
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 13, 1991

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker)
His Honour T. C. ESTWICK, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.),
J.P., (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic
Affairs and Minister for the Civil Service)
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A.,
LL.B.(Hons.), (Minister of Health)
Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General
and Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P.,
(Minister of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the
Environment)
Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, (Minister of Justice and
Public Safety)
Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc.(Econ.), (Minister of
State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.)
Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education)
Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of
Committees)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of
Housing and Lands)
Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M. (Minister of
Tourism and Sports)
Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A.
Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister
of Community Development and Culture)
Mr. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.

Miss B. A. MILLER
Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW
Mr. J. O. TUDOR
Mr. G. W. PAYNE
Mr. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A., LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. I. Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minutes for Tuesday, July 30th, 1991 have been circulated and I believe that all Honourable Members have had them. I beg to move that these Minutes be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of March, 1991, as prepared by the Accountant General.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: Reference GG/4 Vol. IX, August 2, 1991.

The Governor-General has written to say that she will be absent from office for medical reasons from August 6 to September 13, 1991.

" In accordance with the provisions of Section 29(1)(b) of the Constitution the Chief Justice, the Honourable Sir Denys Williams, GCM, will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during the period of my absence.

As the Honourable House of Assembly will not be meeting prior to August 6th it will not be possible for the usual message to be sent down to your Chamber and will therefore be pleased that you bring my absence formally to the attention of the Honourable House of Assembly."

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Customs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1991.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Water and Sewerage Rates (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the financial year ending March 31, 1991 be read a first time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On behalf of the Minister of Public Works and Communications and Transport, I do beg to give notice that replies to Parliamentary questions Nos. 12 and 13 are ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

The question that those standing orders be suspended for the day's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 10 – THE FINAL APPROPRIATION BILL 1991

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Section 109(5) of the Constitution states that, and I quote:

"In respect of all supplementary expenditure voted on by the House of Assembly in pursuance of subsection (4), the Minister responsible for Finance may, at any time before the end of the financial year, introduce into the House of Assembly a Supplementary Appropriation Bill containing, under appropriate heads, the aggregate sums so voted, and shall, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, introduce into the House of Assembly a final Appropriation Bill containing any such sums which have not yet been included in any Appropriation Bill."

This final Appropriation Bill, Sir, is in consequence of that particular provision of our Constitution. The Bill is in respect of the financial year which ended on March 31, 1991 and it provides for a grant out of the Consolidated Fund of the sum of \$91,170,535 and that that sum be appropriated for the services and purposes specified in the Schedule. All of these matters, Sir, have been subject to discussion, debate and decision by this Honourable Chamber already, and traditionally, Sir, we do not repeat ourselves on these matters as it is a tradition and practice of this House that these matters be treated as routine. They have been debated and voted upon by the House already so this is routine.

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

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

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

*On the motion of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.
12.30 p.m.*

Clauses 1 – 4 were called and passed.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Schedule to the Bill.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Preamble to the Bill.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of the Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

The question that the Bill be cited as the Final Appropriation 1990 – 1991 Act, 1991 was put and resolved in the affirmative.

**ORDER NO. 4 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN
THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION
OF LAND AT BARTLETTS TENANTRY,
CHRIST CHURCH FOR HOUSING
PURPOSES**

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this is a rather simple Resolution since on the 14th December last year, Parliamentary action on the Resolution to acquire these areas of land, mentioned in this Resolution, was completed. We are now seeking, Sir, to vest these five parcels of land in the National Housing Corporation.

I should point out that on January 24, 1991 these lands were vested in the Crown. The areas of land have been acquired for the purpose of relocating residents who are being affected by the sewerage treatment plant. I think these are residents in the Emmerton Lane area – some of those remaining areas.

I am sure the Honourable Member for the City will be pleased to know that this Government, in recognition of the problems which have been experienced around the establishment of that plant by the residents surrounding that particular plant, and in keeping with the promises which we made, is committed to ensuring that the residents are resited. What we are seeking to do therefore, in vesting these parcels of land in the National Housing Corporation, is to ensure that the National Housing Corporation is now in a position, when once the lands have been vested in them, to complete conveyances and to ensure that the people who will be relocated on this, would be able to get the plots and the conveyances for the area of land which they have. So this process is to ensure that we are able to complete the relocation and, of course, the passage of the areas of land, to the persons who will be getting them.

Basically, Sir, the Resolution before us, seeks to vest 1.042 hectares of land at Bartletts Tenantry, Christ Church, in the National Housing Corporation, so as to ensure that the National Housing Corporation have an indefeasible title in the land and is in a position to issue conveyances with respect to the sale of the lots.

The plots for the areas of land are available to Honourable Members and one would not want to rehash all of the details which are already a record of this Honourable Chamber but Honourable Members may want to see them for their refreshment, and indeed for their enlightenment, because I think when this was done, some Members now in this Chamber were not Members of the past Chamber. The plots are here.

I should point out that in keeping with the policy of the National Housing Corporation, that Corporation is developing the areas with sites and services and I think that the persons who will be moving there, will undoubtedly be proud of the environment which will be created through the auspices of the National Housing Corporation.

It therefore, Sir, gives me great pleasure in begging to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does indeed give me a great deal of pleasure, as a representative of the City of Bridgetown, to hear that at long and everlasting last, the Democratic Labour Party Government, after five years and more of promise has finally agreed that those residents at Emmerton who are still to be removed, will be going to Bartletts Tenantry.

I am reassured by the words of the Honourable Minister that sites and services, particularly services, because that is what I am interested in, services will be provided. I notice that the Minister did not particularise. The Democratic Labour Party, Sir, in a former administration, under the same substantive Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, when earlier residents of Emmerton had to be removed to what is now, happily, Clapham Park, found that pit toilets were being dug for them. Even during the election campaign of September, 1976, pit toilets were being dug and orders for stoppage had to be given. It was one of the first instructions given by a Barbados Labour Party administration in October 1976. Now the Minister has not particularized and I want the assurance on this floor, Sir, that people from Emmerton who will be moving to Bartletts Tenantry will not be visited with pit toilets and will have services which include a proper waterborne system, Sir, with proper sewage disposal and all of the other services. But that service in particular I want to be assured of. I hope too, Sir, that these latter day residents of Emmerton will be treated in much the same way as those who moved to Clapham, in that they were allowed to go to

the site and select. There was an element of selection of a spot of their particular choice. I hope that they will not be treated in any less a way...
12.40 p.m.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER:...the people from Emmerton particularly. This is part of the promise. That is what happened at Clapham Park.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: No. When you have selected, it is like any other private sector selection when it comes to housing, Sir, first come first served. That is how the Barbados Labour Party did it at Clapham Park and people selected and had the feeling that there was an element of choice. That is not a big thing. All kinds of family arrangements were taken into consideration. Grandparents got to live near to their daughters and sons and so on, so that family units were not broken up unnecessarily. All of these social matters were taken into consideration. I am deadly serious, Sir. The people at Emmerton are coming from a tradition of "share a pot", where so and so will share so and so's pot when times are hard, and times are now hard, Sir. I hope that these considerations will prevail at Bartletts Tenantry as they prevailed at Clapham Park. Now we have a happy cohesive community at Clapham Park and I would like to think that the same thing will develop at Bartletts Tenantry.

I am not asking for any special favours. I am simply asking that what those people from Emmerton enjoyed in the move to Clapham Park, that the same thing will be accorded to their own neighbours when they now move to Bartletts Tenantry. It would not be fair that certain services and certain considerations would be made available to some of the people at Emmerton who went to Clapham Park but different considerations and services would be made available to those who go to Bartletts Tenantry. I do not think that they should be offered any less. If the Government wants to offer more, I will be well pleased about that. But I want these particular assurances given to people. They are waiting to hear. This is really partly the answer to a Parliamentary Question which I asked, Sir, in the month of May. There is another part of the Parliamentary Question which still remains to be answered. But I receive this news with much...

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would expect the same terms and conditions under which the lots were granted to the people at Clapham Park would be offered at Bartletts Tenantry. But it would be a happy thing if the Minister would particularize about those matters as well.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that this debate would have been very simple without a lot of difficulty and it was going in that direction until the Honourable Member for the City, who is not really as familiar with the area as she could be as representative, started saying that pit toilets is the hallmark of the DLP. I thought that I heard her say that, Sir. But I never thought that I would live to see the day, Sir, when a representative of the Barbados Labour Party would accuse anybody of putting down pit toilets.

Sir, as far as I recall, the epitome of pit toilets, if you will pardon the expression, can be found in the context of the Barbados Labour Party's housing policy in any direction that you go. Sir, I really wish to correct a mischief. The Honourable Member for the City knows that I can give her chapter and verse if she wants to discuss the Bay Land, the Pine, and a whole lot of places.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member knows about pit toilets being built somewhere. The Honourable Member knows more about these matters. I know of no pit toilets in the Belle. Sir, the point I want to make is this. The Honourable Member said that it took five years to have the persons moved. The Honourable Member was not a Member of the House and, therefore, would not have been privy to an explanation which was given by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, who pointed out precisely that we wanted to find an area where all of these persons could go and we could preserve the community. It was precisely for that reason that it has taken longer than it had to. Land was found at one point in the area of Green Hill but it was not sufficient to take care of everybody. Of course, the Barbados Labour Party wanted to put them at Passage Road.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Not those. Those were full. Those are very nice apartments. They are very full and the only people who could get in there was on the basis that the Honourable Member discussed – first come first serve – the first Barbados Labour Party to come, second Barbados Labour Party to come, and right down the line. But that is not the issue, Sir. It is across the street that the Honourable Member for the City and her cohorts wanted to put them where we have now the most beautiful pavilion. The Honourable Member for the City comes across now and enjoys it and I recall taking some stringent criticism from some of her colleagues.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I do not know why the Honourable Member for St. Peter feels bound to interfere with me, Sir. The point that I was making is that the Honourable Member now comes across to the other side of Passage Road and I think that she must be of the view that we have done the right thing with that land. We could not put the people at Emmerton there. We are explaining the moving of these people from Emmerton, Sir. I think that the debate requires that I explain since the Honourable Member accused the Democratic Labour Party of taking five years.
12.50 p.m.

We then moved to another area and it was not sufficient and those persons said they did not wish to move, they wanted to move together. They have now moved to Bartlett's Tenantry where the land, the environment, everything is just about right, so the Honourable Member just has to wait.

The sewage disposal system at Emmerton would have been a lot better if the Barbados Labour Party administration had done a little maintenance, Sir. The record is very clear that it was the failure of the Barbados Labour Party administration to see that the Water Authority administered the sewerage project in accordance...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is the only reason, Sir, but I just wanted to put the record straight.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the residents of Emmerton are clearly going to be moving into a good constituency and they will get adequate and proper representation. I assure the Honourable Member for the City that the residents of Emmerton who move into Bartlett's Tenantry are going to have good facilities up there. I am going to ensure - for the Honourable Member for the City, for myself and for the residents of Bartlett's Tenantry - that adequate services are put in and that everything is amenable, because of its importance that everything is made right for the residents of the constituency of Christ Church West Central.

When this acquisition was debated last year, Mr. Speaker, I had expressed the view that not only are we going to ensure that appropriate services are put for the people in terms of light, water, adequate roads and so forth, but we will of course also want to ensure that adequate playing facilities, adequate recreational facilities are available to the people....

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: and the lights too. You all will not be able to make any political capital out of any issue of

lights in the future, so we are going to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that adequate facilities are in place.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: I have no control over that. We are going to ensure that all the physical facilities are in place for the people who will move into this district, so let the Honourable Member for the City have no fear whatsoever about this.

I am pleased to support the Resolution which is now before this Honourable House.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank Honourable Members for the contributions which they made. The Honourable Member for the City is seeking an assurance from me that the Democratic Labour Party would not put down pit toilets for the residents from Emmerton who are going to be moved to Bartlett's Tenantry. I really do not know why she would want to associate that kind of position with the Democratic Labour Party, but be that as it may, let me assure the Honourable Member and this Honourable Chamber that the residents of Emmerton will benefit from the introduction of a water-borne system. They will also benefit, and I am certain they have benefited.....

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I will tell you about Haggatt Hall just now. I am glad you mentioned Haggatt Hall. Mr. Speaker, I was not suggesting that you intervene in the debate. I am sorry, Sir. I broke one of the cardinal rules of this Honourable House in taking on an *Aside* from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Be that as it may, Sir, I want to assure the Honourable Member that water-borne services are being provided. A number of the houses have already been moved and, in moving the houses, some of them which have been damaged would have been repaired. This is a commitment which the National Housing Corporation has when it is involved in resiting people. One has to also recognise that there are other instances where people have to be moved, probably because of some infraction of the law where they are required to move, but not by the National Housing Corporation. The National Housing Corporation is not involved in moving people. Where the Government finds it possible to provide a lot for the person, the responsibility of moving then falls on the individual, as happens in a number of cases. So much said for that, Sir.

This particular one is not one of this kind and therefore the questions which have been raised by the Honourable Member, hopefully, have been answered and satisfied. The area is just big enough to accommodate the

20 houses which have to be moved from Emmerton. It is not large enough for a playing field or anything of that nature, but I think there is another area of land nearby which will be developed for that particular purpose. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central is well aware of the plans for that particular area.

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

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

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF
NOTIFICATION OF ABANDONMENT OF THE
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BRIDGE
ROAD, ST. MICHAEL

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I think this Honourable Chamber would recall that quite recently we came to this Chamber to tidy up the acquisition process for the areas of land which were acquired in the early 1980's, I believe, for the construction of the bridge at Bridge Road. It was discovered that in tidying up this matter there were two parcels of land which had been acquired but which really fell outside what was required and consequently it was decided that these acquisitions should be abandoned.

These two small parcels constitute Schedules 14 and 15 of the notice under section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 published in the Official Gazette, No. 10, dated 4th February, 1988 and contain 40 square metres owned by the estate of Letitia Ollivierre (deceased) and 10.4 square metres owned by Cynthia Dottin. As I said, Sir, it has been established that these two small parcels of land are not required for the purposes for which they were at first thought that they would have been required, and consequently this Resolution seeks to abandon acquisition of these two parcels of land.
1.00 p.m.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass and to state that the plots relating to these two areas are available for the scrutiny of all Members.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Honourable Minister in introducing this Resolution, but I think there is something he did not tell us which I feel that he should be in a position to say. That is, the question of compensation for these persons who are affected as a result of this acquisition. As you know, people would have been denied their right to use the land or even sell it, and having been deprived of the use of their property, then Government should enter into discussion with them with a view to compensating them in terms of money.

The other thing is that, as it stands, it is common practice, in fact, the Law requires that in case of an abandonment the land should be offered first to the original owners. I do hope, because from time to time people have been asking to acquire these abandoned pieces of land, and I would like the Government to follow what is the normal practice in first approaching the owners of the land and offering them back the land.

The other point that I want to mention is the whole question of acquisition and the manner in which some acquisitions are approached. We know that one of the problems that now face this country is because of acquisition. What I would like to see is a more cautious approach towards acquisition in the future. It would save a lot of embarrassment, a lot of confusion and a lot of money from the public purse, if acquisitions are approached methodically and careful consideration given to them. Here is a case where obviously the Ministry of Transport would have made a recommendation, a surveyor from that Department would have done the appropriate survey and then sent it on to the Ministry of Housing and Lands to prepare and to ask the House for its approval of the acquisition. You see, all that is time-consuming. What I am saying is that this could be avoided if the Ministry or any Ministry involved made sure that they have got the correct sort of acquisition. I know that sometimes that it is not possible to be accurate, but in this case, it is not a question of being accurate. It is a matter that enough thought and consideration was not done in this particular matter.

We can agree and we will accept the fact that when you are doing a road, that you have to acquire sometimes more land as there might be a realignment. In this case, there was not the sort of realignment that necessitated... I hope that the Government will take my advice. This is not a political issue. This concerns the public purse of Barbados and I am saying that we have to approach these acquisitions with the Government telling the respective Ministries that they have to be careful and make sure that they are not asked to acquire more land than is necessary, because it causes confusion and causes Government to pay out too much money. This is an area, if followed, that could save the Government and the people of Barbados a lot of money. I hope that the Minister will take note.

As I said, it is not the Minister's fault because he can only come in here and ask for the acquisition or the abandonment. It is his responsibility, but it is not fair, on the other hand, to landowners. We have known of complaints from lots of landowners from St. Lucy and in other constituencies. They complain that more land is taken from them than is required. I hope the Government will bear this in mind. It will go a long way in remedying the problems that we have from time to time in respect of acquisitions and the quantum of payment for the acquisition. In this case, I do hope that the Minister will see to it that his Ministry approaches the owners and ask

them to take back the land before it is offered to anyone. I know cases where people have been offered and lands were sold to them without the land being offered back to the original owners. If this procedure is followed... I did hear the Minister mention it but I felt that it was only fair that I remind the Minister that this is what is expected to help alleviate some of his problems in respect of acquisitions.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise another point in relation to this acquisition. I think the Honourable Minister in introducing the Resolution said that the land had been acquired in the early eighties for road improvements at Bridge Road. My memory doesn't carry me back then, but I accept his word. There is another issue that I would like him to take into consideration. I am wondering whether the abandonment of the acquisition is not premature. My recollection of flooding conditions in that area goes far back. I know all the land firsthand to which reference was made. The land of Dottin, I can recall as a boy...

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Some on the other side can't remember what happened last year.

I do remember water as high as eight feet, during a flooding, going across the very land that you are now abandoning. Although the roadworks have been completed in Bridge Road – and very satisfactory roadworks; quite a change has been made – the water comes from the central part of Barbados, St. Thomas, and comes right down through that channel, behind the prison, under the bridge at Bridge Road and all the way down through Delamere land into the Constitution area and the Careenage. Nothing has changed. It is the same canal all the way down. I have seen flooding all the way up to this area right up to the property of the estate of Ollivierre.

Now, a lot of problems have been pointed out by people such as the National Trust and people who look after gullies and walk through them and so on. I understand from common report that that whole channel is troubled by a number of areas of illegal dumping that has substantially affected the flow of water in the channel.

I further understand, Mr. Speaker, that right behind the prison and through the Bridge Road and down at the back of Hindsbury Road and the Carrington Village pasture that the gully is rising higher and higher all the time because of sediment and dumping. Therefore the possibilities of future flooding in that area are not remote. 1.10 p.m.

I am wondering now whether the Minister should not ponder. I know it is unusual for Government to come

before Parliament with measures and want to go back and look at them. I rather suspect that from a flooding far more recent than the one to which I made reference, when water went over the road at the Bridge Road – and from the bottom of that gully to the road at Bridge Road is some considerable distance... It is a very deep area and some flooding in recent years water has been above the level of the road in the Bridge Road. Yet that flood was a baby flood compared to the one to which I made reference.

I have seen, if I may put it very graphically and dramatically; Sir, I have seen the animals floating down through that area when the flood is on. I have seen motor vehicles floating coming down. I have seen chattel houses floating coming down that area. I have seen it. If the Minister would check with the archives of his Party, both human and other archives, they will be able to bear out what I am saying. Therefore, I am going to ask that he gives serious consideration to the point that I am raising.

Now, there is one other thing I wish to raise in this regard. The land of the estate of Ollivierre has been used for a lot of years as a tyre repair centre – a tyre repair centre at the corner of Baycroft Road. It has been there for a number of years. The point is, it is a business. At one time Reeves used to work with Percy Stuart at the Shell Station at Roebuck Street and he moved into his own business there. I am just mentioning this because a lot of the land which we are discussing is already occupied by that business. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, who is more knowledgeable in these matters than I am, and certainly more knowledgeable than many other Members in the House... On matters relating to land acquisitions, the Honourable Member is knowledgeable. I would like to find out, since I have not had any word with him on it, what effect would the new abandonment have on the business of the man who operates at the junction of Baycroft Road and Bridge Road?

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to join this debate primarily from the point of view of the Bridge Road area and the improvement that has taken place in that area which has generally been over a watercourse, that for a considerable number of years, has given us some concerns over flooding in that area. In that regard I would give some consideration to the contribution made by the Honourable Member for St. George South.

In relation to water courses and as the Member for St. George South mentioned, the illegal dumping that takes place in water courses, I want to issue a call to people across this country, that water courses in Barbados are very important to the environment of the citizens of this country and they should desist from creating the kind of hazards that are created for people who live in the vicinity of these water courses. It is all right believing that Government can find solutions to all the problems that we create from time to time, but without recognising that it is costly for

Government, who after all, has its only resource in terms of finance from the people who pay taxes in the country.

I joined the debate, primarily, Sir, to support the call for persons not to continue to dump illegally in this country in the water-courses because of the hazard that it creates for those people who live in the vicinity of the water-courses. It is not very long ago, Sir, in the memory of some of us, the kind of danger that has visited people in the Halls Road area, people in the Bridge Road area, people living in what we call the Condemn Gully... Most of these water-courses are connected, Sir, and in the area of the Green Hill and the Lewis Gap area there is also a connection that we are having difficulties in relation to illegal dumping. I hope, Sir, this call will not go on deaf ears to those persons who are habitually creating the kind of problems that we are facing in the country.

I would support, Sir, the call for a postponement of this abandonment based on the fact that everything to do with the improvement of the environment of our country we should look at very, very carefully and I would support the call for the postponement to look further at this matter, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I will be short in replying to the points raised by Honourable Members.

The Honourable Member for St. George South ... First, I think I did say during the introduction of this Resolution that the land was acquired for the purpose of the construction of a Bridge and the associated road improvements. I don't know what I would have to produce to convince the Honourable Member that this was the purpose for which the land was acquired, but just believe me, that this is what it was for. I would not be one to come in here and say that the land was acquired for a particular purpose other than what it was acquired for. I really would expect the Honourable Member would accept in good faith, if I got up and said it is for this ...

Mr. L. R. TULL: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I am sorry if the Honourable Minister takes what I say in that way. I said that if the Minister said it was for purposes of road improvement that I accept that, that is what I said.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: That is precisely what I said. Now, Sir, the same Honourable Member knows, and of course was in high praise of the work which was done, because this land was acquired in the early 1980s for Bridge Road. This was not a debate on the land acquisition at Bridge Road and what have you. As a matter of fact I think it should be pointed out that it was discovered, after the Bridge was completed and traffic was moving on it, that in truth and in fact the acquisition process was not completed. This administration had to complete the acquisition process. I suspect it was early in this Session one saw this being done.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East made the point in his intervention about the need for a Government to be very careful about acquisitions. I am at one with the Honourable Member on that. I think that it ought to be known and it is a matter of record that this particular acquisition was plagued with a number of difficulties with surveyors from the Ministry of Transport and Works ... The file is replete with backward and forward controversies relating to the areas.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I don't know that economists agree on anything, but these are surveyors and there were problems. I take the point and I agree in turn with the Honourable Member that we have to be much more careful when we seek to acquire land. Too often one finds that people who are technically trained seem to make errors in this particular area; and then place persons, like myself, who have to come before this Honourable Chamber in an embarrassing position, because based on the technical advice which you get – and I am not a surveyor – I go forward and I make a particular representation only to discover subsequently that somebody discovered that the area should not have been in or this area was undermeasured or over-measured. One then has to face the ignominy of having to come back to make those adjustments. I certainly would want to support the Honourable Member in his plea that the technical officers who are charged with doing work on behalf of the Government, and indeed, who are paid to do work on behalf of the Government, ought to do it as effectively and as efficiently as possible.

1.20 p.m.

I think that this is one of the very serious problems which we have in this country. I would hope, Sir, that one understands that this is something which technical officers and professional officers have to be very careful with.

Now the Honourable Member for St. George South made a plea to which I would certainly subscribe to postpone further consideration of this Resolution on the argument which he advanced relating to the situation of the land and the possibilities of flooding. I will certainly think that I would want to go along with the people of the relevant Ministries and pay a visit to the site to see for myself the situation of the land and indeed what possibilities there are. The whole question of gullies and keeping gullies clear is something we have to be very, very careful about. One remembers floods which have happened in this country. I gather that in 1970 there was a flood which came through that particular area and caused some considerable damage. Those of us who live in rural constituencies through which gullies pass where the gullies are not cleaned on a regular basis know the devastation which can be wrought as a result of this. In truth and fact, the areas of land are very small areas and are neither here

nor there when it comes to being costly to the Government, because it is 10 point something square metres in one instance and 40 square metres in another instance. In looking at it, if one could find that there is some merit in the role which the retention of these areas could play in adding further to the improvement of drainage, then this is something we are prepared to look at. But it should be pointed out that the Ministry of Transport and Works has an ongoing programme of the canalization of these particular areas.

I recall some years ago in the not too distant past that a lot of work was done, if not in this area, in an area very near which is behind the Solidarity House. There was a time when we were there when the rain fell that water used to be flooding very regularly in the back of Solidarity House and I think that this goes into that particular area. These two lots of land lie within that particular area and can add to an improvement in ensuring that there is an easy flow of water from the central areas of Barbados right into the sea where these gullies lead. We would have no difficulty in looking at that.

So that at this moment, Sir, I would want to ask that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

The question that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

**ORDER NO. 6 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CLEVEDALE
ROAD, BLACK ROCK, SAINT MICHAEL
FOR THE CANALIZATION OF AN
EXISTING WATERCOURSE**

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution again is seeking to tidy up an acquisition which was done in the canalization of an existing watercourse at Clevedale Road, Black Rock sometime ago. The area of land concerned is 269 square feet and it was agreed that the cost of the acquisition should be \$134.50. This is the recommendation of the usual process which we go through at the Land Valuation Department. It is really a very small area of land. It has led to the improvement in that particular area.

Sir, it would seem as if gone are the days that people are so happy to see improvements and developments come in their area that they would willingly give up a small area of land for an obvious improvement which would improve their property. Those days seem to have gone by and we no longer have that situation. Even with a small area of land, we have to come through the process of parliamentary approval to acquire that particular area for \$134.50 so as to regularise it.

Sir, it is my duty, therefore, to beg to move that this Resolution of the acquisition of 25 square metres of land at Clevedale Road, Black Rock, St. Michael for the canalization of a watercourse do now pass.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I second that, Sir, and will so speak. Mr. Speaker, those of us who spent a long time in the Black Rock area like the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and yourself, Sir, would understand when I say that, even though this is not a contentious matter of the acquisition of land, I think that it gives me an opportunity to shout from the highest hill of the perils and plights of the people in the low lying areas in my constituency and in yours, Sir, and I dare say of the Member for St. Michael West. I will speak on canals because there are many canals in St. Michael and I think that I can speak without fear of contradiction about them. But I wish to say, Sir, that I am aware that the Ministry of Transport and Works seem to be intensifying their drainage programmes in the low lying areas. I do feel, Sir, that as far as the Black Rock area is concerned the area should take some priority. I have made many trips, Sir, to the offices in the Pine and, indeed, I have taken the past Minister and the present Minister to the various areas in Black Rock that are affected. Sir, right now we have about eight roads on the drawing board in this area and the engineers say that they cannot do anything about it until the drainage has been done.
1.30 p.m.

It is very hard to explain this to constituents who go to work with two pairs of shoes, one to come out on to the road and the other one when they catch the bus.

This is the area around St. Stephen's Hill, the road which separates your constituency and mine. The idea of canalization there and other areas of Black Rock was a very good one, done around 1985, but we have had problems since then simply because of the fact that the debris was thrown to both sides. It is a low-lying area and it seems to me that the residents of those areas have a continuous problem every time there is rain. I am sure, Sir, you must have a lot of complaints, as I do.

I think what is really necessary, Sir, is to build up the sides of the canal, and indeed when it is cleaned perhaps it would be a good idea to take the debris away as quickly as possible. If this is not done, the result would be mosquitoes, stagnant water, people throwing kerosene oil into the bed of the canal and lots of other problems. I think we have to look at this problem very seriously.

When we were boys, Sir, anyone living in the Grazettes area could tell you that from the top of 3rd Avenue, Grazettes as far down as the University there were very few houses and lots of dunks trees, but today in one square mile we have something like 2,000 houses and perhaps 7,000 constituents. It is not a matter of a low-lying

area where nobody lives, it is a matter of a low-lying area where thousands of people are living.

There was a time too, Sir, when the water cascaded down from – I would say in the country – St. Thomas, all down Cave Hill, and somehow it found its way easily into Brighton. There was a little flooding now and again, but the water found its way rather easily. Today, Sir, the water is trapped, so much so that we find ourselves with people in very precarious positions. Indeed, if I were to tell you that the area around Long Gap, where the water comes down.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would give some consideration to the point which the Honourable Member is making, but do not let it get too long... Long Gap.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, it is difficult to make Long Gap short.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the area we are dealing with is 25 square metres.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Yes, Sir. Even though it is 25 square metres of land, I am talking about thousands of people in the Black Rock area to whom this 25 square metres of land is merely a reminder that from every July to November they live in the same fear the Honourable Member for St. George South is talking about. What I really wish to highlight is the fact that in areas like this you need either to sink wells or to canalize. A lot of good work has been done, as has been evidenced by the canal through the Garden Land, where 80% of it has been done; and as also is evidenced by the canal that runs along the Eagle Hall School. I am saying that a lot of good work has been done, but I feel that something further must be done to alleviate the problems that the people in Black Rock find every day. I think it is very important.

Sir, the question of flooding and things like that must be looked at very seriously. I was born in Station Hill, in what is now called Godding Road, and every year by Cobham's pasture the place would be flooded. Thirty years ago it would not have been possible to have the pavilion, playing field and basketball field at Station Hill where they are now. All that area would be flooded between July and October. Obviously the drainage problem there has been alleviated.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: There has been some canalisation. Sir, I really wish to tie it in as tidily as I can, because the people of Black Rock expect me, and they expect you too, Sir, whenever you can, to talk about their plight and the fear with which they live every year from June to October. I do not wish to make any political capital out of it, I would only say that there are a few people in

this area who have had some problems, like people who had areas for recreational facilities, like a lady called Miss Velda Beckles, and up to this day nothing has been done. They ploughed up the land, they put debris on her land and nothing has been done. Even though I have spent months and years trying to get this lady's land fixed, I have been unsuccessful. It is very difficult, I repeat, for constituents to understand that their representatives have actually tried in these areas.

Another thing I find very ridiculous is that if you are going to acquire people's land, I think the least you can do is to tell them about it. That has not happened in some of these areas. I would like to appeal to everyone at MTW to have a look at these areas. I know that there are many officers at MTW who have made many trips to the area, but if the area is beyond repair let us condemn it as far as housing is concerned. Let us resite the people. Some of them have been thinking about buying the land, and indeed, Sir, one lady in Spooners Hill, Miss Drakes, not only attempted to buy the land, when the MTW personnel went down there and attempted to dig a well, it caved in. When they attempted to build a road, it was washed away. When she attempted to put in her own toilet facilities, spring water came up. These are things I find very hard to explain to ordinary folk and I think we have to take a conscious decision that if these people are living in areas that are too dangerous for their own kind, we should have to resite them. I say so, Sir, because I have tried my best and I know that there are many representatives of the people who, after many years of trying, have thrown up their hands in disgust. I am not doing that, I am only talking about this case so that my constituents and yours will understand that it is not an easy case.

The area along Woodstock, where the canal was started many years ago, has not been completed as yet and all the people around Clarke's Road are in danger of being washed away yearly.
1.40 p.m.

I speak, Sir, merely on their behalf, and I hope that the authorities at the M. C. W. will continue to pay some attention, but while continuing to pay some attention will make the conscious decision that we will ask these people to be resited as they are resiting people from other areas.

Therefore, Sir, I have little difficulty in supporting this Resolution but at the same time, I hope that the time has now come when the people in the low-lying areas of Black Rock will be given some respite and will be given the opportunity to have wells dug, either to further canalise or to resite them so that they can live in peace. They are slow to anger, and perhaps have great mercy too, but I believe that it is about time that something is done so that the people of this area, who are my friends and family... I do hope that they will be given the opportunity. They do not wish to go away. People find it very difficult to move

from an area that they have had connections with for fifty or sixty years. I feel that for their own good they must be told exactly what the position is, Sir.

With those few words, Sir, even if I recognise that I might have moved from the 25 square metres of road, I have 25 reasons cubed, not squared, why the people of Black Rock should be given some sort of consideration in terms of these low-lying areas.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is a very serious one and one should not dismiss the serious implications this Resolution has for this country as a whole. Canalisation is a subject that should not be treated lightly, especially in Barbados, and in particular in low-lying areas such as the one in question in the Black Rock area.

Before I get right into the whole question of canalisation and the technical aspect of it, I heard the Minister in introducing this Resolution say that gone are the days when people would give up part of their land for improvement. That remark really struck me and I would like the Minister to consider seriously what those remarks imply. There are people who know that they are threatened by flooding, as in this case and they call on Government, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central has said. They are crying out for something to be done, asking Government – not this Government alone, but the Barbados Labour Party Government as well – to do something.

I want to appeal to persons who find themselves in similar positions to ignore the question of compensation – \$134, as mentioned by the Minister – and consider the wider consequences and implications that these things have on other people. It is not a question of being selfish or trying to get a little bit of money, because you will find ever so often that these same persons, as soon as Government improves the water courses, find it possible to sell or even raise their rents if they have people on the tenancies or in the area. In other words, they are now benefiting. I hope that Government will put a system in place to monitor these people so that they don't benefit from this exercise. I think it is only reasonable... There is a government levy and improvement levy and I think that people have to pay when Government does this. I would hope that the Minister realises it is not only \$134 that is involved, because as I understand it, surveyors have to be involved in providing fresh plans and that is an additional cost because the lot is reduced.

The whole question of canalisation, Mr. Speaker, here in this area, there is a natural water course over the years in the area of Brandons and the river suffers from flooding. Even as I speak, I recall an area just east of Chandler's Riding School, where they used to have the horses on the eastern side of the road, water settles and it is necessary to

have that area canalised in such a way that the water can travel from there, that no sediment is left on the eastern side of the road and it can find its way to the sea.

I think that MCW has the technical expertise and it is regrettable that when the highway was developed at Spring Garden that this problem was not seen. Therefore, we will have now to spend sums of money to correct it. Obviously, if you pass there now, Mr. Speaker, you will see the water and it is of some concern to the people who live in Holders Land. There has been some improvement done as you go down Brandons Gap, but surely, Sir, you will find that there is even difficulty in having that water pumped over to the western side – in your constituency, Mr. Speaker. I know that it is difficult for you to make mention of this, but I think that the people in that area need to have some improvement in the drainage system.

Not only is canalisation necessary but the adequacy of that canalisation is important. Government from time to time are contractors and build bridges and canals to take water from one side to another. What has happened, as in the case of St. Peter, is that the tunnels are not wide enough and the canals have got to be wider.

Mr. SPEAKER: My view on this Resolution is that we are dealing with canalisation as well and therefore it is much broader than a normal Resolution. I have no difficulty with the way you are approaching it.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Yes, Sir. Here is a situation where the contractors and the technical engineers at MCW have got to be eternally vigilant. They are the ones that I am going to place the blame on in this regard because they see the plans and despite the fact that contractors are awarded contracts, it is MCW engineers that have got to make sure that the canals are adequate enough to take off the water. That is where we are having our problems. No one ought to excuse the Ministry for its responsibility. The technical officers cannot be wiser after the event. We see back-ups if the tunnels and canals are not adequate. I am not talking in terms of height because it can be high and yet not adequate. We are talking about the width which can take the volume of water. Before one talks about canalisation and its adequacy, one has got to look at the volume of water to see where there has been certain divergence, to see whether there is concrete which now replaces the naked earth which causes more water to build up, because if there is naked earth then the water tends to seep through but where there is enough concrete it tends to throw water and build up the water. Therefore we have to look at that so it is not a matter of going and acquiring land or endorsing an already built improvement. It is question of looking further to see whether this canal is adequate, because if it is not adequate then you have to look seriously at putting down some additional wells and

we have to see whether wells would help to alleviate the problem in that particular area. We have to look at that. 1.50 p.m.

We have seen where canals have been built, like in Murphy Pasture or Farnums Pasture and people dump things in the water course or canal, and what do you have? You have a back-up and it tends to cause flooding. Sometimes building a canal could be just as dangerous as not building one at all. What we can do, and I would hope that the Ministry of Transport and the Government adopt a systematic system whereby regular cleaning or a contract is given... If Ministry of Communications and Works cannot do it, hand it out to private contractors and give them the responsibility to clear these canals throughout the length and breadth of Barbados and in particular this area in Black Rock.

We can't think we are going to talk in terms of a canal and the water goes through Fairfield and we don't have them cleared. We would be at square one again. That is why I said it is absolutely necessary.

Let MTW, and I am sure nobody will quarrel with the Government, we know there might be economic problems, but we also know that it is going to be more serious to us if we do not try to alleviate the flooding problem in this country. We have seen that it has caused us more damages than any economic situation or cutbacks, because we will have to find money, Mr. Speaker. What has happened in St. John, is because of inadequate canalisation, inadequate bridges and, in St. Andrew as well, the water is travelling down hill and if they do not have proper water courses, proper canalisation, adequate and proper gabions, then you are going to have this problem all over again and the Government is going to have to come back and ask for money to do it. I hope the Government will understand what I am talking about.

I am giving the Government some advice. I have the benefit of experience in this regard. I hope they understand that. They can save the country money. This is the time when we have got to use preventative measures rather than curative measures.

I hope the Honourable Prime Minister will understand what I am saying. We have a case even in St. Michael South, in the Bayland. Vast sums of money were spent in Clarkes Avenue, an area that I know very well, in the Right Honourable Prime Minister's constituency. That requires the same sort of corrective measures that I am talking about. That is a low-lying area as well.

So what I am saying is this, Mr. Speaker, we are well into the hurricane season and we are going to find flooding and we can take it coming down from Worthing, we need proper canalisation in the Worthing area, just opposite the Rosebud, we need it up there. We need proper canalisation

at the Bussa roundabout. It is not possible for vehicular traffic to pass around the Bussa roundabout and we have to think in terms of taking that water from the eastern end to the western end. What we have said from time to time, with MTW going there and clearing the bridges and culverts and what have you, but it is because they are inadequate and I am saying that no amount of canalisation can suffice this country except it is adequate and adequate means that we have to look at the volume of water.

We have to look too at how the water courses have changed in this country. The water courses in this country have changed, Mr. Speaker. We can look at old maps and we will see where they had the conventional water courses for years. Lots of them have changed because of housing developments. One which comes to mind is the one in Halls Road. We have seen a changed Halls Road, houses were there but it used to be prone to flooding. The people have moved.

Ellis Village. We have to look at this. As I said, as you move the houses, if you allow developers to take ... I am going to say this. I am going to ask the Government to seriously consider moving the people from Halls Road. Move the houses from the Western end of Halls Road. The houses were supposed to be moved. When are you going to move them? If another flood comes down through Station Hill, down by the Globe and wash away the houses then you will have a calamity in the country. I am saying these are the things that need to be done.

What I want, Mr. Speaker, is that Honourable Members understand what I am telling them. They are going to talk about the expense of doing this. I am saying it is on the map of Barbados and engineers will tell you that it is a flood prone area. Are we going to sit down a morning and hear that there is a heavy down-pour and some thing like this happens in the area? All I am saying is it is entirely up to the Government. If they do not see it...

The process was started under the BLP Government. I was Minister of Housing then when they moved some of the houses from Halls Road. Down in St. Peter, in Round-the-Town, we had a situation. Government has got to take initiative and let people know that these are the things which it stands for. Round-the-Town, I have passed there over the last two weeks and seen houses down there, just where the flood occurred in Gills Land. I am telling you; I know that. Houses are still there, people have not moved and we spent lots of money. I am sure that Government even went as far as to make sure that the land down there could not be rented out by some of the landlords because it was prone to flooding, in order to protect the tenants and protect people's lives. Pass there and you will see that same thing and that area is not even being cleaned.

Now, it worries me, Mr. Speaker, because when I can hear that the Government has a problem, all I am saying is, a stitch in time saves nine. Systematic cleaning and regular treatment of these things will solve the problem.

I do not want to compound or have the problems of Government compounded. We have enough problems already. I think that all of us as Barbadians will hope that we can make recommendation and we can suggest to the Government ways and means by which it could curb some of these problems that it is confronted with.

I would not want as we enter the hurricane season to find ourselves with these problems. We cannot sit down and treat this matter lightly. We are going to have heavy down-pours, we have to expect them in this particular season. All I am asking the Government to do is not only to look at canalisation or acquisition or building higher walls. There are higher walls in Holetown, in Jamestown Park if you don't know. Down there still floods – back-up – and people have land in there and they are reaping havoc. Down by Holetown Police Station – you are unable to get out from down there. These are the problems and they must concern us.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I have some order, please. It is heartening to hear debate dealing with local issues. I think an exercise like this is a very heartening thing.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, this is the sort of thing. It is not anybody quarrelling. I speak that way because I speak from inside here. I speak with conviction. There are some Honourable Members who do not understand when you are giving them advice.

I am hoping that we do not have these problems. I know people who as soon as they see rain are panicking. Even the army can't get out, the fire station can't get out because of the water. This is because of poor canalisation and we need the Ministry of Communications and Works to look seriously, especially around this time, to see where they can correct some of these problems.

I hope the Government has listened to this little lecture on canalisation. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker I would like to join this debate in so far as canalisation is concerned. Not only as in large canals, Sir, but as far as it relates to the Ministry of Transport and Works and their inspection department and the supervision of that department in relation to clearing the canals and that kind of situation. 2.00 p.m.

There is hardly any serious point, Sir, in spending money on acquisitions and spending money in building these canals if they are not properly serviced. In my constituency, Sir, there are a number of canals that are left

unattended and the silt which flows from time to time tends to create a blockage at the mouth of the wells and gives some problems in so far as flooding is concerned. I would like, Sir, to make a call that when money is spent in this particular direction that proper maintenance be carried out by the Ministry of Transport and Works so that we can have fewer problems in terms of the use of these canals.

My intervention is very brief but I think that I should use this opportunity to make that point, Sir. Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other Member who wishes to speak before the Minister winds up?

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, in winding up this debate, I think the Honourable Members of this Chamber were subjected to a speech by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. One of my colleagues suggested that I should describe the speech as a speech of sound and fury and signifying nothing. But I would not want to be so unkind to the Honourable Member because I think that he made some useful points on the question of canalization and quite carefully he took what has been done in this particular area and diverted the debate into the whole question of canalization. It should be pointed out that this work has already been done and what we are seeking to do here is to regularise a situation. This is another area of regularising a situation which took place sometime in the mid-1980's. Indeed, in 1985 this land was entered into and the canalization process took place and we are now seeking to regularise that particular position. I am sure we are all aware of the points which the Honourable Member has made on canalization. We are aware of the work which the Ministry of Transport and Works is doing in this particular area and would certainly want them to understand that it is something which is critical to all of us as representatives of various constituencies, and we would want to see this work intensified.

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution to acquire the land at Clevedale Road, Black Rock containing measurements of 25 square metres do now pass.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Time. Questions Nos. 12 and 13.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is not in his place, Sir. That brings us to the end of Question Time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it is now 2.05 p.m. and we have completed that work which we deemed desirable to be done today. I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, 27th August, 1991 at 12 o'clock noon.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday,
July 30, 1991 896

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOUR
THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER 896
Receipt of Accounts and Statements for the
month of March 1991, as prepared by the
Accountant General.

LETTER FROM HER EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER 896

Letter dated August 2, 1991 from Her
Excellency the Governor-General informing of
her absence from the Island from August 6 to
September 13, 1991 and that the Chief Justice,
the Hon. Sir Denys Williams, GCM, would
perform the duties of the office of Governor-
General during the said period.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD 897
The Customs (Amendment) (No. 2)
Regulations, 1991.

Hon. B. M. TAITT 897
The Water and Sewerage Rates (Amendment)
Regulations, 1991.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD 897
The Final Appropriation (1990-91) Bill, 1991.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS 897
Hon. B. M. Taitt, 897.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE FINAL APPROPRIATION BILL, 1991 897
Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 897.

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

*The question that this sitting be now adjourned until
Tuesday, 27th August, 1991 at 12 o'clock noon was put
and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr.
SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly.
2.05 p.m.*

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN
THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORA-
TION OF LAND AT BARTLETTS
TENANTRY, CHRIST CHURCH 898

Hon. E. E. Greaves, 898, 900; Miss B. A.
Miller, 898; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 899; Hon. M. A.
King, 900.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL
GAZETTE OF NOTIFICATION OF
ABANDONMENT OF LAND AT BRIDGE
ROAD, ST. MICHAEL 901

Hon. E. E. Greaves, 901, 903; Mr. DeL. O.
Bradshaw, 901; Mr. L. R. Tull, 902; Mr. L. L.
Brathwaite, 902.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COM-
PULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN
OF LAND AT CLEVEDALE ROAD, BLACK
ROCK, ST. MICHAEL 904

Hon. E. E. Greaves, 904, 908; Hon. W. W. Hall,
904; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 906; Mr. L. L.
Brathwaite, 908.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. B. M. TAITT 908

Replies laid to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 12
and 13.

ADJOURNMENT 909

Hon. B. M. Taitt, 909.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BRADSHAW, Mr. DeL. O. (St. Michael South East)
BRATHWAITE, Mr. L. L. (St. Michael North East)
GREAVES, Hon. E. E. (St. Lucy)
HALL, Hon. W. W. (St. Michael West Central)
KING, Hon. M. A. (Christ Church West Central)
MILLER, Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown)
SANDIFORD, Rt. Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South)
TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West)
TULL, Mr. L. R. (St. George South)