to a total of \$10,000. The taxpayer appealed to the Income Tax Appeal Board, which allowed the appeal, and he was allowed to claim the \$10,000 which he had invested in each company as a tax deductible allowance. Whereas the intention is that only a total of \$10,000 should be allowed under this particular Act, as far as the appeal was concerned the taxpayer was allowed to claim for each \$10,000 he had invested.

The purpose of this section, section 8, is to address this issue and to make it clear that it is only a total of \$10,000 which an individual may claim as a tax deductible allowance for the purchase of new shares in any number of public companies.

The Bill also deals with the purchase of new shares in a private company, with the removal of withholding tax on interest payments.

Sir, I think those are the points that are covered in this Bill. I will not detain the House any longer, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to delay the House either, but I have a couple of problems with this Bill. I understand the reason for including the amendment in respect of the health levy, but I would just like to draw attention to what I consider an anomalous situation.

Everybody who is paid or receives salary ought to pay health levy. If you go to the hospital and occupy a bed in a public ward, you do not pay for any of the services or treatment or medicine. On the other hand, if you are a private patient and you are prepared to pay for a room and service, notwithstanding that both sets of persons may be paying health levy - the one in the private ward and the one in the public ward - you are required to pay all of the expenses, including medicines and X-Rays. I think that there is an anomaly there. If everybody is paying health levy, it seems to me that those in the public wards are getting the full benefit and those who are in the private wards have to suffer the burden of paying for all of their care and treatment. Let me put it as widely as that.

I think, perhaps, we need to look at a situation where private patients must pay for the room and so on, especially in regard to the citizens. I can understand where overseas patients come in for treatment and you do not want them to be a charge on our local service, but where the person is a citizen or resident of Barbados I think that there should be some ease given to those who are in the private wards. It has come home to me recently through a friend showing me the bills, and I thought it was a little burdensome. It is something the Government could consider.

We have spoken several times about the non-deductibility of these various levies, but that is a matter of policy and I am not going to be contentious today.

I want to turn now to clause 9 at the top of page 5, Sir.

"(2) The shares referred to in subsection (1)

(b) must have been issued by a newly incorporated company;"

I think that is loose, Sir. What do we mean by a "newly incorporated company"? Do we mean a company which has been incorporated in the income year that is referred to in 37(c)? How new is new? Or even continued? I would like some explanation of that. As I say, I think it is loose.

Then in the middle of paragraph (c) where the word "and" appears, I think you mean "or". This is how it reads, Sir:

"(c) if issued by an existing company, must have been issued for the purpose of providing new capital to finance expansion

of a business and the acquisition of a new business,..."

I think you mean "or", because this is how it goes on, Sir:

"but in either case....."

so it has got to be disjunctive, you have to have "or".

"but in either case the company must provide the individual purchasing the shares with a certificate specifying the type of expansion of the business or details of the acquisition of the new business..."

So earlier we are speaking of capital to finance expansion of a business. That is one thing. We are also speaking of the acquisition of a new business. I think the two are different. The succeeding language in the paragraph seems to suggest that we need the word "or" instead of "and" in the early part of the sentence. 4.20 p.m.

I think it makes sense to accept that the word "or" should appear there, because I find it difficult to conceive of a situation where you are providing new capital to finance expansion of a business and acquisition of a new business. I am sure that is not what is intended. It says "in either case" and then later on "or" appears. I think "or" should go there. Subject to that, those are my comments, Sir, on that Bill.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a comment in response to an observation made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas with respect to providing free medicines and free laboratory tests for patients who are private patients. I know that that is probably a very catchy political issue, but it has some very serious financial implications. Laboratory testing and medicines are becoming more and more expensive every day, and those of us who look at the cost of medicines provided by this country, free medicines for children under the age of 12 and people over the age of 65, will recognise the large medical bill that the Government foots when undertaking such a project. Barbados is one of the few countries in the whole world that provides such a service.

Now if we analyse people who are admitted to hospitals in a private ward - and very often one of the problems in Barbados is that there are not enough wards - people have health insurance, and in almost all of these health insurances there is provision for the repayment to the patient for the expenses of the bed including medical testing and also drug and laboratory testing. So you will find that the patient who is on the private ward is not footing out of his or her pocket the expense of laboratory testing and medicines. That is covered by adequate insurance. Recently we have had the situation in Barbados where some of the

larger medical insurance companies, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, have come into Barbados providing a bed fee that is above and beyond what is charged at our local hospital, so that the persons can easily recover the cost of the bed per day, and written into that, as you well know of course, is the cost for medicines and laboratory testing.

One of the problems that we have in Barbados is that there are not enough private beds to cover the number of people in Barbados who have got medical insurance for hospitalisation. But in countries in the United States where they too are saddled with paying what we would call a health levy to support their medicare system, right now there are investigations of the medicare scheme in the United States, and Congressmen are calling on the Government to cut back on the services because of the escalating cost of the bed service and laboratory testing, *et cetera*. So I think we have to be very very cautious in a small country where we advocate giving them free the laboratory testing and the medicines, despite the fact that people are able to recover expenses paid for the bed. I know it is a very catchy thing, but when one examines it, I don't think it has a whole lot of merit. I just wanted to make that point to clear up the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 8 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 9 was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to move that Clause 9 stand part.

Hon. M. A. KING: In seconding the motion that clause 9 stand part, I wish just to address a few comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in relation to section 37(c)(1). The points he made are in relation to the meaning of the phrase "must have been issued by a newly incorporated company", and the second question he raised was in relation to subsection (2)(c) as to whether the word should be correctly "and" or if it should be "or". That clause reads: "if issued by an existing company must have been issued for the purpose of providing new capital to finance expansion of a business and the acquisition of a new business...."

The question raised is whether it should be expansion of a business or the acquisition of a new business. Mr. Chairman, the position in relation to this section is this: what this new section 37(c)(1) does is to provide in relation

to private companies exactly as had been provided in relation to public companies by section 37(b). When one looks at the way in which 37(b) was drafted in relation to public companies, you will find that what is 37(c)(1)(2) is in fact a repetition of the provisions of 37(b)(2). Section 37(b) reads as follows if you are following clearly, Mr. Chairman.

"The shares referred to in subsection (1)" - this is 37(b)(1), but if you follow 37(c)(2) you will see that it is exactly the same. 4.30 p.m.

The shares referred to in subsection (1) must be new shares, must have been issued by a newly incorporated company and I would suggest that the interpretation of what a newly incorporated company is would be the same as the interpretation applied in relation to public companies or "(c) if issued by an existing company must have been issued for the purpose of providing new capital to finance expansion of a business and for the acquisition of a new business but in either case as promoted in a public prospectus advertised by the company to which the shares relate."

Now, my point is this. Thirty-seven (b) in relation to public companies uses the word "and". Whether that is correct or not may be questionable but I hasten to say, Mr. Chairman, that I think we need to look at the matter further. I am suggesting that the matter proceed as it is. If on examination later, we find that the word should be "or" it would also be necessary to amend 37(b).

If the Honourable Member has no major objection, I suggest we pass it as it is but with the assurance and undertaking that we will review the matter and if "and" is incorrect and should correctly be "or", that we will undertake to do that at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I accept the assurances of the Attorney General. I think it is something that has got away in 37(b) and we are just repeating the error because I think it is beyond question when you look at the use of language. In either case there are two alternatives.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, No. I think "in either case" refers to (c). There are two things you can do. You can claim this \$7 000, if the shares are new, if the company is a newly incorporated company, whatever that means, or if they have been issued by an existing company for the purpose "(a) of providing new capital to finance expansion; or (b) to acquire a new business." That is clearly what it means.

Then it goes on to say "but in either case the company must provide the individual purchasing the shares with a

certificate" and so on, "specifying the type of expansion of the business or details of the acquisition of the new business". So we are dealing with two things throughout that subparagraph (c), Sir.

We are dealing with the acquisition of a new business or the expansion of a business. If the purpose for acquiring the shares is for one of those two, then providing it satisfies the others...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I think this is what it means, Sir. Anyhow, the Attorney General says they will look at it again. This is a Budgetary measure. It has to be passed soon.

I am not happy with the response to newly incorporated companies because I do not think it appears in the definition section of the Act. Mind you, Sir, I am speaking subject to correction. These papers only came yesterday and I have not had the opportunity to match up the amendments against the substantive Act. But what I think would be open to a lot of legal argument is what you mean by "newly incorporated company". I just think that there is scope for a lot of legal argument there, Sir. That is how lawyers are kept employed, Sir.

The question that Clause 9 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 10 -15 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

ORDER NO. 11 - CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Bill like the two others that preceded it, seeks to give further legislative approbation by this Honourable House of the proposals made when I presented the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for 1990. I do not propose to go through the details of the Bill. It is in keeping with the proposals made in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

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

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a couple passing remarks about this amendment, specifically section 2(h) of this amending Bill.

This clause allows computers, software and equipment, namely monitors, keyboards, system units, printers and computer programmes for use in businesses, educational institutions and for individuals to be free of consumption tax and customs duties but these articles, not only in this section but in the entire amending Bill, are subject to stamp duty. 4.40 p.m.

I notice that it speaks of software, and in this connection you can think about diskettes and so on, Sir, but for the uninitiated like me in the world of computers and so on, I was wondering whether a modem, for example, which is an important piece of computer equipment, would be considered software - I suppose the Member for St. George North will help me in this regard - and whether, for example, a circuit board in a computer would be considered software.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: If the Member for St. Philip North is correct in his comments on the side, what I want to know just for the sake of clarity is whether the clause could not be expanded to include these matters I just raised. If the board is considered hardware, then I believe that you will have a situation where you may get in a computer free of consumption tax and customs duty, but if a part of that computer goes bad then you have to pay consumption tax, customs duty and stamp duty on it.

I know it is not the practice to amend legislation on the Floor of the House unless it is glaringly defective, but at the same time I would like the Minister of Finance to take, that into consideration, to raise the issue of the modem and the board as two items which could be considered for the consumption tax and customs duty exemption.

The other matter I would like to raise is this. I believe that the collection of duties and taxes in Barbados is becoming a more involved occupation or job, whatever, and the Schedules to the various pieces of legislation are constantly being expanded. The chapters, for example, to the Customs Tariff in Barbados are always being expanded and I have noticed, because of my personal contact with the Customs Department recently, that in some cases officers at the Customs Department - and this is not a criticism, Sir, you have to be very careful about these things, it is more in the nature of an observation - sometimes classify the same articles under different Heads.

For example, Sir, very recently I ordered a fireproof safe or cabinet, and when the duty was calculated that came in under Customs Tariff Chapter 94 or Customs Tariff Heading 9403, which deals with furniture and equipment of that kind. A 60% rate of duty is under that Heading, Sir, but there is another classification in Chapter 84 that deals with safes and so on which charges 25% duty. I have written a "***" letter to the Comptroller of Customs protesting the classification, because I know that at the moment safes are being brought into Barbados under the correct Heading, which is Customs Tariff Heading 84, and it occurred to me that one way we could get around these things is if you had an in-house lawyer at the Customs Department who is trained in the business of interpreting statutes and so on.

I believe that many occasions would arise for the interpretation of these Headings, because, as I said, many goods that come into Barbados can be classified under one Heading or another, and it is always the practice to classify them under the Heading that brings in most duty. That is my experience, Sir, which is unfortunate. Sometimes the classifications given are incorrect and very few people protest incorrect classifications, because dealing with Customs and the whole process of getting things cleared can be a little confusing, tiring and taxing at the same time, even for those who work exclusively in this area. I believe having an in-house lawyer would solve a lot of these * questions.

Another thing, Sir, I have always wondered is why must the Customs Department be closed at 11 o'clock every day. I do not know if it has something to do with some arrangement with the Union or what, but I think it is about time that you have staggered hours where the Department can be open for business, dealing with the clearing of goods from the Port, so that there will be a continuous service from morning to evening and no closing at 11 o'clock to re-open at 12.00.

I will tell you of an experience of mine on Tuesday morning of last week. I went to Grantley Adams International Airport to clear something from the bond. When I had my business done I had to go and pay the duty. I got in front of the cashier at two minutes to 11 o'clock. I said I had come to pay the duty and she informed me that she had to catch a ride to Bridgetown and she could not take the money I had to pay for duty. I said, "Do you mean I * have to wait until 12 o'clock? You have to be kidding." She said, "Well, I have to get my ride to town, so you will have to wait until the officer comes here at 11.30 to relieve me," because he probably would have gone off at 10.30 to come back at 11.30. I said, "I do not have that time." But she closed the place and she went along.

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I could not understand why it had to be so. Anyway, I went back to the officer in charge. Fortunately, we are from the same area and I know him. I gave him the documents and the money to pay for me and I believe it was paid, but

he told me to go and make sure I caught her before she closed and I did that.
4.50p.m.

I would like you, Sir, being Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs to look into not what I just complained about, because that is my experience, so forget that and don't even try to enquire who the person was, but we must do something about keeping Customs open all the time, not closing at 11.00 o'clock to re-open at 12 noon. It is a waste of time for everybody because as it is, going through Customs itself is a very tiring experience, and to get everything sorted out at two minutes to eleven and then to be told that you have to wait until 12 o'clock is a waste of time. I think that we have got to look at that and have it corrected.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, a few points have been raised here, one of them technical, I believe, relating to the exemption from duties or certain duties of certain parts for a computer. I think we have indicated the part that will be eligible for these concessions, but I would like to view this whole approach as the start of a certain trend or direction in relation to new technology and in relation to the development of the possibilities for greater efficiency both at the personal level and at the level of the business enterprise. So I am not proposing at this stage to make any change. I am told that a modem, and this is on expert advice, should not be considered as an accessory. I know the problems have been raised in relation to circuit boards and whatever else may be called, but I think I will leave it at this stage for the time being. In due course, as we get more experience with this and as our economy hopefully improves, we may be able to give further concessions. I see the Honourable Member for St. Thomas smiling. He has not had anything to smile about for the whole day.

As far as the opening and closing hours, whether at the start of the day or the end of the day or for break at lunch may be concerned, I will take what the Honourable Member has said without enquiring into the specific date on which he experienced some difficulty, but I will certainly look at that to see if there can be greater service to the public in that regard.

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the

Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

ORDER NO. 12 - RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE LAND AT PIPERS AVENUE, LODGE HILL, ST. MICHAEL

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, we are seeking the approval of Parliament to acquire 9 000 square metres of land at Lodge Hill, St. Michael for the development of a sites and services programme in that area of St. Michael.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it is a long time since we have had a break from this Chamber, and I think Honourable Members have earned their well deserved break. In adjourning this Chamber I will take into account that we normally do adjourn long before now. However, we had certain business to get out of the way. Happily we have concluded it.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th October, 1990, at 12.00 o'clock noon.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.00 p.m.

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