

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday October 30, 1990.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of 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. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A.

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER

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

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday October 23, 1990.

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

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

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

PAPERS

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

1. The Ombudsman (Salary) Order, 1990.
2. The Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) Order, 1990.
3. The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1990.

4. The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1990.
5. The Judges Remuneration and Pensions (Amendment to the Schedule) Order, 1990.
6. Parliament (Administration) (Salary) Order, 1990.
7. The Annual Report of the Accountant General for the financial year 1989-90.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

1. Resolution to approve the Ombudsman (Salary) Order, 1990.
2. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) Order, 1990.
3. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1990.
4. Resolution to give effect to the decision to increase the wages of the public employees and casual employees of the Government with effect from April 1, 1990.
5. Resolution to revise the salaries of the Prime Minister's Personal Staff with effect from April 1, 1990.
6. Resolution to approve the amendment to the schedule of the Governor-General (Conditions of Service) Act, Cap. 6 by increasing the salary payable to the Governor-General.
7. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1990.
8. Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at the junction of Whitepark Road and Country Road in the parish of St. Michael for the purpose of the construction of the Judicial Centre.
9. Resolution to grant the sum of two million, six hundred and twenty-nine thousand, one hundred and eleven 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. 8, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, since the last sitting of this Honourable House, the Honourable Member, His Honour the Chairman of Committees, lost his father. It is true that in the context of the methods we use in this Honourable House, we must not always do an obituary notice. On this occasion I think it is warranted if for no other reason than that the Honourable Member's father is representative of a generation of Barbadians which is very slowly moving away from our society.

Beresford Arthur also happens to be the father of a member of the staff of Parliament. So, as we rise to pay tribute to his memory in the classic way, we take opportunity to offer condolences both to an Honourable Member and a member of staff. 12.25 p.m.

It has been my distinct privilege to have known the distinguished gentleman for a substantially long time, and indeed the family - Mrs. Arthur and the large contingent of the nuclear and the extended family - did me the great honour of asking me to do the eulogy for "Berry", as he was so well and popularly known. Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to repeat that eulogy in this Honourable House, but one could hardly pay tribute to his memory without making reference to the outstanding role which he played both as a father, as a husband and as a man of influence in his community.

He was born in the City of Bridgetown, in the Kensington area, and moved eventually to Passage Gardens and for much of this century really he was a figure to be reckoned with both in the social and economic life of this country. Soon after leaving school, Sir, he was, as was the custom for the people of his day in his class, apprenticed to the joiner's trade and he would become a master craftsman in the truest sense of the word. I spoke elsewhere of the exquisite joy of observing him fashion a piece of wood from its raw state toward the end product, which when perceived by all and sundry could only be described as an object of art.

He was one of those persons who we of our generation would remember as a continual and perennial winner of prizes at the Agricultural Exhibition when, as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, for two days in December there was a display of the pride and industry of the Barbadian community.

He was the father of ten children and he tried in his way to impart to those children the values of his day, and indeed the art of himself, so that four of the children, including the Honourable Member, have among their experiences and their abilities the capacity of a master craftsman. But he was, above all, a man of the people of Passage Gardens and surrounding areas.

He was well known as an adjudicator in all manner of disputes that would arise around him. He was well known as a philosopher from whom many a young man would learn one or other aspect of life through a principle enunciated by him that would carry such a young man, or indeed young woman, throughout his or her life.

He also participated in a fundamental way in the social activity of the day. He was, perhaps unlike his son, a great dancer. There are those who will say that his son is a great dancer as well, but as compared with his father, Sir, the father was really truly one of those persons who, if you would see him dancing, soon you would lose the idea that this was someone doing something. Rather, you would have the idea that something was happening in which this someone was participating. He was a fantastic glider, and to quote my friend, he was in fact poetry in motion. This was the characteristic of his life. A very down to earth, very simple, very pragmatic, but always honest man giving of himself from his soul.

This was a man who also found a great joy in sports. He was a supporter of the Empire Club. He believed, as supporters did and I believe to some extent today still do, that his team could do no wrong, and the only pain he would suffer in any given weekend was if the blues had gone down to defeat, and the pain would only be intensified at a higher level if that defeat had occurred at the hands of a club somewhere in the vicinity of Queen's Park called Spartan, which as Your Honour knows very well was the total, complete and perennial sporting enemy of the blues and the supporters of the blues.

That kind of honest rivalry which we who grew up in the general area had come to recognise as the essence of Barbadian life, is perhaps not carried on at the same level of dispassionate understanding today as it was done in those days, but it was part of the game of life in Barbados that men could disagree fundamentally on the great issues of the day - and sport has always been one of the great issues of the day in Barbados - and yet not lose the respect which they would have one for another. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it seemed as though poverty in its truest sense was not a hindrance to the freedom of thought and freedom of expression which men like "Berry" had come to love, to understand and to practise.

When we are praising famous men who have done great works in our country, either as statesmen or teachers, we use perhaps hyperbole in every essence of that word. But when we talk about men like Beresford Arthur, perhaps the salt of the earth is the true phrase that distinguishes that type of man, or as the case may be, that type of woman, from the rest. That he was able to see all of his children go in some direction that he and his dear wife had designed for them, has been a source of joy for him in his later years. I hope the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East will not mind if I say on the Floor of this House that his

presence in the House of Assembly has been a great source of pride and joy for Beresford Arthur and Mrs. Arthur. 12.35 p.m.

I know that the other children's achievements have equally found a place in the hearts of the mother and father, as is the case with many of the parents of that year.

Mr. Speaker, even in the face of that kind of joy he was always heard to remind both his children and those to whom he would deign to share his philosophy that no matter how great or how high in status they would rise, they must never forget that they owed it all to the Almighty God.

It is in fact in the expression of his music and his love for church music, as he called it, that one saw the finer characteristics of this magnificent man. He knew church music in a way that was not normally given to persons who had not had formal training. He had an appreciation for oral music that is second to very few that I know of and his capacity to distinguish between one kind of choir and another, his ability to hear notes when they were only slightly sharp or flat as the case may be, in an otherwise normal rendition, was a special capacity which I will make bold to say is vouchsafed by God only to the true artist.

I believe that he would not have wanted a great amount of sorrowing and a great amount of weeping at his passing, because in the words of one of his sons: "he lived life as he found it one day at a time enjoying each day to the fullest"; but he would have wanted us to mark his passing by hoping that his children will be able to maintain the standard and the quality which he always insisted was the only goal that one should have in life.

Mr. Speaker, with much regret at his passing but with much joy at having known and shared a part of his life, I extend condolences to his son, to the rest of the family and hope that this Honourable House will be able to join me in the usual resolution which signifies the feeling of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself and the National Democratic Party with the remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I, myself, have not had the opportunity to have known Mr. Arthur in the same way that the Honourable Member knew him and quite clearly, from the tribute which he has paid to Mr. Arthur it was certainly my loss. However, I have always been in contact for many years with many members of the family. I have known Mrs. Arthur for a long time. I have certainly known several of the sons and at least two of the daughters. I have always found that the entire family, as I have been able to observe over the years, seem to me to be a happy family, one which is unusually content with their level of achievement and one which has always sought to participate in the public life of Barbados, not only at the political level but certainly in many social endeavours.

Indeed, Sir, in all those members of the family that I have known, I have always detected that humility and desire for service which could only have resulted from the kind of discipline and the kind of philosophical approach to life which would have been inculcated in them by their parents. So, in a way, seeing Mr. Arthur through my knowledge of his wife and children, in a sense I can concur with what the Honourable Member has said through that perspective. Clearly, he has been a man of many parts. Clearly, a very sensitive man when one looks at the combination of virtues, an artist, not only a craftsman but an artist, someone with a high degree of sensitivity to music and someone who enjoyed sports in a very profound way, not allowing partisanship to interfere with the kind of communion which he was able to establish before and after a game, even with those who supported the opposite team.

Sir, these are many of the virtues which are in a sense peculiarly Barbadian, but they are the virtues on which this country has been built and it is important that when persons of this nature pass to the Great Beyond that an opportunity should be taken to record, not only their achievements, but the sort of inspiration which they would have passed on to their immediate generation, the generation immediately following them and any succeeding generations to make sure that that heritage is passed down the years.

Indeed, Sir, as certainly from time to time, we come to this House with resolutions of this nature and there is one continuing thread. Probably, it is because we ourselves are now reaching a particular age that two things become very clear in our assessment of the lives of people. One, the fact that they have made a contribution, secondly, the importance of that contribution, but most important, the way in which their contribution would have impacted on us and the generations which will follow us. And it is probably because we have reached this age now that we begin to be even more sensitive to the importance of those wider virtues which would have gone to mould future generations.

In youth, one is concerned often with the narrow achievements in terms of professional achievement or achievements in your trade, concern with your immediate family, but thereafter, one has to reflect and take a wider view and therefore, one could focus on those qualities that have a permanence and those qualities you will find transcend the concepts of class, financial status and all these things. Those people who would really have passed on more to the generation that followed are those people who possess these kinds of virtues because they go to the root of character building in the generations that they came in contact with. 12.45 p.m.

If the principle of inheritance has any particular value, we may have many people focus on inheritance in terms of property, some focus on inheritance in terms of biological

conditions. But perhaps in terms of humanity and respect for humanity and the development of humanity, it is the inheritance of values. When we focus on the life of someone like Beresford Arthur, we can see that he was one who was touched by the importance of a value system in his own life which he could communicate to future generations. It is something that you cannot leave in a will but it is far more important than anything that you can leave in a will. It is not something that you can leave by genetic transmission but it is far more important because it affects not only those who were biologically related to him, but the wider community of the generation which would have shared part of his life.

In these circumstances, Sir, I am very happy to associate myself with the remarks. As I said, on behalf of myself, my family and the National Democratic Party, let me take this opportunity to express my condolences to the Honourable Member and to all the other relatives and friends of the late Beresford Arthur.

Thank you very much.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Members on this side were unaware of the passing of the father of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. I personally was not aware that he had passed away. I have never had the privilege of knowing him personally although I do know his children very well.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has always epitomised grace, ease and charm in his dealing with people. In fact, Sir, if I may say so, I had to disagree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West when he says that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East cannot dance. I have seen him dancing in Jackson and elsewhere, fleet of foot and a gracefulness of a ballet performer so that I really must disagree. If his father excelled that performance then he was an exceptional dancer indeed.

If I may look at the performance of his children, and I understand from both Honourable Members who have just spoken that the performance of his children in many respects mirrored the teachings which he instilled in them, I would say that he was certainly a person whom one would have longed to know. I regret very much that I did not have the privilege of meeting him in mortal flesh.

I have known his sons very well and they have contributed much to the life of Barbados in tourism, in politics and, of course, in the law. I believe that they can be happy with the comments which have been made by Honourable Members in this House about their father and can take solace from the fact that he has given so much in his life time, not only to themselves but to Barbados as a whole.

On behalf of Members on this side we express our deepest condolence to the Honourable Member. No matter how long and how old a person has lived in this life, their passing always leaves a tremendous void. Obviously, he has our deepest sympathy on this occasion. We assure him of our support in this particular time of grief. I am sure that the sentiments which have been expressed by the Honourable Acting Leader of the House, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and myself are sentiments that are deeply felt by all of us in this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would want to associate myself with the remarks made by Honourable Members from both sides of the House. I myself have not been privileged to meet the late Mr. Arthur but, certainly, I have been able to associate with his sons and if by their example and by their commitment and sincerity to what they want to achieve in life is an example of what they had been able to gather from their own life with their father, I am sure that Mr. Arthur would have made a very valuable contribution to this country and particularly in this House itself where his son, as Chairman of Committees, has been able under trying conditions, new conditions, not prepared for this kind of presiding officer's work, has been able in the short time to be able to conduct and equip himself in the most honourable and most, I would think, satisfactory way in this House as he performs his duties.

With that limited knowledge of Mr. Arthur and, perhaps, a little bit more knowledge of his sons, I am sure Barbados once again loses one of the planks, the foundation, a structure which has given this country a name not only in the past but, certainly, in the present and for the future.

We are always very saddened at the loss of such people from our community. Nonetheless, the work they do tend to live after them. I hope that his children, particularly those who are in authority, will draw from the life that he had lived which seemed to me a very balanced life, but one prepared to make a future a brighter place.

I would therefore on my own behalf want to extend my sincere condolences to his children and other family. As a means of passing this Resolution, I shall ask Honourable Members to stand for one minute.

Members stood in silence for one minute.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the circumstances which occasioned the presentation of this Resolution have had their impact, as most certainly would be perceived. My father has lived a full life. He was very close to his 88th birthday when he died. I can say that, to a large extent, what I am in life is greatly the result of what I have tried to do to follow the pattern that was left.

Our family, Mr. Speaker, is a very well-knit family and what affects one affects the other so that the good and the bad seemed to have mingled throughout our entire existence as a family. 12.55 p.m.

The little things, and there were many of them, that we knew and experienced, that held us together, afforded us the opportunity to say thanks to Almighty God for being able to stay together in those circumstances.

I think that his life and commitment to a developing society has been very evident, in that much has been said of my father's capacity as a craftsman. Still all that has been said will not suffice. Today if many of the people who have become masters of their craft would pass on to the younger generations in the same way that my dad did, we could all look to the future of our country in the areas which I think there is greatest need. I have a sense of satisfaction in knowing that he has helped to shape the lives of many craftsmen, a dwindling group, as not many people seem interested in trades as they used to in years gone by. I think for that our society may be at a loss.

I wish to say a hearty thank you for all the sentiments, the expressions of goodwill, and sympathy in this our time of sorrow. We did have quite a representation of the Honourable Members of this Chamber at his funeral service, and for this we are very grateful. I can hardly in a few words truly express my gratitude for the sentiments that have been expressed today. In fact, I believe I have heard enough today that is truthful of him that I can almost say that I and they who spoke were rubbing shoulder to shoulder over the years that I have known him.

I wish, Sir, to express my thanks and gratitude to yourself, to the Honourable Members and indeed to the entire Chamber for the words that have been spoken on his behalf.

I thank you.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister of Education I wish to state that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 110 is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: 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 - COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, 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 of Supply.

1 (a)-SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1990-91, No. 6 - HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS - \$500,000

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, at the outset I would point to a slight emendation of the Addendum, with respect to the last line, after "properties" where the following words should have been inserted: "to the Bridgetown Sewerage System". The omission resulted from the fact that this Addendum was formerly a paragraph of a single Addendum which covers another Resolution which will follow after this one dealing with the same subject matter. Since the allocations are made to different Heads, that paragraph, which now constitutes the Addendum before the House, was severed and reproduced in its original form. Now that it stands alone, in order to give it a clear meaning it is necessary to add the words which I referred to.

This Resolution comes against the background of discussions which have been taking place between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank with respect to the financing of the south coast sewerage project. You will recall that our present sewerage system was financed by that institution and in these discussions that institution indicated that financing arrangements would be facilitated if a plan were drawn up by the Water Authority to ensure that by April 1992 all of the connections of units within the sewered area were made. 1.05p.m.

After considerable disagreement as to the number, the categories of properties referred to are three basic types: residential, commercial and governmental and they totalled 1,815. At the 30th September this year, 951 connections were made, which leaves outstanding another 964 out of which there are some 21 Government properties out of 78 to be connected and the rest almost evenly divided between residential and commercial properties. This particular Resolution requests the sum of \$500,000 to make the connections for those 21 government departments which

have today not made arrangements for any such connections.

The difficulty, and here, Sir, I must crave your indulgence, because I do not want to waste the time of the House by repeating myself when the next Resolution follows and here I must advert to some of the difficulties ..., which were encountered ever since the Bridgetown Sewerage system became operational. The first problem, was that the planning of this project did not treat connections as an integral part of the problem and with hindsight it is now clear that that was a serious omission. The second aspect of the problem is that many persons who live within the sewered area and own properties there have been slow in making connections because of their impecuniosity. There are a lot of people who live in that area and simply do not have the money to finance the hookup to the sewerage system and to pay the subsequent * charges that hooking up to the system would require. There is also the factor that relates to the state of land ownership within the sewered area in which many of the persons therein are considered to be functional squatters. This has posed a problem that has led to procrastination in the hookups. Another factor has been the sloth on the part of many government departments in making adequate provision from year to year for the hook-ups and insofar as the commercial sector is concerned, many businesses for one ^ reason or another did not feel constrained to pay the money which would be involved in hooking up the service. More particularly in this area with respect to the commercial category, there was some doubt as to the constitutionality of section 5 of the Sewerage Regulations which authorized the Authority, that is the Water Authority, to enter the premises of persons who had been given notice to hook-up within a reasonable time to make the connection themselves. The opinion emanating from the Attorney General cast some doubt as to whether the law as presently framed could empower the Water Authority to enter the premises of «*» slothful businesses and make the connections against the wishes of the owner. Not only businesses, but all those persons who own properties within the sewered area.

From 1982 the then Government acting in accordance with provisions of the loan agreement established a fund of \$600,000 for an in-house plumbing program which was designed to assist indigent and other poverty-stricken persons within the sewered area to make the connections. - To date, some 322 out of the 406 connections made in that area and in this category, residential category, have been persons who avail themselves of the benefit of this fund. The Water Authority has made a decision to liberalize this in-house plumbing program and extend its facilities to small businesses, that is, residents in the sewered area within the commercial category who come under the rubric of small businesses will be able to get soft loans or a combination of soft loans and grants on the same basis as indigent persons now receive under the plumbing and installation program.

This Resolution, however, does not seek money which falls under that program. It seeks money under a sewerage connection plan which the Inter-American Development Bank laid down as a precondition of financing the South Coast Sewerage Project and this sewerage plan would mandate the Authority to require the hook-up of 100 percent of the Government Departments within the sewerage area by the end of March 1991. 1.15p.m.

That is, all Government Departments under this sewerage connection plan will be required to be hooked up by the end of March 1991. The sum of \$500 000 sought under this Resolution is asked for that specific purpose.

The additional sum which is sought in another Resolution which will come before this House, \$2.5 million, is designed for onlending purposes to businesses within the commercial sector, businesses which now for one reason or the other are slow in establishing the connections will be able to obtain loans in order to effect the hook-ups which, according to the mandate of the Inter-American Development Bank must be concluded by April, 1992.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that this is a laudable purpose for which the money sought under this Resolution is to be used. It will create a situation where the full capacity of the Bridgetown Sewerage System can be utilised. The fact that the Bridgetown Sewerage System is operating only now at about half of its capacity which is \$2.4 million gals, per day, has led to problems including unpleasant smells within the vicinity of the Sewerage Plant. Once the proper hydraulic and organic balances are restored, it is hoped that all of the environmental nuisances which currently emanate from the under utilisation of the plant will be...

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: This is what the engineers say. I can only rely upon the advice of the expertise. The engineers have been consistent. They have argued from the very outset that only half of the raw sewage from the sewered area is currently put into the plant. From that standpoint, in their language, it is hydraulically under-utilised and more than five times the septage from areas within the sewered area are not hooked up and from the south and west coast, are put into it which means, according to their language, an organic over-utilisation of the plant. When the hook-ups are affected in all of the categories, as this money will facilitate, then it will be possible to strike that balance which would ensure that the nuisances now created will be removed.

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

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Honourable Member has tried to save the time of the House by looking at the matters before him all at once. It is the only sensible approach to take in the situation. Quite clearly, Sir, the Sewerage Project has never been able to achieve its maximum usefulness to the society because of the failure to recognise the problems which would be inherent in getting persons to hook up to the system.

As has been said on many occasions it relates to the fact that (1) some people do not have the money; (2) many people do not own the properties on which their houses stand and, therefore, are not in a position to improve them and put in water-borne systems. Many of the houses do not have water-borne systems as well which is of course, a prerequisite for mechanically hooking up.

In a sense this Resolution is somewhat belated and will probably put an end to a drift in a situation where the plant is overworking because of under-feeding with the appropriate mix. A lot of the problems that the plant has had is because it has had to work against a background where it does not have the volume of material going through it.

I have no problem with that aspect of the Resolution. Where I do have a little problem, Sir, is the fact that the IADB has obviously flexed their muscles and have said not one cent for the south coast until this has been done. Furthermore, it has called upon the Government clearly to set an example by ensuring that the Government buildings within the sewered area are all hooked up. It is clear to me that the IADB has taken very firm action in relation to the Government. In other words, they have told them to get their house in order before they come to them for any money in relation to the south coast and the Minister has come in here dutifully and carried out those instructions.

The IADB is a very interesting institution and it is important for us to look and see what has happened to the IADB. The IADB has now published a document and this is very pertinent to this whole thing, the IADB on the one hand and the Water Authority. It has published a document at the same time as the Minister of Finance of this country brought in a Budget in May of this year, using the same data, with complete assessments of the Barbados economy and its impact on Government's expenditure. You would not believe, Sir, that the same data was being used from the same Central Bank, one by the IADB and one by the Minister of Finance. Suffice it to say, Sir, it is quite clear that the IADB was telling the truth as events have emerged in the economy of Barbados.

It is very interesting to note that the IADB would have taken this tough stand with the Government because normally it does not. One may recall that as far back as 1987 the IADB indicated that not less than \$200 million could be made available to Barbados depending on the

success or otherwise of the 7th replenishment of its lending portfolio and depending on the United States position. I think it was in May 1987 that the Vice President of IADB met with myself and the late Errol Barrow and indicated that \$200 million could be made available. Three and a half years have now passed and I am fully aware of the concerns of the IADB with the tardiness in project development in Barbados. 1.25p.m.

Quite clearly they are saying to the Government "get your house in order before you can get any more money in this area of seweraging." On the other hand, Sir, I know the IADB is also concerned about the water rates in Barbados, and this is only Part I that is coming. Part II, which will relate to increases in the water rates in Barbados, will come at some time, for two reasons, Sir. When we pass this Resolution here, particularly with the IADB's name stuck in it - a very clever device, because the Resolution therefore is fulfilling a pre-condition, as the Minister said, of the IADB - I think we should remember what is happening at the other end.

The Barbados Water Authority, Sir, is not only responsible for this, it is responsible for the water in Barbados, and the same revenue base will be responsible for this operation. Where you have a situation where the consumption tax component of the surcharge on fuel oil was recently increased by the Minister by 666%; and where fuel oil is the main energy used by the Barbados Light and Power; and whereas fuel oil has risen from \$290 a tonne to \$408 a tonne; and whereas there will be a 25% increase in the fuel adjustment charge to all consumers in November, as compared with September, that cost will be passed on immediately to the Barbados Water Authority, because over 50% of the cost of pumping water in Barbados is electricity.

What the Minister has failed to tell us is the impact of this Resolution on water rates, the impact on any agreements with the IADB, and I am going to call on the Minister to give an assurance that there will be no increase in the water rates in Barbados.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member says there is no linkage with water rates. There are other persons in this House who should be able to tell you that one of the things the IADB tried to negotiate into the original agreement was that the water rates would cover the cost of the whole project. I do not think that was written into the agreement, but it has certainly been a matter that was raised again and again by the IADB. We already know, Sir, that before the cost of pumping water would have gone up as a result of the action of the Minister of Finance in putting up the cost of electricity that there were moves being made in Barbados which will lead to an increase in water rates. Now with the increase in energy, with the Minister indicating

clearly that he has to satisfy one pre-condition of the IADB, what other pre-conditions are there in relation to water rates? Has the IADB raised the question of the viability of the Barbados Water Authority, without a Government subvention down the road, in the negotiations? Would the Minister tell this Honourable House whether in fact I am wrong in saying that the rate structure is of great interest to the IADB? If so, Sir, I would give way so that the Minister *** can intervene and stop me. I would willingly retreat from that line of argument.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member has given way. Sir, I just draw to Your Honour's attention that he wishes the Minister to give him the assurance that the IADB is not interested in the rate structure of the Water Authority. That is nothing that any Minister has to give any assurance of. He knows that, Sir. They have always been interested and will always be interested in the rate structure. *M*

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, Sir, it must be evident to everyone who has been listening here that there is a secret plot to increase the water rates at some time.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. No, no, no, Sir. He has to withdraw that. He is saying now that the Government has a secret plot to raise water rates. I categorically deny that the Government has any secret plot to do any such thing. There are no secret plots of this Government. This Government does all of its business up front. I think he should withdraw "secret plot".

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am happy to withdraw the word "secret", Sir. I am saying that there is a plot to increase the water rates. »

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it is not "secret" that is offensive, it is "plot" that is offensive. He has to, withdraw "plot", Sir, we have no plot. Let him withdraw it, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Firstly, I think that the Honourable Member would wish to allow the debate to continue a little more harmoniously and he would wish to withdraw the word "plot", but I just want to caution the Honourable Member that he is going a little bit too far out of the context of the Resolution. I would ask you to withdraw the word "plot".

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I withdraw the word "secret", I withdraw the word "plot" and should I say that there is an undisclosed plan to increase the water rates?

Hon. B. M. TAUT: On a point of order, Sir. The Government has no secret plan, scheme, plot or whatever. The Government operates in the normal way. The impression which is being given is that there is some plan, some scheme to raise water rates. It is not so, Sir. There is no unusual, different, plan, scheme, plot or any such thing as indicated by the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am very glad to hear that the Honourable Member has given this House and the public of Barbados a firm assurance that there will be no increase in water rates in Barbados. If I may continue, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I know him too well, Sir. Here he goes again, Mr. Chairman. The way the Government functions, every year we have a Budget, every year we have Estimates. What the Honourable Member is seeking to do is to give the impression that there is some separate special plan related to this Resolution, and I state categorically that this Resolution has nothing whatsoever to do with the raising of water rates.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, the Honourable Member is objecting to my saying that there is a plan for an increase in water rates, yet he refuses to give the House a firm assurance that there will be no increase. I think the Honourable Members now begin to understand what is going on and I am very much on the right track. 1.35 p.m.

The uneasiness over there is a clear indication that I am on the right track and I notice, Sir, that the substantive Minister who would be hearing complaints day after day from the Barbados Water Authority about its revenue base, the same Minister who would be hearing of the need to increase the water rates in Barbados is remaining silent and wisely so.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: As I understand, Sir...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central...

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: As I understand this resolution, there is nothing that refers to increased water rates or anything on that line. I understand you are trying to make a connection but I don't want you to expand on that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No. Let me explain the connection issue. That the IDB as an international lending agency would fund a project like this in the hope that the Water Authority through its charges would be able to fund this without government subventions in the future. That is the general principal point, Sir, that is applying here. In other words, the point I am making is that just as they could come in here now and tell the Minister that you have to come down to the House and do x, y, and z before you can

get a cent for the South Coast development, they will also tell him in due course that he must increase the water rates...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we wait until that has happened? Let's deal with this particular matter.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I realize, Sir, that other members would like to speak and I don't want to... There are many more points that I would like to raise but just one final point I would like to raise is the impact of that fuel charge, Sir. Do you realize something, Sir, that ever since the cost of gasoline went up people are now getting less and less mileage out of the gasoline in Barbados today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member certainly understands that this is not the premise on which he can...

• *Asides.*

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Water Authority has a lot of trucks on the road, Sir, and 4 people in the last two days have told me that they are getting far less mileage out of the gasoline at the increased price which is currently being used in, Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Check your tank and see. Thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Michael West.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thought I had better speak early in this debate to stop any information or misinformation from going abroad as perpetrated by the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition. Anyone who is capable when there is an island-wide blackout of telling a small gathering that two Honourable Members had conspired with Light & Power to cut off the current to stop him from having a meeting...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Might be capable of saying anything else, Sir. A little gathering in Six Roads, he got up and told the people how the two St. Philip representatives had conspired (a plot is in his head, Sir) to cut off the lights, when down in St. Michael West the lights went off at the same time. So, I think we had better get this out in the open.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The fact is, Sir, that the South coast sewerage project has been on track and negotiations by IADB have been with the Ministry of Health in connection with the South coast Sewerage Project and the point which the Honourable Member, the Minister of Transport & Works was making, needs to be expanded on so as to preclude the statement... the intention of the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition.

You will recall, Sir, that for some considerable time we have been agitating about the number of connections for the Bridgetown Sewerage Project, the Bridgetown Sewerage Plan envisaged according to the agreement with IADB, that there would be a certain number of connections between the time of the beginning of the project and a time in the future. For some considerable time, even before 1986, the Inter-American Development Bank was raising questions about the paucity of connections for the Bridgetown Sewerage Project and when I became the Minister of Health I discovered that, including the old Hospital compound, not one single Government Department had been connected to the sewerage project, including the entire Ministry of Health. The Barbados Labour Party administration did not pass a single cent to fulfil the obligation to connect up the plants while telling the private sector that they must connect up. Not one single cent in the Estimates from the time they came into office and the plant was opened. They did not put a single cent in the Estimates to connect up. We are talking about the Government buildings. There was not a single cent. Let the Honourable Member get up and show where they put...

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Let the Honourable Member get up and show where they put a single cent in for the Government buildings. This Resolution comes here to guarantee the connection of the Government buildings. We came down here with a Resolution two years ago for the Ministry of Health compound....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is only reasonable to assume that if you have a government that is insisting that all the private sector connect that they will connect. It was negligence on the part of the Government and when you were a Minister of Finance you ought to have seen that the IADB... The Leader of the Opposition when he was Minister of Finance had an obligation to see that the terms of the IADB arrangements were being met, also. So, he is party to it, to not having fulfilled the obligations to the IADB which you are now prating about. So, you figure once you didn't sign the document you had no obligation, when in fact the Ministry of Finance is the executing agency for the IADB and the Minister of Finance of the

day, as you just said, the Honourable Member just said, is responsible for ensuring the relationship.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Point of order, Sir. I carried out my duties as a citizen of Barbados. On being served appropriate notice, Delaware was connected to the sewerage system and the Minister serving the notice had not even seen to it that his office and his complex was connected.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In fact, Sir, I am the first Minister who ever sought to have any connections or any notices served and the Honourable Member is talking about a private citizen and Delaware. I am talking about when he was Minister of Finance and responsible for the IADB portfolio. He did not himself see to it that the connections were made.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Point of order. At no time during my sojourn as Minister of Finance has any matter relating to this subject ever come to my attention, except paying the debt, which was paid promptly and not calling on the Central Bank of Trinidad to pay half.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, if the Honourable Member persists in giving that kind of information, we will have to bring the file. The fact is that IADB and this is the point I was making has been for some considerable time including *» during the time the Honourable Member was Minister of Finance seeking to get more connections made for the Bridgetown Sewerage Plant. The problem we had for example, Sir, with the connections for the Ministry of Health had to do with the inability to get engineering services. We put a tender out for sewerage the Ministry of Health compound. It was advertised on 8th July 1989 and again on 25th August 1989 and no tenders were received in response to these advertisements. Finally, we have had to prevail on the Ministry of Transport & Works itself to provide the engineering to allow the connections for the Ministry of Health compound. 1.45p.m.

A lot of them walk around talking about the environment and how much they are in love with it and they allowed for 10 years after....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: From the date of the Sewerage Plant, 1982.

The Honourable Member is saying, Sir, that we must ignore the years that his Government was there and allow the effluent from the old Jcmolt's Lane Hospital compound to go out into the sea. We were, in fact, told when we came in - the Honourable Member might not remember - that the sewage was being properly taken care of. It is only when it started turning up on the beach and we investigated it was then discovered that, in fact, it had not been connected. We sought to get the money to connect it.

We are in the process of connecting the Ministry of Health compound now. That work is in hand. The House passed the money. The Inter-American Development Bank indicated that as one of the techniques for ensuring that the Sewerage Project in Bridgetown was carried out in the manner commensurate with the agreement that it would not move to the South Coast Sewerage Project until there was an indication of higher levels of connections with the Bridgetown Sewerage Plant.

As a result of that, a project has been put together by which all of the Government buildings will take the lead. I serve notice now. That is the reason why as Minister of Health I could not go out into the market place and prosecute people in the private sector, I would never do it and that is part of the problem. There is some feeling that the Government has no obligation to fulfil the law. But the Government Departments have as much responsibility - in fact, they have more responsibility under the law. I am not going to prosecute a single soul in Barbados for anything which the Government is not doing and the private sector is not doing.

The response as to what the Minister of Health did, he started the ball rolling by setting an example. That is why this project is here. The fact is that we are now getting this project going in order to see that all of the Government Departments are connected.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We have been working on it for months. Let me deal with Christ Church West in relation to this Resolution, Sir. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is always coming up...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The only problem is that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has not yet spoken.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. He is speaking but you are not hearing him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear him.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am speaking of him philosophically, Sir. I am showing you, Sir, how the Honourable Member went before the public of Barbados and sought to give impressions that this Government had not done a whole number of things, and it took the former Chairman of the Barbados National Bank to demonstrate that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is incapable of telling a full and complete story whenever he seeks to speak to the public of Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes it is raw sewage. That is precisely what you were delivering, a bunch of raw sewage to the people of this country. Wendell McClean - I am sorry, Sir, he is in the Other Place - had to come and show this country. You know in logic if you can show that one aspect is false, you can almost be certain that the entire whole part of it is false.

You should have heard the Honourable Member thundering how the Government without thought had gone and bought this building on Broad Street and was getting not a single cent. Up comes the Chairman of the Barbados National Bank who is saying without any governmental pressure - he sought to give the impression that the Democratic Labour Party had directed the Barbados National Bank.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member always has access to files except when they concern him so one of them is not telling the truth. In this case, Sir, I would prefer to err on the side since I have knowledge that no one on this Government side ever directed the Barbados National Bank to buy any building in Broad Street. The Honourable Member ought to be ashamed...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Since we are down Broad Street with the Harrison's Building...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am just trying to find out if this building is to be connected.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am going to make another connection. The Prime Minister of this country in 1987 told the public of Barbados that it was time that black people had a presence on Broad Street in business and the Government was going to see that the National Bank bought Harrison's Building. He said it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We would want to come back to the Resolution.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, no wonder there is such a good connection, since you are talking about connections, between the Barbados Labour Party and McHale. I know it was going to come up, the relationship between the Barbados Labour Party and McHale. You do not know who McHale is? Ask your leader who is McHale. He will tell you. The one who said that black people cannot run anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes to conclude.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am going to tell you the relationship.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You can talk about white shadows until you turn blue. McHale wants to buy a property.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: McHale is putting in a bid for the property but he wants the Labour Party to be in power so that the Town and Country Planning would give permission to knock down the entire Super Mare Guest House. The Labour Party has told him that if he gives them assistance when they get into power Town and Country Planning would give approval to knock it down. Get up and deny that.

Certain remarks made by Hon. H. deB. FORDE were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order then. I am asking that the Honourable Member's irrelevant and untrue statement be also struck from the record about the Barbados Labour Party and McHale. What has that to do with the debate?

I am on a point of order, Sir, and the Honourable Member must sit down. Your Honour cannot be one-sided in this House and I do not expect you to be. I expect that if he is going to be irrelevant in order to provoke a response that you will equally have difficulty with his irrelevance and I ask that it be struck out.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the Honourable Member objecting to?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That the Barbados Labour Party is planning to give somebody permission to do with Super Mare Guest House. What has that got to do with this?

Aside.
1.55p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. Do we have two rules in here? If so, I am going to be equally vehement in telling the sort of lies that.....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is not a lie, Sir. I am categorically saying it is not a lie. I will not withdraw it. It is a fact that McHale has said.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member can shout as much as he likes

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I have witnesses. I am not withdrawing that, I will go outside first. I am not withdrawing that McHale has said.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order, please!

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am going to speak on the motion for leave, Sir.

Asides.

The question that progress be reported and leave sought to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that I wanted to speak on the motion. I will speak afterwards. If he comes in here to be nasty today, he will see where nastiness comes from. If he want to know how Mrs. Ram is financing his campaign, he will hear about it.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! Order, please!

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can we have some order, please? The Chairman has reported and asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended until 3 o'clock.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, 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 of Supply.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is one of course which I believe the whole House will support. It ensures for one thing that we comply with the requirements of a loan granted to us for the development of a sewerage system in Barbados, and to the extent that it improves as well the environment of Barbados, obviously this Opposition certainly supports it.

I wish, Sir, to place on record a few matters which I think should be reflected in the debate. Part of the negotiations for this loan involved the provision of money to permit particularly those who could not afford it at one fell swoop to connect up with the sewerage system. That money was provided from the beginning and I think, as the Minister has said, some \$600,000 was provided in 1982.

Up to today only about one half of all of the connections have been made. I am instructed as well that money was provided, although not used, for connection of Government buildings. I have not had the opportunity to check the Estimates on this point. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West sought, as he is entitled to do, to make capital out of the fact that Government buildings have been very slow in connecting to this project. I do not know how much political capital he can make out of this, Sir, because after four and a half years of Democratic Labour Party Government the connections have still not occurred and I believe that if you put on the other side the period of time of the Barbados Labour Party Government after the completion of the system, to put it at the most for them, you would find that there has been equal time, although I believe in this case it seems to be a much longer period under the Democratic Labour Party than under the Barbados Labour Party that the failure to connect to the system has occurred.

Now, Sir, I know it is a fact that the Inter-American Development Bank has made it quite clear that as a pre-condition of the execution of the project on the west coast and the south coast there will have to be sufficient connections done under this scheme. I believe this is a necessary requirement, because nowadays in almost every project that is being assessed for loans from financial institutions, whether they be the local institutions, regional institutions like our own, or international institutions, there will be, and is, an environmental test.

My constituency of Christ Church West will depend very heavily on the development of the south coast sewerage scheme. It is a project that was started under the Barbados Labour Party, and indeed you will see it reflected not only in the Development Plan for the relevant period, but also in the party's Manifesto. Both the south coast scheme and the west coast scheme have the full support of the party to which I belong.

I want to take the opportunity to reiterate the policy of the Barbados Labour Party, not about the environment, because our policy is quite clear. The Honourable Member may make as many sneers as he likes, but I think it is an absolute fact that the Labour Party established a Ministry of the Environment. I believe that if they read the files on the matter it will be found that the first submission on it came from the Ministry which I then had the honour to head to the Ministry of Housing, which was at that time under Sir Ronald Mapp, to set up a Department of the Environment, which was then followed by a Ministry of the Environment, and environmental matters ranked very heavily in the long term and short term planning of the Barbados Labour Party Government. 3.10p.m.

In addition, Sir, I wish to make the point quite clear it is part of our policy that there will be in every household in Barbados water-borne toilet systems. We believe that the time has long since past when people have to go into the backyard and dry pits and elsewhere to carry out a necessary human function and we have made it absolutely clear that for those persons who are in the socio-economic grouping that cannot afford to finance such a project themselves, there will be grants and there will be loans for those in the other sector who can afford to do so. So, I see that this project here which has a grant element to lower income groups is but part and parcel of the overall policy of the Barbados Labour Party Government to ensure that living conditions of the poorest in our community are improved and at the same time, that it contributes to a higher standard of health care and , environmental management of our country. So that to that extent, I wish to restate and put beyond a shadow of a doubt that from 1982 we foresaw the necessity, not only to connect to sewers but to ensure that persons who cannot afford it have the facility to improve their general living standards in relation to how they manage their sanitary requirements.

Now, Sir, I want to make the point that the Minister perhaps in his reply could clarify for me. The grant funds which will be provided, obviously people will be able to access these funds, and I wonder if the link-ups will be carried out by the Ministry concerned or whether they will be a contractual arrangement in order to achieve this. Some of the prices which have been quoted for linking up with the system have been quite exorbitant. We ourselves at the Barbados Labour Party Headquarters, for instance, have had a quotation of something in the region of \$30,000 to link up to the system and I am not sure what proper and adequate arrangements are being made so that the cost to persons who are linking up is a reasonable cost. I think that part of the problem which has occurred is because of the exorbitant cost which some people have faced, they have been unable to link up with the system within the time that would have been reasonable for the Government.

Now, Sir, I also would wish the Minister to tell us the terms of the loan in respect of the loans which are being provided to low income groups, what are the criteria laid

down and what is the period of the loan and what, if any, interest rate is being charged to the persons concerned.

I have spoken on this Head, Sir, but I have to reply to one statement that was permitted in the debate, Sir, that obviously must not be allowed to remain on the record as it is. I want to make it absolutely clear, Sir. The Barbados Labour Party has not promised and has no intention of promising anybody in this country anything about how it administers the Town and Country Planning Regulations of this country. I had the privilege to be the first Minister of Town Planning under the Barbados Labour Party Government in 1976. One of the complaints then, was the fact that people were able to bribe officials and others in relation to permits for the cutting up of land in Barbados. Our position was absolutely clear, Sir. The Government can search any file, any file that they have in their Ministry, for any application dealt with during our tenure of time and particularly, during my tenure of time.

The Government could publish at large, not by insinuation, or by innuendo, any part of any document, to show other than that the Town Planning laws were properly administered. I don't have to give the House any assurance on the matter. I just want to repeat that that is the standard that we have followed, Sir, and that therefore, when the debate in this House gets to the stage in which the sort of wild, unfounded and scurrilous allegations were made, it would of course get a retort from this side in a similar manner. And although, Sir, Your Honour did not see it fit to rule on the objection that I took, or probably did not fully understand the objection I was taking on the matter, I wish to make it clear that those remarks were totally unfounded and have no basis in fact and they obviously were a fiction of the imagination of the Honourable Member who spoke before me on this Resolution. Obviously, I would not wish the record to reflect other than that. I have been in this House long enough to know that when a statement is made, it subsequently gets on the platform outside and there is no rebutting statement and people believe that they are given a fair and accurate report of transactions in this House.

The Labour Party position is absolutely clear on this matter. It is an untruth to even insinuate in any way about any undertakings given to anyone about development of property in Barbados.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I stand Sir, on a point of order so that the record will be clear. I never at any point indicated that the Barbados Labour Party had given any undertaking to anybody or that the Honourable Member had given any undertaking. What I said, Your Honour will remember, is what the man himself had said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Somebody can say anything about his own intentions in respect to somebody else. It would be very illogical to ascribe to the party about whom the intention is expressed complicity in helping that person to formulate his intention. If a man says that he is waiting for the Democratic Labour Party to get back in power to get this or get that, how can you blame the Democratic Labour Party? You have to blame the man. That is only his intention and his belief. But, what was said in here before the interval, Sir, was language designed to tie up the Barbados Labour Party with McHale and we resent that, because we have nothing to do with him.

He did not come in here under the Barbados Labour Party. He came in here under the Democratic Labour Party eighteen years ago. Let the record reflect that - Like Boydmeister came in here and rinsed out Barclays Bank for \$500,000. Not a cent, they were able to collect. A South African, who got permission to reside in here when the Democratic Labour Party was last in power and admitted it in evidence in the case in Court. That is what they should be talking about. He treated black people very badly ... it's how he acted.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have said what I had to say, Sir. I do not intend..

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could I have some order, please?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not intend to talk about McHale. It is not relevant to the water debate.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It really isn't.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not dealing with anybody who may have caused the burning down of any house in Black Rock where stolen goods were...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member proceed with what he knows to be the correct path.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I'm not getting into any houses that were refurbished at Bath with the NCC money. I say today is the penultimate sitting of Parliament. After the next time we dissolve and I will be talking all of this on the platform. I don't need the coverage of privilege. I don't need it. 3.20p.m.

I do not need the coverage of privilege. Nobody is going to stop me from dealing with the CARSICOT issue. A part of it is *sub judice* and the fact that part of it is *sub judice* may have prevented the holding of a meeting last Sunday night in Church Village. It will not prevent me from

talking about it. But I am not going to deal with these things, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope not.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: About how the Ministry of Health was painted where the tender notices....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is a rule that is against irrelevancies. Let us get on with the debate.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am glad you had lunch. It did something. It sent the blood up to the brain so that you are now on the ball, Sir.

I am only intervening in this debate to congratulate the Barbados Water Authority for assisting the people in Forty Acres in my constituency in getting water. On the Sunday when the "Nation" came to the scene with the photographer, I had made it clear to the newspaper that we thought it would have been appropriate to express the gratitude of my constituents and myself to the Water Authority. They published the article and left out the Water Authority that put in the service. I do not think that is fair reporting.

I must say that for a long time we had been trying to get water in Forty Acres for the 48 residents and progress was slow. A joint enterprise was undertaken between one of the contestants for the Miss Barbados Competition and myself to start a fund to get water installed by way of a self help project.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I started the fund with \$300. You think I am as cheap as you?

Those people after 50 years - I believe the first resident was in there about 50 years ago - got water. But they could not have got the water service in the time in which it was installed were it not for the speed with which the Water Authority and the senior management of the Water Authority responded because we had a meeting on site on May 30 at 5:00 o'clock the evening. I was given the assurance that through the Chief Technical Officer of MTW that he would move expeditiously to get the service installed. It was, in fact, installed. I think that the Water Authority has to be congratulated and thanked publicly for their response. I hope, at the same time, that they will move expeditiously to investigate why is it that a large number of residents in Edgehill Terrace cannot get regular water supplies. I am sure, as I say, that if they move with the same expedition the problems of those residents would be ameliorated.

Sir, I wonder if the Minister responsible for the Water Authority is aware that there are a number of infelicities being committed within the Water Authority. I believe somebody has been asked to resign. I believe that other investigations ought to be carried out because I think they will turn up a lot that will surprise the Minister, the officials in the Water Authority and, indeed, the public of Barbados. All is not well in the administration and the way some of the officials up there are allowing their personal interest to conflict with their public responsibilities. That is all I have to say at this time, Sir.

In regard to the sewerage scheme, Sir, I am told that for a long time money had been voted to assist with the connection of the sewerage system to help those who could not help themselves. But, perhaps, the Minister of Health who knows so much about this matter would also be in a position to tell me if the suit filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York against the Government of Barbados, Case No. 88 Civil 7194, where the Government of Barbados has been sued, has indeed been settled. This suit brought in the United States Court related to...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Bailey, Bernstein and Berman, lawyers, sued the Government of Barbados and the Attorney General of Barbados for not paying fees in connection with work done to try and recover money expended in pursuing contractors on the Sewerage Project in Bridgetown. This came from the States to me so it did not fall off a truck and fell through the air. But the case was filed and the Government would have been embarrassed to have the Government of Barbados as the defendant in the New York Court.

I do not know the legitimacy of the complaint or the authenticity of it. The Members of Government would know. But I remember warning in here, it would have been early 1987 during the Estimates, that Government should have been careful with this matter. We had pursued the Canadian firm...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. it was not Sintra. It was Filzpatrick Construction. It would have been related to Sintra. I think when I left as Attorney General we had a judgement in a foreign court for about \$2 1/2 million. I had warned that it had the potentiality for escalation of lawyers fees and advised the Government to tread very carefully about following the advice and pursuing the case because all you would have been doing is making the lawyers fat if down the road there was no possibility of recovering the US \$2 1/2 million or whatever it was at the time. I do not know what has happened since. I know the case had been filed against the Government for fees but I do not know the

outcome. I would be very grateful if the Minister of Health knows it, he can inform the House.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on that particular matter, the Attorney General is not in his place but what happened is that the Attorney General made the decision at a point in this pursuit that we would not pursue this matter in a particular way to avoid sending money in after bad because although we had got the judgement, the particular lawyer who has filed the case which has now been referred to, the only person who was the beneficiary in the whole thing was that particular lawyer. 3.30p.m.

As a result he is now suing the Government for refusing to allow him to earn what he thought he should earn. I am sure when the Attorney General comes he will explain in detail, if necessary, but this is a straight case where the Attorney General advised the Government properly to cease action. What has happened is that the man is now in turn suing the Government for his failure to earn money, which is a typical American methodology by American lawyers, but the Attorney General was very firm in the matter and told him to know his place.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, my intervention is more or less restricted to some of the points made by the Honourable Minister, some of them being technical, where the engineers continue to assure him of better days to come. As far as what he calls the environmental nuisance aspect of the sewerage plant is concerned, the Bridgetown Sewerage Plant has had perennial problems of which we are all aware, which have all been ventilated. The fact that it does not work properly is well known to you and me and to most people who have even a passing interest in the plight of those persons who are unfortunate enough to have to live or work near to that plant. I believe members of the print media, when they walk through the door and the plant is not functioning properly, can attest to the horrible smell one has to deal with.

I understand when the Honourable Minister explained that it is a whole question of the amount of sewage that is passing through the plant. It might sound strange to persons who are not aware, but it is because of not enough passing through that you have a problem. I understand that. I understand, therefore, the whole question of the hooking up, but I will get to that a little later, because part of the problem with the number of hook-ups that the project had envisaged has to do with the number of units, homes, in the sewered area and we have to address the fact that a lot of these units are not in a condition to be hooked up to the sewerage system, because of the fact that several of them do not have water-borne facilities, which to some extent is a prerequisite for hooking up to the sewerage system.

I also want to make the point that part of the problem, as I was told a few years ago, was that the plant was

designed to handle more or less effluent from households and what in fact was happening was that a lot of industrial oils and fats were being dumped there, whether through the system or through some of those tank trucks that dump sewage there. I do not know if in recent times that has been sorted out, but I was reliably informed by persons connected with the plant that that was part of the problem.

I would just add in passing that the whole question of the Government serving notices to business places in Bridgetown about hooking up and not themselves hooking up is something that has been spoken of by previous speakers, but one has to look at the fact that they have been serving notices on individuals, on residents even, people who for the most part were not in a position to hook up. It would be very dishonest of me not to admit that in those areas there is a lot being done now to assist those people.

The Honourable Minister made the point that the Government some years ago - I believe an administration before this one - had put in place at the National Assistance Board mechanisms to assist the indigent - and to use his term, other poverty stricken persons - in getting water-borne facilities, because as I said earlier, that is a prerequisite to getting into the system, but I would point out here that while this is true, to date the National Assistance Board which should be looking after that area - I believe I am correct in saying it is the National Assistance Board's responsibility to handle the installation of these water-borne facilities for the aged and the handicapped and so on - I am saying now, without fear of contradiction, Sir, that in a lot of cases politics is being played in this area. I think it is disgraceful. There are persons in my constituency who, because a person within the National Assistance Board, or the Minister himself even so, may believe

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Why didn't you stay outside? We were better off when you were not here. The debate was going very well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member please address the Chair?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I leave you to Henry. Henry knows everything about you, I do not know anything about you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member please address the Chair?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I am trying to do that, Sir, but I need a little protection from the Honourable Member for St. John. You are not hearing him, but I can hear him. I have a different ear.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: And the biggest mouth. We know that. You are all form and no substance. You know you told me that from here on until the election it is cursing all the way down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Member is addressing the Chair, I would consider those remarks unnecessary.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, if we can get back to the seriousness of this, because I have a difficulty. Every time you start to talk about suffering people, poor people, the Honourable Member for St. John likes to get up and try to sidetrack you with foolishness. Have you ever noticed that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. John has not yet spoken in this debate and I would like you to continue your contribution.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I am saying that he normally does that, Sir. I am sure you have observed that yourself. I do not expect you to respond to that, but I know you have observed it.

Anyhow, if I can move on, I find that to play politics with these people who cannot afford.....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Even if I have to do that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am having difficulty in determining whether the Honourable Member is really on his feet.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I am having difficulty hearing myself, Sir. It is very difficult.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are responding to what you call *Asides* and not addressing the Chair.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said to you before, his ear and mine are tuned in to the same frequency, these extraneous noises. You do not hear them, I know that, but we tend to hear them and it is a little difficult.

Seriously, Sir, if these people could help themselves they would not come and ask any politician or the Government to help them put in water-borne facilities, and I think it is disgraceful, to say the least, for persons to practise hand picking certain people to give assistance to, because of cheap political gain. If you are going to dispense patronage, that is one of the worst ways to do it. You are doing it to a person who cannot help himself. It is a form of

prostitution that I do not support, if the Honourable Member for St. John wants to know what I am saying.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The last point on this matter, Sir. It is very strange, and I have asked persons not in this Honourable Chamber on several occasions, that the area known as the New Orleans, and to some extent the Chapman Lane area, are below sea level, and one knows that the present system where people have pits and wells, once you get a lot of rainfall or bad weather these will fill up. I am reliably informed that it has to do with the level of and the relationship to the sea. Apart from the fact that the New Orleans is in close proximity to the very sewerage plant, and the fact that you have a problem in the area with the wells, one would have thought that that would have been an area that would have been sewerred. 3.40p.m.

This was not done. I believe it is reasonable to say that that question was asked of the former administration as to why it wasn't done. I never heard any answer forthcoming at that time and I am asking now, if in fact, there was any particular reason why that was not done and if not, why it could even not be done at this stage; because I believe that would assist in alleviating the problem of not having enough hook-ups to make the plant work as it was intended to work. I am obliged to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I want to make a very short intervention in the debate as most of the points have already been made in relation to the matter before us. What struck me today, Sir, as being fundamental about the debate and the speech made by the Minister when he introduced it was that I thought his speech brought into sharp focus the environmental problems that we can anticipate in Barbados over the next decade and beyond.

Certainly, Sir, the environmental nuisances of which the Minister spoke cannot be limited to the area that he defined. But surely, Sir, we have to think in terms of the control and the use of insecticides and pesticides and other material that could in some way damage the environment, should we have a spill. I do not know at this moment whether we are paying any great attention to it or, if we are, I do not know, if we should have an oil spill off the coast of Barbados, what we would be able to do. Are we prepared for that kind of eventuality? The sea lanes off Barbados are used to ferry large amounts of crude oil to various ports throughout this part of the hemisphere. I think that we ought to pay attention to matters like these. I do not think that we are environmentally aware of the dangers that could occur. What happened in the Exxon-Valdes spill recently in

Alaska seems to be something, I believe, most Barbadians think could not occur here. But we see the amount of damage that occurred then. You had a nation as rich as America with all the latest technology in fighting oil spills not being able to contain the oil spills and then we have noticed the tremendous amount of damage that occurred to the environment.

I, Sir, know of a case a couple of years ago where there was in Roebuck Street a large amount of some type of material that was badly stored and a fire broke out and there was all fear that if that fire had gotten to the place of storage of those materials that the air around Barbados could have been poisoned and a lot of deaths would have resulted. So, I am really sounding a caution at this moment, Sir, and saying that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, certainly the Ministry of Transport and Works, all the Ministries that have anything to do with the environment, that these matters ought to be taken up as a kind of long term project to make Barbados more aware of not only the damage that could be caused from these things if accidents should occur, but also Barbadians should be aware of the amount of damage that is being committed at this moment to the environment.

Sir, having said that, I would want to move on to another area. In the same vein as the Member for St. Thomas, I would like to commend the Barbados Water Authority and the Ministry for helping to alleviate the problem of water flows in St. George around the Greens, Drax Hall, Byde Mill area. I had laid a question in this Honourable Chamber in 1986 in October about the problem the people in Drax Hall Jump were having because of the low water pressure. The Minister at the time had responded to the question by saying that they were trying to solve the problem by manipulating the valves. That did not work because the problem that the people in Drax Hall Jump were experiencing was part and parcel of a larger problem that many people in Barbados were experiencing, and quite a few people in that area of the country were experiencing at that time. It was not only limited to Drax Hall Jump. I believe that district was the district that was mostly affected. The Barbados Water Authority has now installed a pumping station at the junction of Greens main road and Highway 4B, the highway that leads into Woodland, through Woodland plantation into Henley, St. John and beyond. That pumping station has now solved the problem that was being experienced by the people in that immediate district. I myself, was faced with the problem on more than one occasion of having to ferry water from other places to attend to the basic day-to-day hygiene. That problem is now solved, Sir. Other problems have developed because of that. Because now that you have the increased pressure, we are now noticing that probably because of the low water pressure, because the pipes were burst underground and the water was going down rather than coming up so that the Water Authority was not aware that there were burst pipes and that contributed to the low pressure before the

installation of the pump. What has happened now, is that these problems are now surfacing and a lot of pipes are being burst in the area but they are being repaired as fast as they burst.

So I just wanted to place on record my profound gratitude to the Barbados Water Authority and the Ministry and the Minister responsible for having solved that problem in that immediate area. I know that the water pump that I just referred to, not only would service the area of Greens but it services other areas that are affected with low water pressure in St. John and even other parts as far as the northern parts of St. George. Having said that, I must also say that I would like the Water Authority to investigate the problem of low water pressure in the Melverton, Frenches area. That was a problem that was being experienced before and I thought that the installation of the water pump in Greens would have helped the situation but it has not helped and the constituents in that part of my constituency are making some noise, although very soft noises, about the problems that they are now facing with low water pressure. I will in due course, place my concerns on record by way of a letter to the Water Authority, but for the moment I just thought I would bring that to the attention of the Minister. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The distilling from the debate, what I considered the salient and relevant issues raised starting with the Leader of the Opposition. The fuel increase charges to which he referred will have an impact upon the cost of pumping the water to the extent of 2%. 3.50 p.m.

It is estimated that it will add \$208 000 in additional costs per annum which would be a 2% increase of the cost.

In so far as an increase in water rates is concerned, this was proposed by the Water Authority to me about 18 months ago and, of course, acting in the interest of the consumers of Barbados it was rejected out of hand. It did not even leave the Ministry and make its way to the Cabinet. If there are any such proposals being hatched anywhere in the bureaucracy of Barbados I want to tell this Honourable House I am not aware of it. If they come anywhere within my purview, the same treatment that was meted out to the proposals of 18 months ago will be repeated.

In so far as the connections are concerned answering a question raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the Ministry of Transport and Works itself has made some connections but most of the connections have been made by small contractors hired by the Water Authority.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas raised some questions about the problems experienced by residents in Edghill Heights about the consistency of water supply.

Some of those residents have called me even on the Sabbath registering these complaints.

The Shop Hill area is part of the central highlands in Barbados where there have, over the years, been difficulties in pumping because of the high elevations of the land. The higher uneven topography has posed some technical problems for the engineers of the Water Authority.

In addition to the construction of a pumping station at Greens and Woodlands referred to by the Honourable Member for St. George South, there is further development in the Applewhaites basin which should bring some relief to the people in the Shop Hill area. There is a fairly large body of water near Applewhaites in St. Thomas and this is presently being exploited by a well and pumping station which will yield just under 1 million gallons of water per day.

It is felt that there is at least one other well of equal capacity which can be exploited in the same basin. There is also a plan to develop 4 or 5.8 in. diameter bore hole wells in the area. Work has commenced on this. One of the bore holes has been drilled and is being developed into a well made possible by equipment provided by the Government of St. Kitts on loan under a TCDC Programme between St. Kitts and the Government of Barbados.

Further development of the sinking of a well at Carrington Estate in St. Philip is underway. This would lead to the extraction of a further 2 1/2 million gallons of water per day. Once the Hampton basin has increased its water production, the persons in Frenches, St. George can obtain substantial relief.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The well is finished. In the near future, in a matter of months, relief should be available in that area. I do not think there are any other questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

**1(b) SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1990-91, No. 7
HEAD 84 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & WORKS
SUBHEAD 25 - BARBADOS WATER
AUTHORITY - \$2 500 000**

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, this request for \$2.5 million is part of the same issues which were debated in the previous Resolution. This sum of money is allocated under a new subhead for the Barbados Water Authority. This money, unlike in the previous allocation, will go to the Barbados Water Authority for onlending to businesses. These are loans which are expected to be repaid. This will facilitate the achievement of the required

objectives under the Sewerage Connection Plan as mandated by the Inter-American Development Bank.

I beg to move that Head 84 stand part.

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. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. B. M. TAITT seconded by Hon. M. A. KING the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to. 4.00p.m.

**ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
SCARBOROUGH, CHRIST CHURCH TO
IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL LOW
INCOME HOUSING PROJECT**

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, for some time we have drawn to the attention of this Honourable House that we are in the process of acquiring 29 parcels of land at Scarborough, Christ Church to facilitate the implementation of the National Low Income Housing Project.

I will remind this Honourable House that the main objectives of the project are to provide serviced lots, with and without starter units; urban upgrading, that is to say, infrastructural works - the building of roads, provision of electricity and water, in-filling of houses, et cetera - home improvement loans and technical assistance for project implementation and for housing sector agencies. We believe, Sir, that this kind of approach and these objectives will assist in providing affordable housing solutions to a number of low income groups. By "low income", Mr. Speaker, we are talking about those persons in receipt of incomes of \$12,000 per annum or less.

The sites which were selected for this project were chosen on the basis of data obtained from the Barbados Physical Development Plan, amended 1983, and the Greater Bridgetown Physical Development Plan. Special attention was given to the particular land use identified for the sites in these reports. The sites chosen represent areas which lend themselves to future housing development.

Mr. Speaker, the main works to be carried out at Scarborough will be the upgrading of the existing infrastructure and we bring this Resolution here seeking parliamentary approval for the acquisition of these 29

parcels of land to facilitate the implementation of the National Urban Low Income Housing Project.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Resolution is, I believe, one that is not controversial and I stand ready to answer any questions which Honourable Members might have, but I cannot think of anyone who would be necessarily against this low income project which we hope will go some way toward making the quality of life for persons in what is called the low income group even better than it is at the moment.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words in support of this Resolution. Scarborough falls in the constituency of Christ Church East Central, although in terms of the changes it will now become part of Christ Church South. It is one of those small districts which have a particular characteristic, a particular reputation, somewhat like Gemswick in St. Philip.

Scarborough has a particular reputation. I think people like to see Scarborough as an extension of Oistins, a fishing village, and people tend to think that the people of Scarborough are somehow different from the people in the adjoining areas of Pegwell and so on. In fact, it once had a reputation of supporting a particular political persuasion, a reputation which was changed dramatically of course in 1986 and which will continue changed for a very long time.

I was very happy that this project which started under another administration, but which has been modified to suit the reality of the circumstances in Scarborough and in fact in alignment with the views of the people of Scarborough, is coming now to fruition. In the early stages I remember there was a rather grandiose plan to modify Scarborough, but it would have called for encroachment on some persons' property and they quite rightly took objection to the schemes that were planned at the time. It seems to me now that Government has taken the correct decision, that is, to realign existing properties and to ensure that the proper infrastructure is in place.

I have a concern about Scarborough. It is adjacent to the Esso bunkering station and also to the north of Scarborough, generally speaking, is an area where water collects. I think that any development should bear the two mailers in mind. Although the question of the bunkering facility is one that is a concern to safety and health, I do not see that there is much one can do in terms of the actual organising of the district to get away from that particular concern. In fact, if anything happened with the Esso bunkering it would not only be Scarborough facing difficulties but in fact a wide area around. In terms of the collection of water, I am hoping that whenever the plan is

put into effect the whole concern of drainage will be a matter that will be looked at.

There are a number of residents of Scarborough who are also concerned about their right to develop their own spots of land. The top of the hill which is adjacent to the Foundation School, which is really a beautiful brow - anybody putting a house there will be looking right over the sea - I know the Chase family was concerned about getting permission from Town and Country Planning to develop that land for themselves, but of course that is a technical matter they will have to go through. Although I recognise that Town and Country Planning is a Department with some autonomy, in areas of Scarborough where you find people already living and houses in place, those persons want to develop and put houses there, in a community that is already developed sometimes do not get permission because of a claim by Town and Country Planning that it is an area where aeroplanes fly over, that kind of concern, but already you have fully built up residential areas in place. I know the Chases are interested in getting their own spots developed and I hope they will be able to succeed in doing so.

Those of us who know the area also recognise that part of Scarborough was a pasture that used to be a cricket field for a team that operated out of Scarborough. That has now long passed and I see no reason why permission cannot be given again for people to develop housing in that area. One of the plans was to use part of the Pinheiro lot. They purchased part of that to put up a community centre for the people of Scarborough and Oistin. Permission could not be gained from the owner of the lot - unfortunately, I would say - because I believe it would have been a good location for the Hilltop players, because most of the officers of the club come from the Scarborough area. 4.10p.m.

They are now operating through the good offices of the Minister for Employment and Community Development. They are operating out of a small room at the top of the Oistins Library and we have been trying to get housing for the Hilltop group; but this would have been a tailor-made situation because the Government had planned a part of that land in order to give these people at Oistins a recreational area. I remember a survey that was carried out in the former Administration, looking at Oistins, trying to assess the needs of the people and one of the major concerns of that survey was that Oistins' menfolk did not have a recreational area and this might have been one of the reasons why they would sometimes congregate in the rum shops, because they didn't have any alternative areas.

Right now I know that the Jaycecs and the Lions Club South are interested in doing an area in Oistins on the beach where the ... they are developing a kind of rotunda where the people will be able to play their dominos and so on, where they normally congregate under the tree there. They

will be giving something more efficient and something better for them to operate from. I feel it is regrettable that we were not able to develop the plan to have the recreational centre or the Community Centre in Scarborough, but nonetheless I fully support the Resolution. I support the aims of the Resolution because I believe that the people of Scarborough need to have the kind of structural development that would give them a better environment in which to live and I can only say that I hope that the Ministry of Housing and Lands will carry through the project fully in consultation with the people of that area and that very soon the project will be carried through to a successful conclusion. With those few words I would like to support the Resolution.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I would like to add a couple of points to what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central has said. Really, my concern is about the roundabout at the corners which join Oistins, Scarborough, Kcizer Hill and Thornbury Hill. Part of the development for that area was to have constructed a roundabout and to realign the roads as they joined at that juncture and I wonder whether or not the Minister is in a position to say whether that plan is still being pursued. I believe that the land at the corner where Mr. Boxill formerly had his restaurant was specifically being acquired for that purpose. It is still a traffic hazard at that area and with the development and improvement in the living conditions of the good people of Scarborough taking place, no doubt they will become more mobile with motorcars, etc. and I would expect the increase in traffic, even for residents who go to the airport or go towards Chancery Lane, would be quite significant.

So, perhaps the Minister could bring us up to date on the plans. I am happy to see that the programme started, a very far-sighted programme, of low income housing started in sites and services under the Labour Party Government, has met with the approval of all political parties and is being pursued. I am particularly happy that the Scarborough plan is coming into fruition. That is a plan of Mr. St. John, Sir, Bernard St. John, former Prime Minister who will shortly be back in this House as the first Member for Christ Church South whenever the next elections are called. As you know, Sir, he made a tremendous contribution to the development of Scarborough and the surrounding Oistins area. In fact, in many ways he has recreated the town of Oistins and given to it a prominent significance and I think that it is but appropriate that I should use this occasion to do it, Sir. This is a plan that is being carried out in his lifetime. This is not the sort of plan that you leave and you hear about it after you are dead, Sir. This is the real St. John Development Plan. We have developed the area that you have heard about.

I remember when the Labour Party talked about creating sub-towns in Barbados, new towns, Sir, one at Charles Rowe Bridge, one at Six Cross Roads, and the

upgrading of Belleplaine, we were told then it was 'A Tale of Two Cities', Sir. I remember the famous speech by the then Rt. Honourable Member for St. John that we have gone back to Charles Dickens; but the reality of our visions and our dreams, our visions and our dreams become reality in our lifetimes, Sir. It is now clear for all to see that the vision which we had of linking Barbados by sub-towns that catered to the needs of the expanding economic and social conditions of Barbados is being realized at Six Cross Roads, at Oistins, and at the Glebe with the development...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We are talking about the Charles Rowe Bridge expansion right now. Those things are now becoming a reality and I hope, Sir, that this type of development will continue. The Honourable Member is quite right. One of the drawbacks for a community such as this, as it is for, in fact, a lot of the South coast, is a lack of adequate community facility. It is becoming a tremendous problem to provide facilities even if you take areas where there are new schools being constructed. Sometimes they are not particularly adequate to take the old school building for the community purpose and it may well be, that in the expansion of school buildings one of the things we have to do is to put them to additional community use and therefore it may well be that we should explore with the Ministry of Education the use of the Foundation Schools and including the old Foundation, to which the Honourable Member for West Central and I believe, the Honourable Member for East Central and myself would have gone - The High School, what is now the Foundation High School for uses for the people - and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, Sir. This House has some very good people from the Foundation School present in it, Sir, not yet the majority but soon we will. There are five of us in the House that were at Foundation and I hope that after the next election the number of Foundationers will increase as well, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I really hope that we can have additional facilities, the whole of that South Coast needs community facilities. There is a tremendous problem. I certainly have it in my own constituency and I would hope, in fact that when the new St. Matthias is open that the existing St. Matthias Girls School would be given up for community purposes. Just as I do hope that part of the Foundation School can be used for community purposes in the evening subject to their usual safeguards.

There used to be some land, by what the Honourable Member and myself would know as Ashby's Land, just behind the Esso development and once again, I believe that Government should look at that area. Another thing that the Honourable Member for East Central and I would find really very pleasing for those of us who were born in that

area, Sir, would be for us somehow to be able to locate and put a memento - it must be somewhere near Scarborough - for the place where the Treaty of Oistins was signed. I, myself, don't even know the location. We all know about the Treaty of Oistins but nobody knows where this particular historic site has been. It was the Mermaid Tavern, somewhere in Oistins, somewhere near to Scarborough. I believe that we should try to locate it as really it has been such an important event in the history of Barbados and it is significant that the name Scarborough is also used in this instance.

I have pleasure in supporting this Resolution. I think it will contribute significantly to the development of the quality of life for the people in this part of Christ Church and I hope that type of programme will be pursued particularly wherever we have communities such as this. Thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is noticeable that this is the third occasion on which this project is being discussed by the House and on each occasion, Sir, the Minister of Housing and Lands who has direct responsibility for the project, has left the burden of government to be carried by another Minister. This project, Sir, is a very important project. 4.20 p.m.

It really forms part of a two-plan approach to low income housing developed around 1982 the first part of which, as you know, was the creation of the Housing Credit Fund capitalised to the extent of \$20 million to provide a source of funding for low income housing activity. This project, \$10 million, was intended to provide the sites and services component as well as to bring a new approach to the problems of low income housing.

I am very disappointed, Mr. Speaker, with the pace at which this project has gone. This project is not a new project. It has been around now for over five years but work on it has gone at a very slow pace. The House, obviously, will not, under the existing dispensation, or within the next two weeks benefit from an exposition by the substantive Minister on it. Having regard to the tremendous problems faced by the low income people in Barbados, this project is the kind of project that we would expect a Minister would want to galvanise.

It is a sad state of affairs that we are now at this late stage having to take fundamental decisions about acquisition on a project of this character, the outlines of which have been around for more than six years, the funding for which was organised but the Government changed the project. But it is sad that when we speak about the small man Government seem almost to be just

tokenising the small man, that you have a project of this character in a gestation stage for five years and no serious action is taken about it.

I speak also from a constituency point of view because when this project was first conceived, Six Men's was part of the project in its rightful and natural place as the logical extension. It is the base, obviously, where the people in St. Peter and Speightstown who want low income housing should go. It is the biggest area of land around Speightstown.

Six Men's was initially a part of this project. It was dropped out of this project. I want to submit to the House that the people of Six Men's are worse off now as a result of that decision taken by Government. I do not say that in a factious mood. They are facing real problems from a landlord. The problems that they face now is the status in relation to the land and development of the community in a rational way. All of those problems could have been preempted if the Government had kept Six Men's in this project as the logical extension of Speightstown, Sir.

I am therefore entering the debate to ask Government if it is still too late to reconsider their decision to take Six Men's out of this project. It is the ideal place in St. Peter for us to have low income housing. It is close, as I said when this matter was discussed before, to a town. As a matter of fact, it is on the outskirts of a town, on the outskirts of a shopping area, close to schools, close to churches, close to a polyclinic, close to, as the Minister would now say, a hospital, but it was a sad decision to exclude Six Men's from this project. If the Government, even at this late stage, can find it within its heart to put Six Men's back in this project, I think that would be a good idea.

I want to say that we on this side support the project. There have been changes made on the Government side to the project that, in their view, can give Government more scope. For example, Rices, St. Philip has been included in the project. We are not quarrelling with that decision. It is a good project and it is precisely because it is a good project that we feel not enough action has been taken in this particular area. When last I spoke I drew reference to the fact that Government had asked us from time to time to vote money in the Estimates for this project even though there was anxiety on the part of all concerned to make sure that those funds should have been spent.

I trust, Sir, that the substantive Minister would hear of the will of the House, as I understand it, for action on this kind of project to be accelerated. I know there are some areas that have already been fitted but really after five years this project that was intended to cost \$10 million, that money could have been properly spent. We could have gone into a second phase of another low income housing project to benefit not only Scarborough, but to put the problem of low income housing and low income communi-

ties behind us because the ultimate objectives, if we must bring ourselves through these projects, is to really seriously address the problem of the low income people in this society.

When we get projects like these, we must not tarry. When the House votes money, Sir, the money must be spent and the Minister can be castigated properly because if you go through the Estimates you are going to see a clear trend. He asked for us to vote the funds but here he will have to defend himself this afternoon. We voted the funds but the funds have not always been spent.

I do not know if the Minister wants me to repeat the point. This is an excellent project but the Minister of Housing has tarried on it, Sir. The progress that has been made on this low income housing project has been slow. At the end of five years we should not even be acquiring land now. All this activity should have been concluded and we should now be starting a second phase.

As regards Six Men's, Sir, if even at this late stage the Government could re-include Six Men's in its project, I would be very grateful.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, one of the things I find pretty gratifying about silting in this Parliament is the fact that whenever something that redounds to the benefit of the small man is being considered that the parties always tend to congratulate the party that is performing that act or service. I think this is a good project. I lived in Christ Church for some part of my very young life, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is reminding, in a part of his constituency, but it was not his constituency then nor it was not Christ Church East at the time. It was all part and parcel of Christ Church. So I am familiar with the Scarborough area. I know that it was an area that was very-disorganised. This project will now bring some organisation to it because I would anticipate that roads will be constructed and all of the amenities that go with low income housing projects will be installed.

I too like the Honourable Member for St. Peter am very disappointed at the slow pace for which projects of this nature are being carried out. I would have preferred the Minister to have moved full speed ahead to bring about some relief to people who live in similar areas. I know that he probably has a reason why he has gone so slow on these matters, given our similar background knowing the difficulties that small people face growing up in these areas. I do not know why work coining out of the Ministry of Housing is so slow but there must be some good reason. I do not know if it has to do with funding or otherwise. There are more areas in Barbados similarly circumstanced.

Some time ago I brought to the attention of the Minister the difficulties that people in Dash Valley and South District have given the environment in which they

live. For example, I wrote him some time ago making mention of the problems that the people in Dash Valley and South District face because of the way the two districts are organised. They are organised like Scarborough. They are a very unstructured and unplanned development. Those two districts would be fit areas for the implementation of a low income housing development project.

Now, what is also of concern to me, Sir, is the fact that it appears as though only coastal districts seem to be benefitting from the approach to low income housing development and that districts removed somewhat from the coast, like districts that are central, for example, are not so benefitting. 4.30p.m.

One knows the difficulties, for example, that the Member for St. Thomas continues to have with the Forty Acres development, the area that takes you into the Glendale Children's Home. There are other areas of Barbados that are not coastal, that are central and removed from the coast, that are having similar difficulties. I do not know if the Housing Credit Fund needs to be recapitalised or what, but if the funds are to come from that and the Fund does not need to be replenished, I would like the Minister to explain to this House what is the difficulty, whether there are bureaucratic difficulties, whether it is funding.....

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: No, I am talking about the slow pace at which the low income housing project is going, as it appears to me. I am not informed, I do not have access to the information that you have and I am merely asking the Minister to tell this Honourable House why there is this slow pace in terms of implementing low income housing projects. I do not know if it has to do, as I said, with the lack of funds or what other difficulties we are having, whether difficulties in having lands acquired or whatever, but there must be some reason. I, like the Member for St. Thomas, am a bit concerned.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Before the Honourable Member....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, I am not winding up, Sir, the Minister is in his place. I just want to respond to a matter which by virtue of the fact that it is traditional

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, the Honourable Member is attempting to make two speeches.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am sorry, Sir. I realise we are still in Second Reading. I give way to the Honourable Member to wind up.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I tend to hear very often about the slow pace at which the Ministry of Housing operates. The Ministry of Housing, by nature, cannot operate as quickly as other Ministries might be able to operate.

Let me explain some of the problems. The Ministry of Housing, by its nature, has first of all to start by acquiring land. Where there are no problems, acquisitions normally take about three or four months. When you come to acquisitions like in this National Low Income Housing Project, this project started before this administration came into office. Some of the sites were selected before this administration came into office and were quite extensive across the whole Island.

Let us deal with Scarborough. The original concept was to acquire 69 parcels of land, not realising that the owners of the majority of those parcels of land had already had permission from Town Planning to build. The project had therefore to be scaled down because people were coming to the Ministry continuously over the past four years saying they had the land for their children and they already had planning permission to build, so it was not a simple matter at Scarborough. This has now been scaled down to 29 lots instead of 69.

The point I am trying to make is that it is not a simple matter to say that these programmes in the National Low Income Project are taking long, because none of the acquisitions had taken place before we came into office. The sites were selected.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: We had a lot of problems at Rices as well, because there were about six different land owners, but six is not 69. At Valery, where the land was almost Government land, we still took a long time to do it because of the problems existing in that area. There were a lot of problems in Valery. Valery is now, to all intents and purposes, finished and as soon as the land is vested in the National Housing Corporation the conveyances and so forth will go out to people who purchased, and the people who want to rent will get the spots.

The point is that the Ministry of Housing, by its very nature, has to operate in - I would not like to use the word "slow" - but it has to operate in a cautious manner. It is not like before this administration came into office where decisions were made to confiscate people's land at the whims and fancies of certain Ministers. This Cabinet and this Government have decided that before you acquire any person's land you need to speak to them first.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. There is a reflection implicit in what the Honourable Minister has said that the last Government operated along Communist....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I was a Minister in the last Government, if only for a year. I am saying that confiscation is prohibited by the Constitution. It is a Communist principle which no Government in Barbados thus far has espoused. All I can say is that the closest example to confiscation is what was done to Miss Brathwake's 13 acres in Baxters where the people nearly got flooded out. Up to now they have not paid the woman one cent.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has risen on a point of order and I would ask the Minister in all fairness, since the Honourable Member has made a submission, if he is prepared....

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Yes, Sir, I am prepared to withdraw the word "confiscate". Let us say "illegally acquired".

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not "illegally acquired". Let him get some instruction from the Attorney General as to the use of English, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the Honourable Member to be saying that you are making a reflection on him as a Minister then, but moreso now as a Member of the House. He is one and the same person. That is the point.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have evidence that the Government moved on to people's land before the section 3 notice was published.

Mr. SPEAKER: But not the Minister.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am sorry. I am not reflecting on that honourable gentleman, and he knows that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. All that means is that the two of us went to school at St. Philip's Boys' School together. We have been friends for . .

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He used to come at Dodds and play cricket with inc. Yes.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: He did not say I went to Dodds, but that we went to school together when he was at Dodds.

Mr. Speaker, I have evidence that land was moved into by the previous administration before the section 3 notice was published, and that is a fact. If they want me to

bring the documents relating to all the portions of land where it was done, I will bring all of them.
4.40p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I must insist that it is not fair to say that, when his Government has done the same very thing in Baxters, St. Andrew with 13 acres of land belonging to Ms. Albertha Brathwaite; changed the watercourse - and a lady was on television last week saying that she was frightened. They had to climb up on a bus and they nearly drowned - because of the irregular conduct of officials in government.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to say this. I do not believe that it is fair. I take the points of Honourable Members obviously, because I would like to see things done quicker. You would like to see things done quicker. All of us would like to see things moving a bit more quickly, but the point is that by its very nature the Ministry of Housing has to tread carefully and you cannot go onto people's land. At times there are six and eight owners of the land and some of them are overseas and you have to write them before and all of that. Scarborough was in the first phase but because of the problems we had, we had to remove Scarborough from the first phase and put it in the second, because we had real problems. That is why the whole file is that large. The point that I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that all of us would like to see all of the Ministries moving a bit quicker. I would like to see the Ministry of Housing moving a bit quicker as well but I would like to say another thing as well. I have mentioned this before. When one administration takes over from another there are a lot of things that are already in the works and therefore you have to start reassessing and that takes time. You have to reassess to see if you are going ahead with that or if you are not going ahead with that and that takes time. You need some time to reassess the projects to see if you are going ahead or if you are going to stop. On most occasions, you go ahead with them.

What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that the Ministry of Housing with the works that have been put in certain areas is now ready to take the ball and start running. That is where the Ministry of Housing is at the moment. There are a lot of things that we have done. We have put a system in place. The pre-disposal of lots like any private developer and I believe that the Ministry of Housing is now poised to take off and we have all intentions of doing that.

Contractors will start working, Mr. Chairman, on Thursday in St. Lucy. Contracts have already been signed by contractors for infrastructure in Wolton, in Parish Land, in Hope, St. Lucy and many other places, which should be starting very shortly. Church Village - the terrace units will be starting very shortly as well. So, the Ministry of Housing is poised to take off and Emmerton residents will be removed very soon. Obviously, we are trying to start with about three or four, because the land needs

infrastructure but the form of the land can accommodate four or five houses and we plan to start moving them fairly quickly.

Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
KENDAL HILL IN THE PARISH OF
CHRIST CHURCH FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE
TRANSPORT BOARD
HEADQUARTERS

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is in the process of acquiring about 6.3 hectares of land at Kendal Hill for the construction of the new Headquarters for the Transport Board. It was originally intended, Sir, that the Board's Headquarters were to be set up at Haggatt Hall and to that extent we had acquired land at Haggatt Hall for this purpose. However, the findings and recommendations contained in certain preliminary reports on the Haggatt Hall site by the architects decided that it would not be prudent to site the Transport Board there. I would like to say now, that that site at Haggatt Hall will be used for those persons who have to be relocated from the Belle area.

Now, that report which spoke about Haggatt Hall, the recommendations were that the acquisition of land and possibly one or two big structures to accommodate the office building and staff parking was not adequate since the site at Haggatt Hall is not large enough to accommodate all of the requirements of the new Transport Board Headquarters. The widening of Highway 5 and the provision of sidewalks on both sides which would necessitate either the resiting of all or most of the residents along Highway 5 or repositioning their houses further to the north of their present location was decided. If a decision was taken to reposition the houses, then consideration would have to be given to the environmental conditions that would be created if the Transport Board Headquarters was put there.

The site at Haggatt Hall is in zone 2 and it is adjacent to zone 1 and that too was a bit of a concern. On the basis of the architects' advice, along with discussion between the Ministry of Transport and Works and residents in the area, it was concluded that the site at Kendal Hill, Christ Church was a much better site and location for the Transport Board. The site is more accessible because of the lower volume of traffic up the Kendal Hill area. There is more land available for future expansion in case the Transport Board needs to increase or expand. There is less likelihood of any sort of

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Let me answer that, Sir, in spite of the question. There is a standard contract and there always is a miscellaneous clause in the contract which gives

the contractor some leeway. This contract had followed the normal accepted methodology as far as I am aware.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this project was initially scheduled to be completed by October 1989 and it is now to be completed by June 1992 could the Minister summarily explain to the House what factors could have caused that inordinate delay? Could he also tell the House whether this June 1992 date for completion is an indicative planning or is it a fixed date for the completion?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, the date which was given for completion was not for the project as I have just outlined. It was for a specific part of the project. So far as the completion date which I have named today, that is the first time that a completion date has been articulated by anyone in this Government although many dates have been articulated by other nefarious persons and/or parties from time to time but not in this House that I know of, Sir.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Will the Minister then agree that in so far as that initial completion date, that the completion date for that first phase was not complied with that the Government could be accused of not administering the building of this project?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I so agree, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Will the Minister state why it was impossible to complete part of the contract to which he referred on the date, that is, October 1989 as had been promised?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Minister not being either a soothsayer or a person with any special "know how" can only rely on the information which is given by the technical and qualified persons. I am unable to give him a detailed answer to the question but I give him the assurance that as soon as that information is available, we will transmit it to him either directly or via this House.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: My final one, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to draw to Honourable Members' attention that the Standing Orders only allow approximately three questions. I think the Honourable Member has asked his three already and he may very well have to ask it in another question.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, in as much as notice was given on October 31, 1989 and the answers given reflect that, can the Minister tell us what percentage of the work has been completed in the year since October 1989? How much money has been spent on the project since then?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member is asking a supplementary that in itself ought to be the subject

of a question which would allow the Ministry to do the research. Out of an abundance of caution, Sir, I would give this House, in answer to the questions, the estimated cost of constructing the facilities which was \$22 million for the buildings and \$3 million for professional fees.

While the conference room and examinations hall would be primarily straightforward work, the auditorium was planned to provide modern lighting and sound facilities all fully computer controlled and a stage with a moveable orchestral pit which would allow modern theatrical productions to be staged. It was recognised that these skills are not available in Barbados and hence a foreign based theatre specialist would have to be consulted. Based on the consultants' advice, there have been changes in the design of the auditorium.

In response to the question raised by the Honourable Member an extract from Progress Report No. 1 reads as follows:-

"The complexity of the auditorium coupled with design changes brought about after the visit of the expert to Barbados, has impeded the finalisation of architectural and engineering design details. Higher than anticipated design parameters have brought about significant redesign works. Foundation works have consequently been limited." 5.00p.m.

"The major design changes affect the back stage of the auditorium mainly and as a result the scope of the works in that area is expected to increase significantly." What this indicates, Mr. Speaker, therefore, is that there has been change in the design to accommodate the concept of the total project and these changes in the design account for the increased cost, together with the normal vicissitudes surrounding a project of this nature.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I wonder if the Minister could give us the name of the Project Manager, the engineer and the architect. Is it not a fact that workers from MTW have been brought on to the project, notwithstanding the fact that the contract was awarded to the Rayside group of companies?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not so clear as to the intention of the question. Could you state it again?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I want to know if the Minister can tell us who the Project Manager, the engineer and the architect are; if he could state those names, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Project Manager is a distinguished Barbadian called Mr. O'Neale, who was until recently in the Ministry of Transport and Works. I believe the engineer is a Mr. Pandor of Professional Engineers Services. Mr. O'Neale is the architect.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, it has been known to happen. You have a consultant sometimes who is the Project Manager, who is also part of the firm that is the engineer. That has been known to happen. You know that. The Honourable Members over there know that, Sir. They are seeking to ask me questions, the answers to which they already have, because I am not the substantive Minister believing that I would not be able to answer them. I believe I have given a good account of myself.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Is it not true, Mr. Minister, that workers from MTW have had to be brought in to work on the project, notwithstanding the fact that the contract was awarded to the Rayside group of companies?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The answer is no. I am advised that the answer to that is no.

Mr. SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I wish we would have this a little more often. I think we have come to the end of today's Government Business. We are ready for any Private Members' Business. They have had these things on the Order Paper for a very long time and the Government stands ready now to do some Private Members' Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: If Members are now willing to deal with that Item on the Order Paper.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Since this is the penultimate sitting of this House, there is no way that I will have Private Members' Business and not start it. I would therefore be willing to start Item No. 9 under Private Members' Business.

ORDER NO. 9 - RESOLUTION URGING THE PROVISION OF COMPENSATION BY LAW FOR POLICEMEN KILLED WHILE ON DUTY

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is always unwise in the House of Assembly to anticipate that a particular debate will be free from controversy, but I would venture to suggest that the Resolution which I am about to move ought not to provoke any unnecessary controversy or heat.

Last night it was my good fortune to see the television news at 7 o'clock. In the last few months I have not been so privileged because of my canvassing schedule in anticipation for the event in December, but I happened to be home last night and saw an extract from the Prime Minister's address to the Education Ministers' Conference yesterday morning. Perhaps I ought to interject here to let the Prime Minister know that were it not for the fact that I

was committed to a court appearance yesterday morning I would have accepted his Government's invitation to be at the Central Bank. It came on Friday, I was out of the Island, and when I came back I had to be in court yesterday morning, so I could not come.

The extract on World Scene, or whatever the programme is called now, at 7 o'clock referred to the speech of the Prime Minister in which he called for attitudes to discipline to be enhanced in Barbados. I think he observed that the educational system ought to respond to the contemporary challenges - I am paraphrasing what I heard on the news without writing down anything - of drug abuse, gang or near group violence and the general indiscipline and lawlessness that there is in society. What we are witnessing in Barbados, let me be fair, is not a unique set of phenomena to Barbados. As I have written in an article, which I passed on to Members on the other side, about the penal system, quoting from Professor Radzinowicz and Joan King in a book that they wrote in 1979, "The Growth of Crime in the International Experience", they point out that in every society the one feature that is constant, whether it is a Communist society - this is prior to last year - or a Capitalist society, the one social feature that is consistent is a steady increase in the level of recorded crime. We can only deal with recorded crime. 5.10p.m.

There is so much crime that is committed that is not reported and therefore not recorded that the criminologists speak of a dark number of crimes that are committed but never reach the authority. But in those crimes which reach the authority in every society across this world, developed or developing, there is a steady, relentless increase in the level of crime.

I was glad to see that the Prime Minister was responding and observing and recognizing the trends in Barbados, because even though I praise him for his keen insight into what is happening now, I can only say that he has been persuaded to this point of view, because in his speech to the Democratic Labour Party annual conference, soon after he became Prime Minister, he tended, to play down the question of drugs. Last year, 22nd June, when we spoke of incipient gang violence or the incipient existence of gangs in Barbados, the official response then was nonsense, 'don't take it on'. We now a year later, just in one year, have come to realize the reality of a level of deviance in the society that is worrying. I do not say, and I am not going to encourage people even from the Opposition benches - too easily people from the Opposition benches make statements, this has happened in the past, with a view to create panic and confusion - I am not doing that. I will not be doing that. I have to be responsible even though I am on the Opposition bench. Therefore, I have to be measured in what I say. This is a serious social problem that we have. As I say, I am glad to see that the Members of the Government and particularly, the Prime Minister have come

to a recognition of the seriousness of the problem even though belatedly so.

In a previous debate in here, I did speak about some of the influences that may predispose towards anti-social and devious behaviour and I did on another occasion suggest some ways of tackling the present restlessness that there is among some sections of young people. One cannot condemn all of the young people in Barbados because of the present situation but there are some who are acting out their problems in a way that offends the general mores in society.

Now, the Police Force has a difficult task responding to the various types of crimes that there are in Barbados. I want to go on record again and say that I do not believe and I mean this genuinely so, that the answer from the point of view of the police is necessarily an increase of men. They may need an increase of men but not of the magnitude... I believe the Leader of the Opposition once spoke of 300 men. I don't believe that that is the answer. What seems to me to be more important, is to have a redeployment of the existing force with some topping up of additional manpower but don't go wild and just appoint 300 more. Police have to respond; the mechanisms in the administration of the Force have to respond differently. Now, the Police, by and large, have been doing a reasonable job in trying to control crime, given the level of sophistication and the inadequacies that existed in the Force in terms of manpower and equipment. From time to time, you will get the odd person who will go astray and who will bring the Force into disrepute, but that is no reason to condemn the Police Force. In every group you are going to have one or two who are not going to stick to the straight and narrow, and who will let down the side. But generally, I think the Police have been doing a good job. Now, there is a lot that needs to be done to change the structure of the Police Force. The administrative structure of the Force needs to be rethought, revamped and recast. Just as in business or indeed even in Government, there is room for introduction of skilled personnel at certain levels, there must be within the Police Force organization room for the introduction at the managerial level of persons who may not be outright policemen, who may not have been so trained exclusively but who have skills in management and organization. There must be room for them to come in at a certain level in the Force. All of this has to come. We all agree that there must be greater civilianisation in the Force and sometimes of the functions which are presently performed by police officers strictly so-called, could well be performed by civilians, and I am sure the Attorney General is looking at that and will take steps to ensure that that process is carried out.

Barbados, even in the days of 1937, when black people in this country had to fight for their social, political and economic rights, notwithstanding the unrest of 1937, nobody... The Honourable Member for Christ Church East

Central is an historian. I believe that he would agree with me that we could not properly characterize Barbadians as a violent people. The response in 1937 was spontaneous to a set of oppressive conditions and it had to be done that way. There was no other way to do it. People have to fight for their rights sometimes as a matter of justice. What is happening in South Africa, today? It is violent but it was the only means of recourse. But apart from 1937, nobody can really say that we have had a level of violence throughout the society that you could say that we are a violent people. You can't compare Barbadians with Jamaicans. 5.20 p.m.

They have an aggressive attitude. I think it was Herskovit in "The Myth of Negro Past", one of those books that I read some time years ago, who suggested perhaps that Barbadians came from that part of Africa which is Nigeria and the Jamaicans came from that part which is Ghana and that may have accounted for the difference in personality make-up, temperament and so on.

We have been accustomed in this Island to a level of tranquility and social cohesion that is interrupted from time to time only by the odd outbursts. You have murders, yes, but if you examine the statistics on murders you will find that Barbados is no different from London, or North America. The vast proportion of murders are committed in a domestic or quasi domestic situation - a man and his wife, or a woman or something like that. That is a trend that runs in the criminology evidence in the developed countries where studies have been done.

We have very few situations where people set out to go and kill, rob, shoot, stab and commit heinous crimes. You get the odd one ever so often. We have never had a circumstance where a policeman has been killed in the course of duty. When Oliver Jordan was shot he was not on duty. He was home in Barbarees Hill. In the Mark Young/Harding shoot-out in Bush Hall, Ashford Jones and a couple of others may have got bruised.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member for St. James South whose father like mine was connected with law enforcement tells me - well, he is so much older than I am - that a policeman was killed in 1940. I was born in 1940. He had been born 15 years before. I can only say in my lifetime. I cannot remember a policeman in these 50 years. It comes to the society as a shock to learn that a policeman was shot and killed in the line of duty.

As I said, we have had cases where they have been shot. Seibert Johnson very nearly lost an eye during the business with Winston Hall in Airy Hill. He got some pellets and very nearly lost his eye. We have had Sergeant Ashby lose his hand which was cut off by a criminal but

never anyone killed in the line of duty. I cannot comment on the case because, obviously, it is before the court but I have to be careful in what I say.

I think that as parliamentarians responsible for the passage of laws, we have to give consideration to the adequacy or inadequacy of the laws as they presently exist. I have tried to research this matter before filing the Resolution in August. I can really find nothing in the legislation that provides for compensation to a policeman who is killed during the execution of his duties.

Some help is given in the Act in terms of assistance with the funeral expenses and so on but really this is a fateful accident. This is a young man in his 20's who was cut down virtually in the flower of his youth and leaving behind a family to whom, from all that we learnt, I visited his mother - he was a very devoted and attentive son. It is a terrible thing to be cut-off so young and leave your family. They are very humble people from what we could see, well deserving of assistance. I feel that the officer's dependents should not be left there without any compensation.

I feel that as a compassionate gesture there is nothing in the law at the moment so whatever can be offered can only be offered by way of an ex gratia payment. I feel that it would meet with general public approval and acclaim if a fund could be started by way of a grant from Government to the mother and family of Constable Marvell. What quantum is a matter that would be worked out in Cabinet.

I do not see it as creating any unusual precedent. We have not had one for 50 years and if we had to give a family \$150 000 every 50 years for a policeman who was killed in the line of duty, I do not think that would be any big thing for a country that spends \$1 billion...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not want to get into the amount. All I am saying, Sir, is I think that something should be done.

I was looking for the figures on Sherbourne which I had copied down. We are spending \$42 million as we heard earlier on a structure at Sherbourne. Government has to do capital works. I am not going to debate it now at all. Capital works are inanimate objects. Here we are dealing with human sufferings and a sense of caring and compassion that should pervade the activities of Government. Government's activities must have a human face to them. I feel that a contribution by way of an ex gratia payment to Constable Marvell's family would go some way towards alleviating the level of grief and deprivation that family has suffered.

Sir, I think I have covered all of the recitals in the Resolution. I think this is a matter that needs no great

pleading on my part. I feel that all Honourable Members ought to associate themselves with the objectives of the Resolution. The details and the mechanics are matters that can be worked out within the bosom of Government in Cabinet. I really commend this Resolution to Honourable Members for favourable consideration and support.

For those Members who do not have the Resolution it says:

"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."

5.30p.m.

As I said, Sir, just to wind up, there is no statutory basis for what I am urging upon Honourable Members. It may be that there is what lawyers call a lacuna in the law and we can remedy that by putting in the necessary amending section to ingrain in the law a statutory basis for compensation, but short of that, Sir, until we get that certainly let us be charitable and offer an ex gratia payment to the family of Constable Marvell.

I am obliged to you, Sir, and I have the greatest pleasure in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this matter be postponed.

move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 6, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I think that brings us to the end of Government Business for today and I beg to

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.34 p.m.

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