

# THE

# House of Assembly Debates

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

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### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, October 16, 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., M.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)  
Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.  
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B.(Hons.), (Minister of Health)  
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)  
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), (Leader of the Opposition)  
Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General, Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs)  
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)  
Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc.(Econ.), (Minister of Housing and Lands)  
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M.  
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)  
Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education and Culture)  
Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees)  
Mr. E. BOURNE  
Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, M.D.  
Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M., (Minister of Tourism and Sports)  
Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, B.A., (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of the Civil Service)  
Mr. C. LcR. TROTMAN, M.A.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert. Ed.  
Mr. P. J. M. MILLER  
Mr. R. P. BYER, LL.B.

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

*Prayers were led by Fr. Ivan Harewood.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes for Tuesday, 14th August, 1990.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no other observations, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the months of April, May, June and July, 1990 as prepared by the Accountant General.

#### MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: Message No. 7/1990.

#### HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Her Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that she

will be absent from the country during the period 19th to 21st October, 1990 on a visit to Jamaica.

Her Excellency further has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that under the provisions of section 30 of the Constitution, the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, has designated the Honourable Sir Denys Ambrose Williams, G.C.M. to be Governor-General's Deputy during the period of her absence.

#### PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) Order, 1990. I am also commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Broadcasting Authority for the year 1988-89. I am commanded to lay the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 2) Order, 1990 and the Rate of Interest (Amendment) Order, 1990.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister of International Transport, Telecommunications & Immigration, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Air Transport Licensing Authority for the year 1989.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Fire Service for the year 1989.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement of the National Sports Council for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1989.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the Explanatory Note to Head 34 - Ministry of Education and Culture, Subhead 15, Code 25.

I beg to give notice, Sir, of a Resolution to grant the sum of two hundred and thirty nine thousand, one hundred and fifty two dollars from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1990-91, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1990-91, No. 4, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of six hundred thousand dollars from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1990-91, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1990-91, No. 5, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I beg to give notice of the Local Loans (Amendment) Bill, 1990.

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Member for Christ Church West, a Resolution urging that the 26th July annually be set apart as National Heroes Day, that certain pardons be granted and that criteria be established for the designation of National Heroes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution urging that 26th July annually be set apart as National Heroes Day, that certain pardons be granted and that criteria be established for designation of National Heroes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Member for St. Thomas.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member is not now in his place but I would ask of the Leader of the House that this Item be re-opened a little later, as he intends to be here, so that the relevant notice can be given.

#### FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Local Loans (Amendment) Bill, 1990 be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Caribbean Development Bank Act, Cap. 323A, be now read a first time.

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

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

#### ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the answer to Question No. 145 is ready.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice that Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 144 is now ready.

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: Not so long ago the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was not in his place when Private Members' Notices were called. I presume that he can now rise and give his notice.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE unreservedly condemns the use of illegal violence generally and the killing of members of the police and security forces in particular;

AND WHEREAS the people of Barbados have been shocked and distressed by the circumstances of the death of Police Constable Marlon Marvell on 24th August, 1990;

AND WHEREAS no statutory or other provision exists to compensate dependants of policemen killed in the execution of their duties, except for the payment of funeral expenses, and the circumstances of the death of Constable Marvell warrant the provision of monetary compensation for his dependants;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS HOUSE call upon Government -

- (1) to initiate legislation to provide a statutory basis for the payment of compensation to the dependants of police officers killed in the execution of their duties, and
- (2) to make an ex gratia payment as compensation to the dependants of the late Police Constable Marlon Marvell for his death.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.30p.m.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6.

#### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (LEAVE PASSAGES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1990

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this particular item that is before us is one which I believe will not cause any controversy. It is one which seeks to amend

the Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) Order, 1966 in order to put in place a principle with which I believe both sides of this Honourable Chamber will be in agreement.

What the amendment which is before us will seek to do is to provide for the spouses of those female officers who qualify for leave passages to be eligible for the payment of leave passages under the same conditions that apply to the spouses of male officers.

I think, Sir, we have a discrimination in the existing legislation to the extent that leave passages are available for the wives of male officers who are eligible and entitled to such passages but no such provision is available for the spouses of female officers who find themselves in that position.

As I understand it, Sir, I believe the existing legislation makes provision for an eligible person to be entitled to four passages up to the amount prescribed in the law during a career. Two of these can be to destinations in the Caribbean and two beyond the Caribbean. But a four year period, I believe, must elapse between the taking up of these passages. The 1966 legislation made no provision for the husbands of female officers even though the wives were entitled to this particular benefit.

The National Union of Public Workers has been raising this matter from time to time and their representations have been on the basis that the female officers should be eligible for the payment of leave passages under the same conditions as those applicable to the wives of male officers. To the best of my recollection, Sir, they have been making these representations since 1981. Other unions have also subsequently been making similar representations. The particular representation has been acceded to up to this time and the Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development has pointed out that the failure to grant the female officers the payment of leave passages for their husbands is a breach of the ILO Discrimination, Employment and Occupation Convention No. 111 which was ratified by Barbados in 1974.

The Minister has been urging that the ratification of that Convention has meant that Barbados has undertaken the obligation to develop and pursue a national policy designed to promote equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment and occupation with a view to eliminating any discrimination. It is considered that the law as it stands does suggest some kind of discrimination and we are seeking to rectify that particular position.

If, Sir, this particular matter that is before us now is approved, the effect would be that spouses of female officers would become entitled to passages on bases similar to those that wives now enjoy. The Order has been laid and

I am moving that this Resolution be approved by this Honourable Chamber to correct what is patently a breach of the principle of non-discrimination.

Those who stand to benefit, Sir, would include a teacher at a former older secondary school who was in service prior to January 1, 1980. It would include the head of a primary or secondary school who was also in service prior to that date as well, January 1, 1980. It also includes a person prior to that date, January 21, 1980, who had been the holder of an office other than teacher, or senior teacher, which was an established office under the Civil Establishment Act or under any other Act and is in receipt of the qualifying salary from the Consolidated Fund. So it applies to those who were in the Service before January 1, 1980.

The amount, Sir, that the spouses would be eligible for would be SI 500 in respect of passages for points beyond the Caribbean and \$470 for points within the Caribbean. That is the maximum amount available. It is estimated that the maximum amount which may have to be paid in respect of this particular action if it is approved by this Honourable Chamber, would be probably in excess of \$100 000. We cannot be accurate on this but we expect that it would not exceed that amount.

I should point out, Sir, that there was a policy determined since 1980 that paid leave passages for public officers should be discontinued. 12.40p.m.

As I said, Sir, this is not a matter, the principle of which is accepted, that should occasion any controversy. One should not discriminate, and what we are doing as a Government is ensuring that we remove yet another of the discriminatory practices which may still remain in our legislation or in our practice, and as these are pointed out, Sir, we will seek to correct that in the firm principle that we should have an even hand in dealing with matters relating to males and females.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the Honourable Prime Minister that there was no need whatsoever to be somewhat defensive in his presentation, because it is part of the philosophy of the National Democratic Party, which has been stated very clearly at its foundation ceremony, the proceedings of which were published - and perhaps I will let Honourable Members have a copy of it if they so wish - where we have made the very important commitment to remove all outstanding disabilities in the way of achieving the

objective of true equality of status between women and men in our society, to put an end to tokenism and to ensure that they are given every opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of the life of Barbados.

In reality, Sir, this piece of legislation is fully consistent with a policy position which is very, very dear to — our hearts; so dear to our hearts that we have decided as a party, as we promise this nation, to ensure that at the next elections we will have a significant number of females participating as candidates, as part of this exercise. So far, Sir, we are offering five candidates and if at all possible we would like to increase on that number.

Indeed, Sir, it is interesting to note that this particular piece of legislation really corrects a matter which one of our candidates, long before she was involved in political life, has been raising from time to time. I am quite sure, Sir, that ^ you would not object if I said that this particular matter was raised again and again in public by Ms. Jeannette Layne-Clark, who as you know is an outstanding spokesman on the question of women's rights. It is also important for us to record that the General Secretary of the NUPW has also been foremost in the fight to ensure that this disability was removed.

So I am very happy, Sir, to support this particular ^ measure and I am sure that the general feeling in Barbados is that it is time that we stop talking, as we have been talking, in this male dominated Assembly over many years about questions of equality of status of women and to give effect to these things. If in the 1990s as part of the new path to a better way we ensure that all remaining disabilities that stand in the way of achieving the objective of true equality of status between men and women is achieved, then I think that that could be a significant contribution which would be made during the 1990s.

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I think, Sir, that we should not only be looking at the removal of legislative disabilities, but wherever possible, if there is need to introduce new legislation to give effect to that policy position, it is something that should attract the support of all Members of the House. I also believe that in those areas where it is within the legal discretion of the political directorate to make appointments, they should ensure that a substantial proportion of women are appointed to those posts, because I think that the political directorate should be giving the lead in these matters to the entire society.

I believe that what happens in terms of appointments to Statutory Boards, appointments to various public sector organisations, would send a very clear signal to corporate Barbados as to the direction in which those people who have been elected to manage the affairs of the country wish to take Barbados. So that the lead should be taken by the political directorate in making sure that a substantial number of women and youth... As a matter of fact, Sir, I

believe that in the present situation in Barbados, probably not less than 55% of all appointments to Statutory Boards should be from among the women and the youth in our society, because a lot of interesting things are happening.

I have been noticing several reports in the Press about the superior performance of girls in the various examinations and I think it is important to recognise that unless we create the opportunity for this tremendous human resource, approximately half of the total human resources available to us, then we are not doing our best for the nation, and it has to start at the level of the political directorate. So that at all levels I would hope that during this decade we will not see the odd female being appointed here and there, but we will see a number of females and young people being appointed to important positions in Barbados. As a matter of fact, I think that I can make the pledge that an NDP Government would ensure that not less than 50% of all appointments of a political nature, where you have the legal authority to make those appointments, would go to women and young people in our society. 12.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I said in the 1990's.

*Laughter.*

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, if I may ignore the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, which is always a very wise thing to do when you are speaking, let me say that I think the mood in this country is one in which - and this is very interesting, Sir... I have noticed recently that the men in this society are demanding fair treatment for our womenfolk. I believe' that we would be in keeping with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of people.

Only recently, Sir, it was pointed out that if you were to look at some of the most senior appointments in the Public Service that there are very few females. I think someone recently indicated that if you were to look at the number of Permanent Secretaries, that there have been no appointments of female Permanent Secretaries in recent times, as far as I am aware. At that upper level it is not happening and we need to make it happen if it is going to trickle down through the whole system and you can only make it happen at that level if the political directorate has the will to make it happen. I can assure you that there are a whole lot of very competent females in the Public Service who are capable of becoming Permanent Secretaries within our system.

I believe, Sir, I have covered the few points I wanted to make, that is, that we are philosophically at one in relation to the objectives of the particular matter before the House. We would like to see an acceleration of the process. I have taken the opportunity to indicate what we have done

already as an Opposition to give some impetus to this movement and also to give some indication of the kind of position that we will take when we form the Government after the next elections.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, obviously this Resolution meets with the support of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition. It is really a continuation of measures that have been clearly outlined in the Report of the National Commission on the Status of Women which was laid in this House in 1978.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: This is one of the recommendations. I will certainly deal with the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. He must not run. There are several recommendations affecting his Ministry that he would not implement.

I really must recall the history of the National Commission on the Status of Women and the move towards removing discrimination against men and women in relation to their civil rights and it is appropriate to recall it at this time.

The first resolution to set up such a Commission was introduced in the House by myself in 1975. It is instructive that that resolution was voted against by the Democratic Labour Party of which both the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister were leading members at that time.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I would wish it to be recorded that I was not a Member of this House in 1975.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member was not a member but he probably even had much more power then being outside of the House because I think in those days he was described by Hon. Dr. Caddie, as he then was, as being the second most powerful member in the land.

History will record that the Democratic Labour Party voted against that Resolution. One of the persons who spoke at that time was the Honourable Prime Minister who justified the rejection of the measure on the basis that it was being brought at the time for political reasons. I was rereading his speech only the other day. But even more significant and what surprised me at the time was a then female member of the House who was a junior Minister of Government and the then Member for St. Michael North East, who has recently quitted the Upper House, she voted against the Resolution and said that as long as she was in this House that Resolution would not see the light of day.

The Hansard clearly shows that is the record and that is the history so if people are now finding a new path to a new way, I am very glad to hear that they are not going to find that new path and a new way looking back on the achievements of the Barbados Labour Party.

I wish to make the Barbados Labour Party's position very clear. In 1976, just before the then election, I introduced the Resolution and it then received unanimous support from both sides of the House and the balance is history. A large number of the recommendations of the National Commission on the Status of Women have now been put into effect and the process has been continuing with negotiations over a period of years.

I believe it has now been accepted by all three political parties the necessity to remove discrimination on the basis of sex. That has not only been my own personal philosophy but part of the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party for a long time. Frankly, there are still parts of our Constitution which have similar provisions that are discriminatory and I would hope that the House, as we continue work now and in the future, will work towards a complete elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex wherever it is to be found.

You will also recall, Mr. Speaker, that the Right Honourable Prime Minister in introducing the Resolution made the point that Barbados had subscribed to the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. I had the honour to be the then Minister of External Affairs in 1978 who led Barbados into signing that Convention. I think it has now been ratified. Obviously, the Government of Barbados is committed to eradicating discrimination in all of its forms. I also believe that historical records should obviously guide our actions in whatever we do. There are still some of our laws, not many, that have in discriminatory provisions.

There were over 50 recommendations for the National Commission on the Status of Women dealing with discrimination in the law. By the time that I was no longer Attorney General, 42 of those had been implemented. That is an achievement and performance of which I believe this House, and the country, and I myself can be justly proud. I do not often in my modest way sound my own trumpet but history will show that there has been no more indefatigable champion of women's rights in this country than myself and no greater fighter for women's rights than the Barbados Labour Party. 1.00p.m.

The record is there. It cannot be blotted out, it is too late to blot it out. We have done everything, both within the Civil Service and outside to try, to try to put right any inequalities where they exist.

On this specific Resolution though, Sir, although I am supporting it, our party has one difficulty with it. The word "wife" is removed, understandably, and the word "spouse" is used. Obviously in law if one takes "spouse" it means a husband or wife in wedlock. I believe that we have moved long beyond that stage and the reality of our situation in Barbados shows that there are unions other than marriages that need to be recognised, and indeed we recognised \*\*\* those in two bits of legislation - the Succession Act of 1975, which was passed by the Democratic Labour Party Government at the time and has since been amended, and the Family Law Act of 1981, which introduced revolutionary provisions reflecting the reality of social conditions in Barbados.

I would have hoped that there would have been within this bit of legislation a provision defining "spouse" at least within the terms contained in either the Succession Act or the Family Law Act. I do not know the full financial \*\*\* implications of such an amendment, and hence I am not going at this stage to ask for that amendment, but I would ask the Government to give consideration to looking at amending the term in order to reflect the reality, so far as I understand it, of the situation.

I have got the copy of the Laws of Barbados, the Subsidiary Legislation, and I have looked at the copy available to me, the Civil Establishment (Payment of \*\* Passages) Order, 1966, S.I. 17 of 1966, and I can find nowhere in the copy available to the House a definition of "spouse". If it has been amended, Mr. Speaker, then unfortunately the amendment is not available to Members of the House. My submission is made on the basis that that amendment has not been made yet and I am therefore appealing to the Government to let the legislation reflect the position of common law unions that have got as much permanence as a marriage has permanence. I am asking that that be reflected in the legislation.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the country may be monogamous, but the country must recognise the reality is that those situations exist in Barbados and we have reflected those situations in the Family Law Act and in the Succession Act. The Government must be aware that in 1975 the legislation gave some effect to this kind of concept and it has been mirrored, as I said, in the Family Law Act. I \* would hope that our legislation would go the step further and reflect the sociological conditions which exist in Barbados.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It is too late in the day, Sir. \*\* The Right Honourable Member has said *sot to voce* that one must take into account the position of the Church. One must also take into account the position of the society in which

one lives, and I do not believe that there is anybody today who will argue against recognising in legislation where it is very vital the position of common law unions. It is already reflected, as I said, in the two bits of legislation I have cited, the Succession Act and the Family Law Act. I am emphasising again, I do not know the financial implications of the change, but I would ask the Government to give consideration to seeing whether circumstances justify extending leave passages to persons to who are in common law unions.

Sir, when we started to implement our proposals for abolishing discrimination on the basis of sex, people imagined that it meant women were now being given an unfair advantage as against men. That was never the concept. The concept was, wherever possible, to equalise. In this case now the benefit is falling on the men as a result of being in a union with the ladies.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West says that the wife would also have the benefit of being able to take her husband. I would hope so, Sir, but it is really intended to benefit the men in this regard and I am pleased that therefore people will recognise that in preaching women's rights one is not preaching discrimination against men. One is knocking against the male chauvinists who still exist in the society and who feel that because one is by sex a man that you must have more advantages and more privileges than women should have. As a strong believer in human rights, I have always argued, and will continue to argue, against that position and I am glad it is a situation that is now being reflected in our legislation increasingly, and I look forward to the day when all of our legislation will stop discriminating against women, including, as I said, the provision which still exists in our Constitution, Chapter II, although in relation to the citizenship of the spouses of Barbadian women some alleviation of that rigorous constitutional provision was brought about by an amendment to the Citizenship Act enacted under the Barbados Labour Party Opposition.

I have pleasure in agreeing with the Resolution, Sir, and I am pleased to see that the scales have been removed from the eyes of the doubters.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the chorus of approval for this piece of legislation that is being considered by this body today. It is unfortunate that even after the Report of the Commission on the Status of Women A-as laid in 1978 that women of this country have had to claw and fight their way, inch by inch, for every little advantage they could get. They have done that also to remove what discrimination has remained even after the Report of this Commission.

What is particularly unfortunate about the legislation today, if we can say anything is unfortunate about it, is that even though it was recommended in 1978 in that Report it has taken 12 years to creep and crawl its way to this Chamber, and during the 12 year period a lot of potential beneficiaries of this measure we are considering here today would have resigned from the Service.

I believe, Sir, that we have to stop this piecemeal approach to giving legal' recognition to the status of women in our society and deal with the matter in a very comprehensive way. As the Leader of the Opposition said, this is one of the promises that an NDP administration will keep. 1.10p.m.

Now, one of the matters that I would like to see addressed in the very near future is immigration. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West made mention of it just now, but it is a matter I would have raised, even if he had not. Husbands of Barbadian women have peculiar difficulties in having their citizenship and other immigration matters formulated once they become married. There is a practice which is followed by the Immigration Department and it almost always lead to the granting of some immigration status like permanent residence. But that always depends, for example, on the length of time that one would have been in Barbados up to the time one got married. The same situation in relation to the foreign spouses of Barbadian men does not obtain.

I believe that we ought to give the legal framework within which the practice should operate. There was an amendment but the amendment was not a far-reaching one and even though, as I said, a practice is followed that gives certain results, there is not the legal framework. I believe, Sir, that it is about time that the Immigration Act be amended to put the foreign spouses of Barbadian women on an equal footing with the foreign wives of Barbadian husbands. That is something I would like to see implemented. I do not think that any Government should be slow in bringing about such a measure which I would consider to go a long way towards removing discriminatory practices in Barbados against women.

The other aspect that I would like to add to the debate has to do with the overall approach to discrimination against women in our society. I said the approach is too piecemeal. I believe that if we are serious in our efforts to remove these last vestiges of discrimination, that as a male dominated legislature, we ought to proceed with great haste to bring about the promised removal of discriminatory acts, promises that were made as far back as 1978 when this comprehensive report surfaced. Even though people's positions were hardened around 1978 in relation to a particular approach, I believe that over time people's positions have softened and we are able to achieve a lot more than we would normally have achieved 12 years ago.

It is unfortunate that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West made certain references about a former member for St. Michael South East. I have been checking the record but I have not found what he has averted to. Nevertheless, I really thought that the person of whom he spoke was to have contested a seat in the Barbados Labour Party. I did not know that it was otherwise but everything will come out in the wash, as the saying goes, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5.

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 1990

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think all of us in this country welcome the fact that one of our primary financial institutions in the Caribbean is located in Barbados and I refer to the Caribbean Development Bank. It has been here for many years from the time it was established.

The Government undertook to provide facilities for that particular institution in order to enable it to carry out its function. I think it had temporary headquarters in the Treasury Building on the sixth floor, speaking from memory. Then the permanent headquarters were established at Wildey in St. Michael. The Barbados Government is required to provide space for the accommodation of the Bank. It is also responsible for the repair of the structural objects, the installation and maintenance of facilities and fixtures.

The Bank over its period of existence is now a mature institution, quite able and capable of looking after its accommodation requirements. In fact, Sir, it has already constructed additional office space out of its own resources on lands granted to it by the Crown. It is the main user of the conference centre and canteen facilities which are<sup>x</sup> adjacent to the administrative complex. It has assumed responsibility for those facilities. It is willing and, indeed, has already started to be responsible for the management of the facilities.

We have agreed that the conference centre would be available to the Government for Government sponsored seminars and meetings at such times and on such occasions as are mutually acceptable. The repairs have been carried out to the canteen and the conference facilities. As agreed, the cost for these was reimbursed by the Government.

As far as security is concerned, Sir, the Bank also has agreed to provide its own security for the headquarters seat. There is agreement between the Bank and the Government of Barbados that there should be a modification of the existing agreement to enable senior officers of the Bank,

that is the President, the Vice President, senior officials and professional staff of the Bank to continue to have the privilege of importing a vehicle duty-free every three years while other staff may do so every five years.

There is another area of agreement in relation to immunities and privileges. The permanent residents of Barbados who are employees of the Bank are on the same footing as nationals of Barbados for the purposes of taxation.

These are the areas which we are seeking to amend the existing agreement. There is consensus between the Government and the Bank for these amendments to be made. They will facilitate the work of the Bank, not only in respect of Barbados but in respect of all member countries of the Bank.  
1.20p.m. ^

This particular piece of legislation, Sir, is one that follows upon the Agreement being reached between the Government and the Caribbean Development Bank. That Agreement has been signed, it is an Agreement "modifying certain provisions in the existing Agreement.

The purpose of this Bill is to give effect to those amendments, which again are of a non-controversial nature,<sup>m</sup> and I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Mr. Speaker, and reserve my right to speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, again in principle we have no difficulty with this piece of legislation. We have been given the assurance that there is an Agreement on all these matters between the Government of Barbados and the Caribbean Development Bank, and that nothing «\*, contained herein worsens the position of any categories of employees, whether they be nationals, permanent residents or anyone else, so that no one will be disadvantaged as a result of any changes in this Agreement.

My recollection is, Sir, that from time to time there have been problems in interpreting the legislation as far as it affects tax free privileges of staff of the Caribbean Development Bank. Not that that is peculiar to the Caribbean Development Bank, it is the kind of administrative problem that arises from time to time with all categories of persons in Barbados who enjoy certain immunities and privileges under various bits of legislation. I hope that this Agreement would have removed those areas of doubt which had to be clarified from time to time by ministerial action, so I hope that whatever they were they have all been ironed out and clarified once and for all.

When the Right Honourable Prime Minister responds, I hope he will let us know that this business of equating

nationals with permanent residents in respect of tax free privileges improves the lot of one or other and does not lead to a deterioration of the lot of one in relation to the other, because you can equate the two. In other words, if nationals enjoy not as significant a privilege as permanent residents and now they are equated, it would depend which way they are equated, so that could be one of those statements that can cover a whole range of things and we really would like to get some clarification in that area.

Perhaps, Sir, it would be appropriate to take this opportunity to point out that the Caribbean Development Bank has not only significantly expanded its membership over the years, but also its capital base. I am particularly pleased to see the increased rate of disbursement of loan funds in recent times, because in the past there have been repeated complaints of the delays in getting funds out of the Caribbean Development Bank, but it seems to me that in recent times, certainly judging from the speech of the President at the 20th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, which was recently held in Paradise Island, The Bahamas, that there has been a significant increase in the rate of disbursements.

It would also seem to me, Sir, that the Bank has strengthened its infrastructure in order to assist in the preparation of data necessary for the disbursement of loans.

Another very positive aspect of the activities of the Caribbean Development Bank is that it has stuck to its mandate in ensuring a significant flow of funds and expertise to the LDCs, because one may recall that this is one of the very important, almost reserved, areas for lending by the Bank and it seems certainly to have fulfilled that mandate. Indeed, it is interesting to record that whilst the so called MDCs are all limping along and are in all sorts of economic problems, the LDCs today have been growing at significant pace. It is very interesting to see what has been happening in those territories, it is very significant, particularly in the area of attracting investment which was originally destined for Barbados. Most of those investors seem to find a much happier home, if I may say so, in many of the LDCs. That is the second point I wanted to make, Sir, that the Bank has achieved another major objective in stimulating development in the LDCs.

Another area I think is important is that the Bank has been able to mobilise a significant amount of support for private sector activity throughout the Caribbean. The Bank seems to be in tune with modern times in recognising that private sector investment has a very important role to play if we are going to accelerate the rate of development of the Caribbean territories.

Another interesting point, Sir. I think that the Bank was one of the earliest institutions in the Caribbean to recognise and stress the importance of the services component of the economies of the Caribbean. Without in

any way trying to minimise the minimal efforts of the Minister of Trade in this regard, a lot of our efforts over the years in the Caribbean have been concerned with tradeable goods, or, on the other hand, a type of industrial development which seems to be no longer occupying the priorities of the modern day investor.

The Bank has repeatedly made the point that we need to put far more resources behind the services sector of the Caribbean economies. From time to time they have pointed out that those countries that have been able to sustain economic growth over long periods of time and provide the highest standards of living and the lowest levels of unemployment in the Caribbean, are those countries which paid detailed attention to the services sectors of the economy. I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Tourism, who is at the moment under a considerable amount of pressure, understandably so, would agree with me that it is about time that when we see various conferences, whether they be conferences of Ministers of Finance or various economic conferences, taking place in the Caribbean, that tourism and other services should occupy as much attention as trade in goods has occupied in the past. 1.30p.m.

As a matter of fact, if you were to look at the amount of time taken up by Prime Ministers, Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Trade over the past 15 years within CARICOM, the amount of conferences and the amount of discussions held, and compare that with the amount of time allocated to the main foreign exchange earner in the Caribbean today, you would see what has really happened that there has been a tremendous amount of distortion.

I think that one of the major thrusts of the Government of Barbados and, certainly, would be a major thrust of an NDP Government is to ensure that tourism and other services enjoy a much higher place on the agenda of CARICOM. I think the Bank has certainly been in the forefront of this. I think from time to time we should listen to the experts in this area. There can be no question about it that in terms of the capacity to generate foreign exchange, quick improvements in an economy, that there is no area of economic activity in Barbados that can do so as effectively and as quickly as tourism.

On the other hand, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has invited me to go after the Minister of Tourism. I had no intention of so doing. What I am saying is, look at the other way. When there is a significant decline in tourism, this affects the entire society very rapidly and that is why Ministers of Finance in the past have talked about hurricanes and all those things in terms of the performance of persons. Any Minister of Finance would be very concerned, even at a 2% or 3% decline in tourism far less a 7%, 8%, 9%, or 10%. So the Bank, I believe, has been on the right track.

I do not think that the decision-makers in Government have been giving services the kind of attention that it requires. As I said, I am not trying to downgrade the efforts of Ministers throughout the region in respect of what they are trying to do in trade within CARICOM and trade outside of CARICOM. All I am saying is if you had at least a commensurate amount of effort being put into looking at tourism on a regional basis, then I think we would be able to move forward far more rapidly.

I would like to suggest to the Honourable Prime Minister that he should make an effort to get tourism higher on the agenda in various discussions within CARICOM whether it be at the level of Heads of Government, or at the level of the Caribbean Development Bank meetings, IDE meetings, Ministers of Finance meetings and so on within CARICOM that it should certainly occupy their attention.

As a matter of fact, when you think about it, very seldom has tourism and other services really surfaced in the same year. I believe each year there is a meeting of the Ministers of Trade. I believe at each Heads of Governments meeting there is an associated meeting of Ministers of Trade, or around that time or just before. I know there is a meeting of Ministers of Finance around that time and a whole lot of meetings take place. A lot of interchange takes place between public servants, for example, in the various Ministries of Trade around the Caribbean. That does not take place as far as the various Ministries of Tourism are concerned.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, but not to the same extent. If you would cast your mind back, look and see what has been the dominant area of discussion within CARICOM over the past 15 years you would see it has been always related to tradeable goods and very little in relation to services which has grown dramatically despite the lack of attention at the regional level given.

Sir, if you take the issue relating to cruise ships and the impact that they have on the Caribbean, then you could begin to recognise that that is the kind of thing that is best dealt with at a regional level otherwise you would be subject to the same kind of competitive exploitation as has happened in areas of trade, industry and so on.

Sir, another interesting series of points which have been raised by the Caribbean Development Bank and which, I think, need to be addressed, is that whole area of a skills base and employment opportunities in the Caribbean. I am very pleased to see that the Bank itself is now focussing on these human resources component of the development process which is a very important step for a development bank. Most of these development banks see themselves as being in business purely for the sake of assessing projects and putting money behind projects. But

the Caribbean Development Bank seems to have made an important departure in looking at the human component aspects of development.

Indeed, Sir, one final point which, perhaps, I think the Government of Barbados should be aware of is in that particular address by the President of the Bank in the Bahamas, four important points were made. One relates to periodic structural adjustments, the second to the inevitability of structural adjustment, thirdly the unpleasantness of structural adjustment and fourthly, the importance of dealing with these matters promptly.

When problems develop in an economy, it is important that they be dealt with promptly because when they are not dealt with promptly they just simply worsen. Then when they are dealt with more pain and torture are inflicted on the various populations.

Another category of points is that borrowing to avoid undertaking necessary adjustment or to delay adjustment will not work. This is the advice of the Caribbean Development Bank to all its member territories. Borrowing to avoid adjustment does not work, will not work, et cetera.

I will certainly support this Bill, Sir, subject to the one assurance which I have asked the Prime Minister to give us that no particular category of persons employed at the Caribbean Development Bank would be in any way disadvantaged.

I believe that there is another international development institution which has been in Barbados before and is very anxious to get back into Barbados to participate in new developments in the region. I believe a headquarters agreement is being sought and there have been some unnecessary hold-ups and delays.

I would urge that steps be taken. I do not know whether it is the Honourable Attorney General or the Foreign Minister holding up the agreement. It may be both or only one of the two. I do not know if it is the Cabinet as a whole. I believe that organisation is anxious to come back to Barbados to re-establish here in Barbados and from Barbados continue its activities throughout the Caribbean, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean and also anxious to make significant investment in a sector of the Barbados economy which has not attracted much investment for a long time. 1.40p.m.

I would hate to see the whole thing delayed because either of delays at Cabinet level or at the level of Foreign Minister or at the level of Attorney General. I believe some \*\*' Honourable Members would have some idea of what I might be talking about. I do not think it would be wise to call the name. Do you want me to call the name?

*Aside.*

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is behaving responsibly for the first time in this Honourable House by not trying to force me to call the name.

Sir, I think that is all I really have to say. Again we have no difficulty with this, except one final point. I really would be repeating a point which I think the late Tom Adams made in 1979, that very often we underestimate the contribution which an institution like the Caribbean Development Bank makes to Barbados just by being here. I am not talking about anything arising out of their activities. I am not talking about anything in terms or anything like that to Barbados, or any contribution to equity investment. The fact that there is a constant flow of foreign exchange to support the activities of the organisation, the impact it has on housing, the impact it has on generating jobs at all levels - gardeners, household attendants, right through the whole system - an organisation like this would be of tremendous benefit to Barbados and it must not be underestimated. That is why I am urging the Government to move rapidly with the other project.

The other point, Sir. I almost forgot this final point. I believe that the Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank should deal as effectively as they can with matters of arrears in payments to that institution. Whereas one of our CARICOM countries might be in genuine difficulties in terms of its ability to find the foreign exchange to pay, there is certainly another one that does not pay anybody at all, and every effort should be made to ensure that we do not have difficulties with arrears. I am aware of the impact which those arrears three years ago might have had on the equity position of the Bank if it had to make provision for the non-payment or even not servicing the loans. It is important that the question of arrears be dealt with firmly - sympathetically, yes, but firmly - and I would say sympathetic in terms of the country which we know genuinely cannot pay, but certainly no sympathy in terms of the particular country which has all the appearances of prosperity to me but just simply would not pay their bills.

There is no reason why that country should be in arrears, because at a time when it is going to become more and more difficult to attract concessionary financing, then I think the balance sheet of the Bank would be a very important determinant of the success of interventions by the Bank in the international markets where such financing is dwindling, not expanding.

Finally, I am very pleased to note the very positive approach taken, particularly by the Canadians, in relation to the Bank. I understand that the Germans have shown more than passing interest, not only by just joining but apparently they are making a significant impact in terms of participation in the Bank's activities in the international markets.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That is my brief contribution.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Since no other Honourable Member wishes to speak, I would just state briefly that I really cannot give the Honourable Member the assurance he is asking for. I do not know that there will be any particular individual who would claim that he or she may be disadvantaged or not, but we are looking at the position we have arrived at as far as Barbados is concerned. We may get queries under Headquarters Agreements, relating to countries, for that matter, far less institutions such as a bank. I do not think the Honourable Member really expected that I would have been able to give that kind of assurance. What I can assure the Honourable Member is that we will seek to apply and administer the Headquarters Agreement in as even-handed a way as possible. I think that is the most we can hope to do.

I am not aware of any disagreement in principle with any other institution or body as far as the Headquarters Agreement is concerned.

*Aside.*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh, delays. The Honourable Member is talking about delays. We have delays in all areas and I do hope if there is any delay related to any Headquarters Agreement that these will be ironed out very shortly, but I would like to assure this Honourable House that there is no disagreement in principle over coming to any agreement in relation to Headquarters. Cabinet itself agrees to the establishment of Headquarters, as it would have to do in respect of any institution coming to do business in Barbados, and I will certainly look into these matters. If there is any delay anywhere, I will seek to get that rectified.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*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. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair. 1.50p.m.*

## COMMITTEE Mr.

CHAIRMAN: The House is in committee.

*Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.*

*The Schedule was called and passed.*

*On motion of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, Mr. 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. B. M. TAITT the Bill was read a third time and passed.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE  
NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF THE  
PARCEL OF LAND AT SIMMONS ROAD,  
CLAPHAM, ST. MICHAEL, FOR  
HOUSING PURPOSES

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks parliamentary approval to vest this portion of land at Simmons Road in the National Housing Corporation. This land has already been acquired and, in fact, houses have already been relocated on this land but conveyances cannot be given to the owners until the land has been vested in NHC. This process started under the last administration. We are just regularising this so that conveyances can be given to the persons eligible.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Simmons Road is in my constituency, for the benefit of some members other than my friend the Honourable Member for St. George South, who would know where it is. It is on the left hand side of Rendezvous Road, if you are backing the sea going towards the Roundabout by Lyrias.

This land was acquired originally with the intention of doing two things. One was to provide house spots for those persons who were going to be displaced by what is now become known as the ABC Highway and, secondly, to take the opportunity to provide house spots for the large number of persons in Christ Church West who needed sites and services. Possibly, Sir, there was a third reason to improve the road conditions and the other conditions which existed in the area for some of the residents of the Clapham/Forde's Road area.

I had drawn the area of land to the attention of the then Ministry of Housing and Lands, and the Ministry of Transport and Works. We have been able to upgrade facilities for some of the original residents who lived up there. There are now proper roads, water and electricity where there was none before. There is still one main road to

be completed which would link Forde's Road near the Crichlow residence to the Rendezvous Road. This would allow minibuses to traverse that area from time to time as may be required.

A couple of months ago I visited the area with people from the Ministry of Transport and Works and was able to obtain permission from land owners other than the Crown to allow part of their lands to be taken to facilitate the installation of a proper tenantry road to complete the work which was commenced there under the Barbados Labour Party Government. I am hopeful, therefore, that in the not too distant future the road network which we envisaged for improving Simmons Road and the Clapham area will be completed.

There are, however, one or two problems that I wish to draw to the Minister's attention. I have written to both the National Housing Corporation and the Ministry about some of these problems occurring there. The Minister is dealing with one problem which is, that there are people who are waiting for conveyances and, obviously, this could not be accomplished until the land was vested in the National Housing Corporation.

I have previously urged the House that consideration ought to be given when we bring down resolutions for the compulsory acquisition of land for the same resolution to have a clause vesting it at the same time straight to the National Housing Corporation or whatever statutory board. It would speed up the process. I know that the NHC has had conveyances prepared but was awaiting this particular legislation. That would facilitate some of the people who are buying the spots, Sir.

One or two problems have occurred. There have been people like the Deane family who have lived in Simmons Land for a long time but the acquisition process has taken up all of their land and they have been left with one house lot. They would wish consideration being given by the National Housing Corporation to their request that at least an additional, if not two house spots, be given to them so that they could accommodate their families. It seems to me that these requests are reasonable. In the case of the Deane family, I think it was well over an acre or more of land which was compulsorily acquired. They have been left with only one house spot whereas there was a case for additional house lots.

There is another case of a family called the King family just below the Deanes who have been moved. They are now buying this lot from the National Housing Corporation at the current market price whereas the price that the land was acquired was considerably below the market price. Even taking into account the improvement which Government has made with water, roads and light - and they have to pay for that - it seems to me that in instances where you are acquiring the land of people in a

certain socio-economic group who are remaining there, that some consideration should be given to an exchange for them. There are about two or three families in this area who have suffered from that.

There is also the case of Mr. Cumberbatch whose house was to have been shifted but so far he could not get a decision out of the NHC, or whichever person was dealing with the matter to allow him to improve his conditions. 2.00p.m.

I trust that the passing of this Resolution would now enable the NHC to proceed with this case.

Then there is the case of Mr. Bayne who wished permission to improve his condition by building wall. He has young daughters and they wish to add on a bedroom. He cannot at present purchase the land, which is his long term aim, but the money which he has would only allow him to improve the house for the time being. He was getting some difficulty. I have written again to the NHC on this matter and I would hope that the Minister would take it into account and facilitate these persons, Sir.

There are also some other house lots. Two things were done with these house lots. Some house lots were given over to builders and some very attractive houses have been constructed for private individuals, some of whom have come from outside the area, but there are still one or two remaining house lots and I would seriously urge the Minister to exercise his influence with the NHC to make sure that those house lots are given in the first place to the relatives of those who live in the area, whose lands were acquired, and then the numerous people in that surrounding area who want house lots to improve their condition. This would go a long way towards answering some of the pressure of people in their 30s and so who want to have their first homes and are finding it difficult to get house lots.

The Minister has written to me, as he has written to every other Member of Parliament, asking me to designate land in my area which is suitable for acquisition for a sites and services programme. Unfortunately, the constituency I represent has not got that available land. We cannot today point to any large open area in Christ Church West - I see the Prime Minister is looking at me - or in St. Michael South that is available for that sort of acquisition. There is only one large remaining area of land in my constituency, particularly as the constituency is now altered, and that is at present being developed, I understand, by the Methodist Church, just behind Hawthorne, but other than that we have no real area of land. We will have to look at Christ Church South and we might find some area there.

Whilst I am supporting the Resolution, I must ask that the Ministry look at the problems that are still occurring.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, Sir, the Prime Minister is reminding me that there is a property in Hastings. If the Government wants to acquire that and they have the right numerals - zeroes - behind it and the U.S. designation in front of it, that is all right. The Honourable Minister should know that I have been knocking the houses down with a view to developing the land and I am creating employment, but if the Government wants to acquire it they can always be facilitated with the right numerals and in the right currency. The Trust has no objection.

Anyway, Sir, to get back to the point, we really have not got any significant amount of land area, so I am very solicitous of the needs in Simmons Land and I would ask the Minister to give consideration to some of the points I have made, but by and large there has been a tremendous improvement in living conditions there for those persons who have been there and when the balance of the road is completed that would remove one of the irritants. I wrote about the lights and I have got them in the area as well.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: No, Sir. The Honourable Member must know that this acquisition took place under us, and they went on. The Honourable Member knows there was always the plan for this.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member would know that there has always been a policy of no discrimination followed by the Barbados Labour Party in making the allocation of lights for our people, Sir.

There has been an improvement in the area and I am glad to see that it has taken place. I trust that now that this Resolution will be passed by the House, and by the Senate in due course I am sure, that conveyances can be given to the people so that they can continue in their own efforts to improve their conditions.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complaints and concerns of the Honourable Member have been noted and will be looked at as urgently as possible.

Before I beg to move that the House approve this Resolution, it is stated in the Resolution "Simmons Road, Clapham in the parish of Saint Michael." I believe that is a typographical error and it should read "Christ Church", because the Schedule says "Christ Church".

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

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

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time being seven minutes after two, I am suggesting that we have a suspension for lunch until 3.15 p.m.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Honourable Members are saying we should do the other two matters, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the House pleases.

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE  
SALE OF A PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER  
WITH A BUILDING THEREON, AT ST.  
CHRISTOPHER, CHRIST CHURCH

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution just seeks the approval of Parliament to dispose of this bath with the surrounding lands to a Mr. Shepherd.

The Ministry of Housing has offered some of these public conveniences to the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development for their own use, and these are the others that were not needed or required by the Ministry of Community Development.

With that, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution to dispose of this property at St. Christopher, Christ Church do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE >  
SALE OF A PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER  
WITH A BUILDING THEREON, AT WALKERS,  
ST. ANDREW

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: This, like the previous one, Mr. Speaker, just seeks approval to dispose of this bath and the surrounding land to the estate of Archibald Hunte. As I stated with the others, some of the baths have been offered to the Ministry of Community Development and these are those they did not need and we are disposing of them.

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

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Just one brief intervention, Sir, to ask the Minister whether or not his Cabinet colleagues have approved his 100% mortgage arrangements.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 144 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To ask the Minister of Health:

"Will the Minister please state how many patients died in the Geriatric Hospital per month during the following years:-

(a) 1985 (b) 1986 (c) 1987 (d) 1988 (e) 1989 and (f) 1990 to date?"

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following is a monthly record of the death of patients at the Geriatric Hospital over the period January 1981 to May 1990.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am calling from the year, then I am going to call the month right through. I will do this year after year until I am finished.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is not too long. You asked about the dead people. I do not know why you want to know how many people have died.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that the information the Honourable Minister may be giving is rather probing. I would be quite happy if the reply were laid.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I must confess, Sir, that this has baffled me why the Honourable Member wanted to know who died, or how many people died. Out of an abundance of caution I thought I would bring him the full details of all who died from 1981 to 1990.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, but you cannot just give 1985. You have to go back to the antecedence of deaths in the Hospital. Anyhow, Sir, if the Honourable Member wants it laid, I will lay the report but I will say that the total was as follows:-

In 1981-97  
 1982-107  
 1983 -163  
 1984 -123  
 1985 -149  
 1986 -170  
 1987 -124  
 1988-119  
 1989-152

You would notice that there are fewer as we come towards the 1990's. Up until May 1990 there were only 78. The full details are provided in the answer which I now lay before this Honourable House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any supplementaries? If the Honourable Member does not request any supplementaries then I shall go on to the next question.

Question No. 145 asked by the same Honourable Member.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Question No. 145 - to ask the Minister of Education and Culture:-

- "1. Is the Minister aware that the St. Thomas Primary School is designated as a Hurricane Shelter?
2. Is the Minister aware that the said school is in a terrible state of disrepair, in particular, that the roof leaks incessantly, major woodwork is termite infested, masonry and painting repairs are required and the garden needs to be fenced against the intrusion of stray animals?

3. If the answers to the said questions are in the affirmative, will the Minister, as a matter of urgency and having regard to the onset of the hurricane season and the ensuing school vacation, please cause the necessary remedial work to be done as soon as possible?"

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 145 is as follows:-

- "1. Yes, Sir.
2. The Minister is not aware that the said school is in a terrible state of disrepair.
3. Steps are being taken to correct deficiencies at the school during the summer holidays."

It is obvious that the summer holidays have since passed. I am sure the Honourable Member is aware that the work was completed during the summer holidays.

Mr. SPEAKER: End of Question Time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House adjourn until Tuesday, October 23, 1990, at 12 o'clock noon, assuming, Sir, that we are coming back.

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

*The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 23, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 2.20 p.m.*

**CONTENTS****MINUTES**

## Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of

Tuesday, 14th August, 1990 .....5842

Hon. B. M. Taitt, 5842.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****Mr. SPEAKER** ..... 5842Accounts and Statements for April, May, June  
and July, 1990 by Accountant-General.Message No. 7/1990 re absence of Governor-  
General 19th to 21st October 1990 and  
designation of a Governor-General's Deputy  
during absence.**PAPERS Rt.****Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD ..**

.... 5843

1. Civil Establishment (Leave Passages)  
(Amendment) Order, 1990.
2. Annual Report of Broadcasting Authority,  
1988-1989.
3. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments  
(Exemption) (No. 2) Order, 1990.
4. Rate of Interest (Amendment) Order,  
1990.

**Hon. B. M. TAITT** .....5843Annual Report of the Air Transport  
Licensing Authority, 1989.**Hon. M. A. KING**..... 5843

Annual Report of the Fire Service, 1989.

**Hon. W. W. HALL**..... 5843Annual Report and audited Financial Statement  
of the National Sports Council, 1988-1989.**GOVERNMENT NOTICES****Hon. B. M. TAITT** .....  
.....5843

Resolution to amend the Explanatory Note to

Resolution to grant \$239 152 from Consolidated Fund to supplement Estimates 1990-91, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1990-91, No. 4.

Resolution to grant \$600 000 from the Consolidated Fund to supplement Estimates 1990-91, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1990-91, No. 5.

#### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES**

**Hon. H. deB. FORDE**.....5843

Resolution re designation of criteria for National Heroes.

**Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS**.....5844

Resolution re payment of compensation to dependants of police officers killed in execution of duty.

#### **FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Hon. B. M. TAITT** ..... 5843

Local Loans (Amendment) Bill, 1990.

**Hon. B. M. TAITT** ..... 5843

Bill to amend the Caribbean Development Bank Act, Cap. 323A.

#### **ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS**

**Hon. C. V. WALKER** ..... 5843

re Question No. 145.

**Hon. B. M. TAITT** ..... 5843

re Question No. 144.

#### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS** ..... 5844

Hon. B. M. Taitt, 5844.

#### **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (LEAVE PASSAGES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1990**..... 5844

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 5844; Dr. R. C. Haynes, 5845, 5846; Hon. H. deB. Forde, 5846, 5847, 5848; Mr. R. P. Byer, 5848.

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990.....5849

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 5849, 5852; Dr. R. C. Haynes, 5849, 5851, 5852.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF PARCEL OF LAND AT SIMMONS ROAD, CLAPHAM, ST. MICHAEL.....5853

Hon. H. A. Blackman, 5853, 5854; Hon. H. deB. Forde, 5853, 5854.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SALE OF LAND AND BUILDING THEREON AT ST. CHRISTOPHER, CHRIST CHURCH.....5855

Hon. H. A. Blackman, 5855.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SALE OF LAND AND BUILDING THEREON AT WALKERS, ST. ANDREW.....5855

Hon. H. A. Blackman, 5855.

#### QUESTION TIME

QUESTION NO. 144.....5855

Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 5855; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 5855.

QUESTION NO. 145 ..'.....5856

Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 5856; Hon. C. V. Walker, 5856.

ADJOURNMENT.....5856

Hon. B. M. Taitt, 5856.

#### SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BLACKMAN, Hon. H. A. (St. Philip South) BYER, Mr. R. P. (St. George South) FORDE, Hon. H. deB. (Christ Church West) HALL, Hon. W. W. (St. Michael West Central) HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central) KING, Hon. M. A. (Christ Church West Central) SANDIFORD, Rt. Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South) SIMMONS, Mr. D. A. C. (St. Thomas) TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West) WALKER, Hon. C. V. (St. George North) WEEKES, His Honour L. A. (St. Michael North West)