
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 19, 1991

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 1991.

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)

Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Leader of the Opposition)

Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Health)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Works, Communications and Transportation and Leader of the House)

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.)

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

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

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Community Development and Culture)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.

Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)

Mr. D. W. BOWEN

Mr. G. W. PAYNE

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session. The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, November 12, 1991.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that those Minutes to which you refer, that is, Tuesday, November 12, 1991 be taken as read and confirmed, Sir.

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

PAPERS

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

The National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.

I am also commanded to lay:

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay:

The Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Public Utilities Board for the year ended December 31, 1990.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West: Resolution of No Confidence in the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion:

WHEREAS the Right Honourable Member for the constituency of Saint Michael South has held the offices of Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs since June 1, 1987 and assumed responsibility for the ministerial portfolio of Finance on September 1, 1987,

AND WHEREAS the direction and control of the financial and economic affairs of Barbados have been the responsibility of the Right Honourable the Prime Minister continuously since he first took charge of those portfolios,

AND WHEREAS the economy of Barbados has deteriorated, particularly in the year 1990, and still continues to deteriorate, and is presently, by acknowledgment of Government and all official indicators and agencies, in a state of acute crisis,

AND WHEREAS Government has sought the assistance of the International Monetary Fund in a programme of structural adjustment of the economy of Barbados, and the said Minister, by a Letter of Intent on October 25, 1991, made a formal application to the International Monetary Fund pursuant to the proposed programme,

AND WHEREAS the terms and measures set out in the Letter of Intent signed by the said Minister and by the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados demonstrate that Government is unable to obtain loans on favourable terms on the international markets or from international institutions and is without bargaining power in its approach to the International Monetary Fund,

AND WHEREAS the measures contained in the said Letter of Intent have as their consequence the abrogation of rights guaranteed to workers under the

Constitution and other laws, including the Protection of Wages Act, Cap. 351, the abolition of the right of public sector employees to be severed on terms similar to those contained in the Severance Payments Act Cap. 355A, and the denial of the right of all workers to receive unemployment benefits under the National Insurance and Social Security Act, Cap. 47, at the rate of 60 per cent of salary or wages, all of which and the several other measures proposed in the Letter will of their nature impose great hardship on the people of Barbados and severely damage the poorest and most disadvantaged in our country,

AND WHEREAS the Reports of the World Bank and of the Inter-American Development Bank on the economy of Barbados for 1990 have been critical of the policies employed by the said Minister in the management of the economy, and have attributed the present crisis to those policies and to the financing of the fiscal deficit for the financial year 1990/91 through the Central Bank of Barbados,

AND WHEREAS the fiscal and economic policies pursued by the said Minister have caused, and continue to cause, the breach of the legal limit to Government's borrowings from the Central Bank of Barbados by use of the Ways and Means Account to the detriment of the orderly development of the economy of this country, such breach occurring notwithstanding the enactment of legislation to increase the said limit from 10 per cent to 17.5 per cent of estimated revenue,

AND WHEREAS it is recorded in the Report of the World Bank on the economy of Barbados for 1990 that Government had knowledge of the seriousness of the deteriorating economic situation before the general election held on January 22, 1991, and yet the said Minister took no corrective action before that date,

AND WHEREAS the said Minister delayed his approach to the International Monetary Fund until the country had virtually run out of foreign reserves, notwithstanding that the dramatic decline in the foreign reserves had been documented since the third quarter of 1989 and there has not at any time since been recovery from that decline,

AND WHEREAS it is a finding recorded in the Report of the Inter-American Development Bank on the economy of Barbados for 1990 that the key to economic policy in Barbados in 1990 was the impending election,

AND WHEREAS the interests of Barbados can best be served and secured by actions to restore and

maintain confidence in the direction, control, administration and management of the country's fiscal and economic affairs,

AND WHEREAS drastic changes in policy and in the character of the management of our fiscal and economic affairs are necessary for the restoration of confidence in the economy,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House has no confidence in the Right Honourable the Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Finance and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier today – if I may make one point, Sir – the Prime Minister laid the National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991, the effect of which will be to reduce the benefit payable under the existing Regulations.

Two weeks ago I indicated by letter through the Clerk's office, that on the date on which such notice will be given, having regard to the provisions of the legislation and also to the provision of the Interpretation Act I wish to move a negative resolution on that day, Sir. I will be seeking leave, later in this sitting, to move a negative resolution negating the changes which are being made by this.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991 were published in the *Official Gazette* for November, I think, and backdated to September, 1991.
12.25 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am moving the suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of this sitting.

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

The question that those Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of the sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance laid a document entitled the National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 1991, and another document the National Insurance and

Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991. Since then, we heard the Leader of the Opposition intends to bring a motion to negative these regulations. Sir, these regulations were made since September and have been Gazetted and they are only brought here for the purpose that they have already been Gazetted since September. It is the intention of the Government to change them anyhow. I will be reading into the record, Sir, a letter about which the Leader of the Opposition spoke. I will be reading into the record at the appropriate time during the debate to come, Sir, a letter written by myself to the Secretary of the Coalition of Trade Unions in relation to the same matters.

Government Business is the instant Order of the day. I have had discussions with the Leader of the Opposition and we have agreed, in fact, of what we will do today.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It still will be read into the records anyhow whatever you say. Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with the Leader of the Opposition and it has been agreed that we would be entering upon Private Members' Business at this time. Therefore, Sir, I move that Private Members' Business be the instant Order of the day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I perceive that the next Order would be the one dealing with the No-Confidence Motion. I think that I need to put a few things in perspective in respect of this motion before we get into the details of it. Let me first begin by saying that I received correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition and we have been able to get the motion in the correct form we thought necessary.

In his request, he did ask for a revised form. He has also requested to have live broadcast of this debate. I have so given the permission to have live broadcast even though I had to do some research to see if there were other decisions taken in the past in respect of similar motions and I chose to take the one that I considered most appropriate and that is to give permission. That I have done. But it is not within the realm of the Speaker to determine terms and conditions of that Resolution. It has always been followed through a process which I have followed and that process resulted in a request as to the terms and conditions of that broadcast. However, my decision at this point in accepting that request has always been based on the wishes of the House. It does not necessarily mean that all Members may have to agree. But the procedures in this House have always on a majority decision and, therefore, I gave permission on the basis that is the acceptance of the House for the matter.

I would like to add that if we need to be progressive and, to avoid what I consider the difficulties that most Presiding Officers like myself have had, I think we should

take the progressive view and I may add that we are doing a lot of restructuring as well. I see no reason why we cannot have a restructuring in the methodology for this broadcast and parliamentary broadcasts in general.

My view would be to suggest that some committee be set up to deal with the matter. I made that observation not to interfere in any way with the progress of the debate but to suggest the difficulties that we have all had in trying to arrive at a reasonable conclusion. I think that in that respect the motion is now ready for debate.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I need to rise before I begin this motion on a point of privilege relating to the Rules of the House and the exercise of your discretion under those rules, Sir, and that is under Rule 78. Rule 78 states:

"The Speaker may grant a general permission to the representative of any journal or broadcasting or television station to attend the sittings of the House under such rules as he may from time to time prescribe for that purpose. If the rules are contravened or if the journal or broadcasting or television station publishes a report of the proceedings of the House which is, in the opinion of the Speaker, unfair or inaccurate, permission may be revoked."

12.35 p.m.

It is my understanding, Sir, that broadcasts of the proceedings of this House take place under Rule 78 and that Your Honour is not subject to it, as indeed the House should not be subjected to the dictates of the Minister of Information as to whether or not he feels that only himself and the Leader of the Opposition should be carried live in this House.

Now, Sir, I made an application in the proper manner to Your Honour with a copy of the letter to the Leader of the House on November 14th. As Your Honour well knows I wrote:

"I will be filing with the Clerk of Parliament a Motion of No Confidence in the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and will seek your leave to give notice of it at next Tuesday's sitting.

I have written to the Leader of the House asking that, in keeping with convention, mutually agreeable and succeeding dates be set for the debate on the Motion. I have also requested that arrangements agreeable to the House and your Honour be made for the debates to be broadcast and televised live. This is of course subject to the agreement of the broadcasting stations.

I enclose a copy of my letter to the Leader of the House.

I seek your approval for the electronic broadcasts, on the assumption that this meets with the approval of members of the House."

and to the Honourable Philip M. Greaves, I wrote:

"Subject to the Speaker's ruling, I am proposing to give notice of a Motion of No Confidence in the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance at the next meeting of the House of Assembly on Tuesday, November 19, 1991.

In keeping with convention, I request that arrangements be made for the debate on the Motion to commence on an agreed date and proceed on succeeding days until completion of the debate.

I should be pleased if you would indicate the likely suitable dates and times, having regard to Government's Business.

I also request that arrangements be made for the whole debate on the Motion to be broadcast and televised live, subject again to Mr. Speaker's and the House's concurrence.

I should appreciate your prompt response. I am copying this letter to His Honour the Speaker."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I haven't had a formal reply from Your Honour and indeed I got an oral reply from the Leader of the House who telephoned me at 3.45 p.m. yesterday. I was not immediately available, but I returned his call between 4.15 and 4.20 p.m. when he told me that permission would be given for the broadcast to be made and to be stored only of the speeches of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, who is also Minister of Information, and of myself; that they would be carried later in the day but that no other speeches of this Honourable House will either be telecast or broadcast.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government Information Service proceeded to issue a Government Information Release which I am going to make a document of the House, but this was well prior to my being able to give my final answer to the Honourable Member.

I said to him that I myself was fundamentally opposed to only the two speeches of myself and the Right Honourable Member being carried, and all other Members of this House being excluded. The records of this House will show that I am on record as taking that position. I informed the Honourable Member that I would be meeting with other Members of the Opposition later that day, that I had no doubt that they would take the same view as I do and I would communicate my views to him later that evening after our meeting. That, I faithfully did last night,

but by that time, Sir, it was mooted abroad through the G.I.S. the following:

"His Honour the Speaker has given permission for the Opposition Leader's introduction of the Resolution of No Confidence in the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and the reply by the Prime Minister to be recorded and carried simultaneously on radio and television at 8 p.m. on the dates they are made.

The Leader of the Opposition is expected to move the Resolution at tomorrow's, November 19th sitting of Parliament. We would wish you to make the necessary arrangement for the recording and broadcast of both statements on your station.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Hope (Mrs.)
Chief Information Officer"

Copied to the General Manager, *Rediffusion* or *Voice of Barbados*, David Ellis, and *CBC*, Tony Cumming.

I wish to make this a document of the House.

I have very strong and fundamental objections, Mr. Speaker, to the manner in which this matter has been dealt with. Whatever the Minister of Information may think of his powers, it is about time he be told that Barbados is not prepared to put up with the curtailment of people being entitled to hear their representatives in full on a matter that is so vital and that is critical of themselves. He must be prepared as a man not to be sneaking into Barbados or avoiding letting the people hear, as so far they have not been able to hear the full debate on the reasons why the economy of this country has collapsed under him, Sir. Since he is in charge of *CBC* and he believes that he has the power in that circumstance to give only limited approval, this matter must be determined once and for all in Barbados.

What is the Minister afraid of? Why is he afraid to let the people of Barbados hear their representatives whom they chose to see if they are men or mice, to see if they have strength of character or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope I am not hearing the Honourable Member for St. Thomas because he has not been allowed to speak. What I wanted to interrupt the Honourable Member on was that there is a Standing Rule in this House that you should not suggest that people are cowards. That is not one of the accepted parliamentary patterns of speech.

I am only suggesting to the Honourable Member that that...

Asides.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: ... to see if they have courage, Sir. To see if they are courageous – the Honourable Members would prefer that, Sir – that what they speak in corridors and what they plan for, they have the courage to stick to that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow this debate to drift into any sort of... What I want Members to do is to observe what they have been observing in the past. That is, the tenor of the debate must always remain at the level that I know you can reach.

The second point is that I am not sure whether the Honourable Member is debating the resolution or not. I think he is tending to go into the resolution as such...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: ... The Member is on a point of privilege, yes, but it has to remain as that.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I am speaking, Sir, on a point of privilege and I will stick to the point of privilege. Sir, I believe that the Government Information Service has a proper function to perform but one of its functions is not to usurp the powers of Honourable Members of this House and to predetermine, in my view, in an insulting manner how they are going to give releases about what is going to happen in this House.

12.45 p.m.

I consider that this Press Release was issued before there had been any agreement on the matter, so that Your Honour would have to determine it, to be absolutely disgusting, if I may use the word, Sir, in the circumstances. The same Right Honourable Member, the Minister, who has responsibility must see that the Government Information Service and the Chief Information Officer's functions are not misused and used in this sort of manner as has happened in this case.

Certainly, Sir, I am making a point. The Opposition and the public of Barbados are entitled to have this Resolution broadcast in the public domain so that the people can fully hear what is happening. Therefore, as I said, it is not in keeping with Your Honour's resolution. As I understand it, you have agreed that there should be live broadcast.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is exactly what I was asked to do but not the terms and conditions. That is not my function.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: You have asked that they be broadcast live and carried simultaneously. You have asked us, as I understand it, that everybody's will be carried. I therefore must ask for the assurance that the broadcasts are being carried live and that everybody's broadcast would be carried. Therefore, before I commence this Resolution, Sir, I seek that assurance.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I would probably have to call the Resolution and then determine what the position would be when the Resolution is called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a Member of the House.....

Mr. SPEAKER: What have you risen on?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have risen on the rights of a Member of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Which is the privilege of the House.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this House, I had occasions, in more than one House, to deal and to be present when precedents in relation to this matter were being established. I well recall a time when the late Lloyd Smith was a Member of this House and attempts were made to broadcast in a privileged fashion certain special speeches, the problems that arose. On that occasion, as a Honourable Member of the House, I was very supportive of the action that was about to be taken by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, that is, the complete sabotage of all equipment relating to the same until good sense prevailed. It was agreed that in view of the objections that were so strongly felt and in view of the fact that no member of the public had a right to come in here and record anything that took place without the permission of the Speaker which is only granted upon terms and conditions which are mutually acceptable to all members....

Certain remarks made by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the records.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I wish to make it clear that as the Speaker of this House, Your Honour must not be seen by independent conduct of third parties to be biased.

Mr. SPEAKER: That also is a reflection.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Honourable Member has made the release of the Government Information Office a document of the House. It is my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, that document suggests that Your Honour is part and parcel of the decision that only two speeches should be broadcast. Your Honour has given the direct lie to that.

It is a very serious thing when independent people outside of this House can conduct themselves in such a position that Your Honour's conduct and your impartiality can be impugned on reasonable grounds. Your Honour must put your foot down. Let it be clearly understood that Your Honour conducts yourself impartially in here.

I want to say very clearly that unless a satisfactory resolution is brought to bear on this matter, as a member of this House I intend to take every means at my disposal to ensure that either all speeches are broadcast or none at all. That is the position in here today. I have brought along the same implements that the Honourable Member on that occasion....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have plenty of technical assistance in this matter and despite the technological advances that have taken place, I have been assured that this implement can still be effective. This cannot possibly be a laughing matter. This is a very serious matter. Your Honour's position is imbalanced. Your Honour ruled and informed this House that your permission has been given for these proceedings to be recorded.

There are no privileged speakers in here. There are no privileged members in here. All Honourable Members derive their rights from being elected and from the Rules. The Rules state that no person can broadcast these proceedings without Your Honour's permission. Your Honour is under an obligation to ensure that unless there is agreement among the Honourable Members as represented in the usual fashion by the Leader of the House on that side and the Leader of the Opposition on this side as to the terms and conditions that an even hand is kept and nothing is broadcast. That is my position on this. Whatever steps are necessary to protect the rights of Honourable Members in these circumstances, I will take.
12.55 p.m.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I rise, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The matter occupying the attention of the House is one which I take very seriously indeed I represent a constituency, Mr. Speaker...

Mr. SPEAKER: But you have not said what you have risen on.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: On a point of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have to stay with the point of privilege you have risen on. What is the one you have risen on? It must be clearly identified.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege dealing with my rights as a Member of

this Honourable Chamber and the breach of Your Honour's Ruling by the Government Information Service.

Mr. Speaker, I recall some weeks ago hearing you expressing your concern about information being published in the newspaper and that you considered then that it was a matter which usurped the authority or the prerogative of Your Honour. I got that impression, Sir. On that occasion it was felt that a resolution or matters which were supposed to be discussed in this Honourable Chamber appeared in one of the nation's newspapers. You felt, Sir, on that occasion that you expected some courtesy and you wished that that did not happen again.

On this occasion, Mr. Speaker, we have a similar situation but more serious in nature in that a resolution as important – we have never in the history of Barbados had a resolution as important as this one. We have had No Confidence Motions but...

Mr. SPEAKER: You are straying from the point of privilege. You must stay with it. You are going into a debate of a different subject.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, the information coming out of GIS dealt with discussion of a resolution before this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: But we are not dealing with that as a subject. We are dealing with what affects you, as a Member of the House, with your privileges. That is what we are dealing with. So you cannot stray into a debate of any other kind.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as I said I am concerned that I heard yesterday afternoon at 5.30 on one of the news media that a debate is taking place in here and will be televised and two speeches by the Leader of the Opposition and the Right Honourable Prime Minister are going to be heard. I am a Member of this Chamber and I am concerned about that. I have a bounden duty to express that right on a point of privilege because I feel that I am entitled to....

Mr. SPEAKER: Which you have done.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Pardon?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have so done.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Are you saying my time is up, Sir?

What I am saying is here am I, a Member of this Honourable Chamber, not brought in here by a donkey cart or push cart.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am going to ask the Honourable Member either finish the point you have been making in terms of how the privileges affect you and let me get to the point because I have to make a ruling. I allowed others to speak. I am waiting on you to complete your point of privilege as quickly as you can.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, what I am telling you is, I will repeat it.

Mr. SPEAKER: You know repetition is one of the Rules which we have in our Standing Orders. You are not allowed to repeat. Make the point and finish with it.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I understand the English Language. Repetition is for emphasis on this occasion. You see I have been around for a long time, Sir, and I have heard that if you do not say it often enough that people do not tend to hear or understand. I know that in this Honourable Chamber some Honourable Members on that side do not understand unless and until you repeat. I am just making it quite clear.

What I am saying is that I feel that my privilege in this Honourable House has been impinged or trespassed upon. I am asking that the Chief Information Officer be made to apologize for that news item or that release.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not necessary.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Do you mean I cannot ask that it be brought here? I am asking that it be considered. I am not asking Your Honour to make a decision. But I am asking that you consider that, Sir, because my constituents have asked me to raise it and I have a bounden duty, Sir. I would hope that all Honourable Members including myself be given an opportunity to be heard on this No Confidence Motion. It is too serious a matter to be just swept under the carpet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege also because as I understand Your Honour's statement – I am not sure it was a ruling – earlier – and if I have it wrong please correct me – you said, Sir, that you have given permission to have live broadcasts of the debate. I understand the word broadcast to have been in the plural and to have included the broadcast of the speeches of all who are here today. If my construction of what Your Honour said is right then it is an invasion of the privileges of other Members for a Government agency to put it out that only two speeches would be broadcast and/or telecast.

I would want to know, later on, what is your final ruling, if all of us are going to have our speeches broadcast or telecast, as you have ruled, or if you are going to succumb to the efforts of the Government Information

Service whose Ministerial head happens to be the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again, you see I have to be very clear. If you are going to say something about a public officer the Rules also tend to protect that officer.

I feel that you should not stray beyond that Rule. You could make the point but not stray beyond that Rule.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I meant the Government Information Service. If I said Chief Information Officer, I apologize, Sir. If the Rules of this House or the permissions given by Your Honour can be manipulated and/or abrogated in this case by a Government department, that is an affront to you, Sir. If you have ruled that all can speak and he, she or it and they can say only two, that is an affront to you, Sir. It is an affront to the dignity of this House and it is an affront to the privileges of all Members because you have said that, in respect of this debate, we all have the privilege of having our speeches telecast and/or broadcast. I am going to want to hear from you, Sir, what is your ruling today? I am asking for your ruling, for the sake of clarification when I am finished.
1.05 p.m.

Right now the whole matter has been obfuscated by language and I am not sure what are my rights as a member today. At the opening of this session, you claimed certain ancient rights and privileges on behalf of all members. You also have a further duty to be protective of minority rights in this House. I just want to remind you, Sir, of your obligations to all of us and particularly to the minority.

I want to say that the attempt by a Government Department to interfere with Your Honour's ruling or general permission is another attempt by the Government to behave in a tyrannical way towards the people of Barbados. I have certain constitutional rights to receive and communicate information and ideas. Every person living under the Constitution of Barbados...

Mr. SPEAKER: But you do not have any other privilege that others do not have as well. I have ruled already that if you rise on a point of privilege that you stay with the point of privilege so that I can clearly make a judgment on it. But if you start to develop a debate which is not to my mind very relevant to the privilege that you want in respect of yourself, then I would have to suggest to you that you had better keep closer to the point.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am on a point of privilege, Sir, and I am drawing to Your Honour's attention that, in my view as an Honourable Member of this House, a subtle attempt is being made to stifle freedom of speech and to prevent the public of Barbados from receiving

information to which they are entitled constitutionally as a right. In sitting there, Mr. Speaker, you also have a right in so far as it may impinge on your functions to uphold the Constitution.

This is only another litany that will be talked about in here sometime. This is part of the VOB licence and they cut off CBC's *Gutterperk*.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Honourable Member strays like that, I will ask him to take his seat. Very simply, I will ask him to take his seat.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am saying, Sir, that they are interfering with my constitutional rights and my privileges as a member of this House and by a subtle attempt by persons on that side to stifle the receipt and dissemination of information in this country. I want to appreciate what they are trying to do to you in a subtle way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you finished, Sir?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Finished! Well, I just started, Sir. I have not exhausted my fifteen minutes, Sir. I am saying these things very seriously because I heard you mention something about majority decisions and I believe you would want in an effort to help you make up your mind for a final decision to hear the views of Members. Therefore, it is incumbent on me to let Members who may not be sensitive to what is being planned, organised, and implemented understand...

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow the Honourable Member to continue on that road.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am trying to help them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you cannot help them. You have to help yourself on a point of privilege. I am listening to your problem. That is what it really is.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. My problem is that if all of us are not allowed to speak in accordance with your decision to have our speeches broadcast, then we will have to take some other drastic action.

I want to see, Sir, if you are prepared to repeat to this House that your decision is that all of our speeches will be broadcast live and not just two, Sir. This is a very serious matter. This is a momentous occasion. This is the first time that a vote of no confidence will be moved so far as I can recall in a Prime Minister. The public out there whom we represent including yourself, Sir, have a right to hear what their representatives have to say. I believe that you

recognise that in purporting to grant total permission. Do not smile, Sir. Did I hit you right, Sir?

Now, Sir, if you were to signify by your smile to me that the public have an overriding interest in hearing what their representatives have to say about the Right Honourable gentleman, then in all conscience, I beg you, do not allow some functionary and operative in a Government Department, acting on the advice of some other person to try to denude your permission of its viability. That is all it is.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that at this point I could. I do not want to deny the Honourable Member the right to raise his point. I believe the Honourable Member will be brief.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, I do not rise on a point of privilege, Sir. I rise on a point of practice and procedure, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, that is no rule. Just one moment.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, I will rise on a point of privilege and permit the point of practice and procedure to be subsumed under the point...

Mr. SPEAKER: That could not be a basis for a point of privilege. Are you clear in your mind what a point of privilege is?

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, if I am challenged, my understanding of parliamentary privilege is that it is the sum of the peculiar rights enjoyed by each Member collectively as a constituent part of the High Court of Parliament and by Members of each House individually without which they could not decide their functions. Sir, it is in this spirit that I rise. If you will hear me...

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, I want to hear because I think we are leading the debate in the wrong direction and I have to put it on its right course. I have to do that.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have achieved a measure of familiarity with me and you know that I am by no means flippant or frivolous.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, you said that you are new and you sought to introduce a new order which I perceive is not in the rulings and, therefore, I will be much more helpful to you than the others. Quite true. But I just want you to stick with the privilege.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, I have a measure of authority here and can go along with Mays Parliamentary

practice. Sir, earlier today a motion was put by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has not been dealt with and I cannot anticipate the motion either.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, notice of the motion was given and, Sir, for the first time for the last couple of days I heard that motion on the floor of this House. Sir, as a Member of this Honourable House, there is a standing procedure by which whatever is the business of the day for Parliament is circulated beforehand to Members. Sir, I received no Papers at all for this particular session. I am saying, Sir, that failure by the ancillary staff of this Honourable House to serve me is prejudicial to my rights as a Member.

1.15 p.m.

Further, Sir, as a relatively new Member, I am worthy of a number of things. We have been debating the question of privilege...

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not debating privilege. The point of privilege affords a Member to deal with a problem – in simple terms, something that affects how he should function in here.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, today there is business on the Order Paper and in my role as a Member of this Honourable House, I have not been properly given any information about the proceedings of the House. Instead, I realise that some public functionary was allowed to give notice of what is expected to be dealt with today in circumstances where as a Member the proper channels of communication were not exploited to permit this Honourable Member to be able to take part in proceedings.

So, Sir, I associate myself with the remarks of other Members on this side who are asking you to rule firmly in case the motion put by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is permitted to be heard today that all of us will be given equal opportunity and not just one other Member on that side and another Honourable Member from this side. If all of us, except yourself and the Deputy Speaker, Sir, enjoy equality and parity of membership, then if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West have rights of audience on the electronic media all of us as equals should have those rights, Sir. I am asking you, Sir, to bear that in mind as the principal plank on which you will rule when you exercise your normal, liberal judgement and that you will rule in favour of the entire House being telecast.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought that I had said exactly what people understood in the context of what takes place and what has taken place over the years in this Chamber. I specifically mentioned that there was no guidance in respect of parliamentary debates. In the circumstances it

was always customary to deal with it at the particular time. Therefore my statement was based on observation as to what took place in the House before. As I mentioned once before, one Speaker decided that he would not give permission and he stated his position. I did not take that position although that was one area in which I could have because the precedent was there.

The second one was that to give permission to broadcast was not qualified by all or one, two or three of the aforesaid. It was only to permit the broadcast to take place with whatever limited measures were agreed. So that I could only have given permission after exchanges had taken place. I don't like the word "sides" because in this Chamber we have to deal with the majority of people. Therefore, I made my observation that such is the case.

What has occurred to me, now, is that I will have to resort to a precedent which was set by another presiding officer of this House. Since those rules are not agreeable, then the only thing I can do in the circumstances is either to withdraw my permission for live broadcast or let the broadcast go as it is, if Members want to take advantage of what was laid before them. That is as much as I can do.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, that is very unacceptable to me, Sir. The majority in this House cannot rough-ride over people's rights. The Prime Minister doesn't want to hear himself being flayed? He will come outside and hear us flay him outside.

Your Honour cannot have a fundamental view that it is right that broadcasts should take place here live so that the people could hear, and because the Government over there exercising its majority believes that it should prevent that, believe that that is the right precedent to set, Sir. Your Honour cannot understand that, Sir.

There is no reason why we should not have a broadcast. I understand Your Honour to have said that live broadcast of this debate must take place and it must have to take place.

Mr. SPEAKER: It appears to me as if, from the tone of what I am hearing, I have sanctioned who to speak and who not to. That is not my function. My function is to make sure that the opportunity for broadcast is there. That is what I have done. The question of speaking does not reside with me. There are precedents all through here. This is not the first No Confidence we have had.

For your clarification, I am suddenly getting the impression that Members believe that I am sanctioning two speakers. I am not. What I have done in my own capacity is to provide the opportunity for speeches to be made, depending upon what both sides agree to. That is what has been from what I recollect in my research. Therefore, I prefer to follow precedent and leave the matter as such.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am just seeking, Sir, enlightenment because it appears that Rules 78...

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: ... I can invite the Speaker. The Speaker has given me permission to enlighten him.

Rule 78 says quite clearly:

"The Speaker may grant a general permission to the representative of any journal or broadcasting or television station to attend the sittings of the House under such rules as he may from time to time prescribe for that purpose."

It is fairly clear in Barbados that Speakers – both Your Honour and previous Speakers – have not granted a general permission for television or radio broadcasting. There is a general permission for the Press to come in and report the proceedings but not for the electronic media. Therefore, Sir, when the electronic media come in here, they only come in here on specific permission of Your Honour.

What we are drawing to Your Honour's attention is that we regard it as an affront to the privileges of individual members for them not to be granted the same rights as particular Members of the House. That is what we are saying. We are asking Your Honour to uphold those rights.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not made any new rules nor any rules. What I have done is what has been accepted practice. I have just allowed a request on the basis of what is the norm. I am not going to create precedents just to suit any one side or the other. I am going to deal with it as it relates to this Chamber and its procedures. I will reiterate that if the two sides cannot make themselves comfortable on the matter, I have one guiding factor with me and that is a precedent in the past where they could not and the Speaker disallowed the broadcast entirely.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order in relation to Rule 78 of the Rules of the House which has just been referred to by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South:

"The Speaker may grant a general permission to the representative of any journal or broadcasting or television station to attend the sittings of the House under such rules as he may from time to time prescribe...."

What the rule is saying in essence is that the Speaker may grant permission for any journal, broadcasting station or television station to attend the sittings. If your Speaker

grants permission, he cannot order. The rule doesn't say that the Speaker can order the media to come and broadcast. You can grant the permission. It is up to the media if they wish to broadcast or not.
1.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am bringing this thing to a close. I am going to hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I am going to say what I know is usually accepted and correct in this particular Chamber. If the Honourable Members cannot deal with it themselves then the only thing I can do is to withdraw my permission. That is the only thing I could do.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, is that your ruling?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a ruling but I am making that observation.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. He said...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Speaker gave me permission to speak. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South in his presentation on a point of privilege made reference to Rule 78 and stated what I believe to be the correct interpretation of the privilege in this House for broadcasting. What he said was that as long as an Honourable Member objects, that is to say, unless both sides can agree and there is unanimity on how it is going to be done, then it cannot be ordered by anybody. The Honourable Member said it is all or nothing. I agree with him all or nothing. It is a simple matter.

I have been in here a very long time. The Speaker cannot determine for me or for any Honourable Member over there whether his speech is to be broadcast. The Speaker can agree that the broadcast media may bring their implements into this House for broadcasting purposes. I do not think it is fair to let the word go forth that the Speaker is somehow involved in determining whether all 28 Members should or should not be broadcast. The Speaker can only say he has given permission to whatever station it is to come in and broadcast. If an Honourable Member in here says he does not wish his speech to be broadcast, nobody can broadcast it.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: So each Honourable Member could bring in his own broadcasting station if he wants. But it is not for anybody to get up and give the impression that it is the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you may rule.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of elucidation, Sir, because the Honourable Member purports to quote me and

as usual he has got it wrong. What I said was that my understanding of the position which previous speakers have taken is that the terms and conditions under which permission is given to the electronic media is such that no Member of the House is placed in an invidious position of not having his speech broadcast unless as a result of the agreement, and I used the words, the Leader of the House representing the Government and the Leader of the Opposition representing the Opposition. In other words, Members in accordance with the party system delegate the power of approval through these functions.

My understanding of the position is very clear that Your Honour has ruled and said that you have given permission for the broadcasting to take place. I understand that very clearly to mean that Your Honour's permission is that no Member of this House is going to be placed in a position in which his speech is not broadcast.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You are now saying that there is no agreement. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition is the very person. He wrote in advance and everybody acknowledged it. There was nothing from the other side saying that what was implicit – what the Leader of the Opposition wrote, namely that we should have the whole thing broadcast – there was nothing from the other side to indicate that it was otherwise. Let the Leader of the Opposition enlighten us on that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, with respect. The Honourable Member may not have heard exactly what the Leader of the Opposition said. My understanding is that the Leader of the Opposition said in here that he heard from the Leader of the House and that he disagreed with what the Leader of the House said.

I wish to draw to Your Honour's attention, the Honourable Member who just sat down said that I formed the impression that he sought to speak about what has happened before. The last time there was a No-Confidence motion in this House, Sir, at page 2639 in which the Speaker was required to make a ruling he said...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: This was Speaker Bolden, a man of impeccable and erudite scholarship. He said:—

"Taking into consideration the nature of this Resolution which will be debated today, I thought it best not to permit the televising of this debate, for the simple reason that this debate may generate accusations which may be against the law and which may generate further accusations and incensed feelings in this country. For that reason I have refused to allow this debate to be televised. Those who are

particularly interested in having a first hand account of the debate would obviously be within the Chamber, and those who are interested to know what went on can read the relevant debate in the Proceedings of this House, which is better known as Hansard.

That is my ruling."

Now, this is Speaker Bolden, Sir. I draw it to your attention for what it is worth.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am aware of it and that is why I said I did not follow that ruling. I gave my ruling on the basis that there is usually that consultation and after that consultation or exchange, then the petition is made to myself. Therefore, once the petition comes to myself then I grant the permission. Now, I have no part in whether two, three or four people want to speak or are not going to speak. That is not my position. After I have been given the authority to have the debate, and I have given that permission for debate, then that is where my exercise ends. The procedure, I said from the beginning was difficult and it would create a lot of problems. I suggest we should start to look in another direction by setting up a committee of privileges of this House to deal with parliamentary broadcasts because I anticipated the difficulty that would arise.

The second point was that I wanted Members to give vent to their own feelings in this matter because freedom of speech is one of the things that I hold very dearly in this Parliament, therefore, I give people that opportunity. But I am only the servant of this House as well too, therefore, I have to take orders from the House.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I raised the point and I have raised this point very seriously and Honourable Members have got up and referred to precedents. My request was very specific and it was a request for the whole debate to be televised and broadcast. If an Honourable Member did not speak, he would be seen sitting in the Chamber but he would not be heard.

My understanding is that Your Honour, like myself, who believes in freedom and freedom of speech in the widest sense, felt quite properly, that live broadcast of debates should take place and particularly this debate and you would have given your permission to have such live broadcast of debate take place. To refer to the precedent in 1985, a precedent that I have studied very carefully, Sir, in the first place, the Labour Party Government sought to have a resolution against their Minister broadcast so that the public could have the benefit of that.

1.35 p.m.

The Labour Party Government, the Leader of the House, the Honourable Lionel Craig, asked that the broadcast be given so that all members of the public could hear.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, that is the record. The Honourable Leader of the House might sit down there... His sole role is to put plaster on sores, Sir.

The position is, Sir, that the Leader of the House in the then Labour Party Government was not afraid of a motion critical of a Minister of Government being broadcast and the public of Barbados, who cannot fit in this Chamber, could have a say and could listen to what is being done. That is a fact. It is very instructive, Sir.

Here we have the position that the Government of the day having the numbers are in a situation to agree, you having clearly expressed your position. If Your Honour does not want to take the ruling, to the whole broadcast going from this House for whoever wants to speak, if the Honourable Member for St. Michael West feels that he cannot speak in this position, I can understand his reason, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I do not know why the Honourable Member wants to draw me in it. All I did was to point out what has been on the page. That is all.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am going to make my ruling because it appears to me that what is the normal procedure cannot be accepted on this occasion and there is no need for me to make any new rules in respect of that because those who went before me were wise enough to understand the difficulties with it and I am willing to make a ruling. I am giving room but if it is that Honourable Members do not want to debate the measure, I cannot go any further than what I have explained. I have put it in very simple terms and I have done it within all the conditions that I think I could do it within. If Honourable Members cannot get together on the debate well then, my ruling will have to be debate, which I will soon make.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In view, Sir, of what you have just said I think this is a good time for us to take the luncheon break and I am moving that this sitting be now suspended until a quarter to three today, Sir.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 1.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When we took the suspension we were on the matter dealing with the Resolution by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Does any other Member want to speak?

It appears then that they seem not to be able to utilize the permission I have given and it appears to me that that permission to use live broadcast and radio will now be withdrawn since it is within my reason that we will not be able to reach any reasonable conclusion on the matter. For the benefit of those who have not heard what I said, in the light of not being able to move from the position that we were at, at the suspension, it appears to me that we will not be able to get very much further with that and so, in the circumstances, I can only withdraw that which I have given and let the debate continue without any coverage. That is my ruling.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the circumstances that Your Honour has reversed your ruling I feel very strongly that the people are entitled to hear the broadcast. The Government has used its numbers and I will not proceed with the Resolution at this time.

(The Members of the Opposition walked out of the Chamber.)

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that Government Business be the instant order of the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 10.
2.55 p.m.

ORDER NO. 10 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT OISTINS IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH FOR PROVISION OF AN ACCESS TO CROWN LANDS USED FOR RESITING HOUSES

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to regularise this situation in Oistins, Christ Church where we are seeking to acquire a small area of land of some 424.3 square metres of land to provide access to a larger area of 2,735.62 square metres of Crown land which was acquired by the Government for the purpose of relocating houses affected by Oistins Development Project.

To facilitate this project, Government had acquired several parcels of land both on the seaward and landward side of the highway. A number of houses had to be removed from the shoreline and resited on a parcel of land acquired from Mr. Gordon Barnett. This parcel of land, however, did not have access to the public road and those persons who were relocated took access over a smaller adjoining strip of land owned by Mr. Mark Bentham. This situation clearly was not ideal and the Ministry of Housing took steps to regularise this situation and to provide satisfactory access to these parcels of Crown lands. It was accordingly decided that the strip of land used informally as an access should be acquired and vested in the Crown, thereby solving the two problems of regularising the project situation and providing a permanent and legal access.

It is, therefore, for this reason that we are bringing this Resolution before Parliament today to regularise the situation. With those comments, I beg to move that the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the parcel of land described in the Schedule attached to the Resolution for provision of an access to Crown lands at Oistins used for resiting houses dislocated by the Oistins Development Project do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1991

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this particular Resolution entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1991 provides for the abolition of the post of Chief Electrical Engineer/Electrical Inspection and it also seeks to create the post of Chief Electrical Officer carrying emoluments of \$55,900.20 per annum in its place. For the post of Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer in the same Department, it is to be redesignated as Deputy Chief Electrical Officer with emoluments of \$43,593.09. There is, Sir, a reorganisation taking place in that Department including some adjustments in the establishment. As it relates to electrical inspection, there are changes at that particular level and we are proposing that as part of the adjustment that is necessary in order to ensure the expeditious dispatch of the business that that Department carries out. We are making these adjustments and, in addition to those which I have mentioned, the Order also provides for the transfer of one post of Maintenance Supervisor 1 – Z.10-3 and one post of Maintenance Technician 1 – Z.16-11 from Electrical Inspection to the Ministry's headquarters.

Sir, that particular Department falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Communications and

Works, but in my capacity as Minister responsible for the Civil Service, I bring this particular Resolution and I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second this Resolution, Sir, and I am glad that the Government has finally taken a decision to deal with this particular matter. This is a matter relating to the Chief Electrical Engineer who has been causing all sorts of problems in terms of the construction sector in Barbados. I think that one has to understand very clearly that people in the Public Service have to operate according to rules and not be a law unto themselves.

Sir, I think that the fact that this matter has now been regularised, one would hope that we will see the Electrical Department functioning in an effective and efficient manner and delivering the services which it has to deliver in this country in the way that people would expect that that service would be delivered. Thank you.

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

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BAR-
BADOS OF REPAYMENT TO THE INTER-
NATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUC-
TION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
LOANS TO THE CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this particular resolution is seeking the approval of this Honourable Chamber of a guarantee to be given by the Government of Barbados to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which is better known as the World Bank for the repayment of the principal, interest and other charges with respect to a loan of \$20 million which that Bank, the World Bank, has agreed to lend to the Caribbean Development Bank for on-lending to Member States.

In respect of Barbados, Sir, this will be to the extent of the amounts of loans withdrawn for the purpose of financing sub-loans to investment projects located in Barbados. So, the arrangement is that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development will make a loan to the Caribbean Development Bank which in turn will make loans to Member States of the CDB including Barbados and those loans in respect of Barbados would be for investment projects located in Barbados.

Before any part of the loan can be lent to finance investment projects in Barbados or in any other Member State, the Member State must guarantee the repayment of the amount together with the interest and other charges on

it. The guarantee is necessary so that the loan agreement between the World Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank can come into operation as it relates to Barbados. We are guaranteeing any loans that will be made to the CDB from the World Bank in respect of any investment projects which may be financed by the CDB out of the loan that is made available.

As far as the loan is concerned, the interest is to be paid semi-annually at a rate equal to the cost of qualified borrowings plus one-half of one per cent. The repayments of the loan are to be made in 24 consecutive semi-annual instalments, 23 of the payments will be for the sum of US\$835,000 and there will be one payment of US\$795,000. These loans will commence after a grace period of five years so there will be a grace period of five years. All of this starts from October 1991 and ends April 15 in the year 2007. The borrowing entities will be required to pledge their assets to the Caribbean Development Bank as security for the amounts borrowed by them, and the amounts withdrawn from the loan as sub-loans to investment projects located in Barbados will therefore represent only contingent liabilities to the Government of Barbados.

That, Sir, is the background to this particular resolution. I have great pleasure in moving that it do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 1 – TO MOVE THE SECOND
READING OF A BILL ENTITLED THE
EXCHANGE CONTROL (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1991

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill. I would like to state that as the Objects and Reasons indicate the purpose of this Bill is to amend the Exchange Control Act in order, among other things, to transfer the authority vested in the Comptroller of Customs by virtue of Section 26 of that Act to the Exchange Control Authority.

Sir, from time to time there have been some problems in relation to the actual operation of the Exchange Control Act and what this Bill seeks to do is to transfer from the Comptroller of Customs to the Exchange Control Authority the responsibility of satisfaction in respect of matters referred to in that subsection, and that relates to the exportation of goods. The aim is to ensure that payment has been made or is to be made to a person resident in Barbados within the prescribed time.

It will seek also to provide a legal basis for the use of an appropriate form which must be completed by the

exporter for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the requirements of the Act and it will require that the form should be returned by the exporter to the Central Bank within a prescribed period of time. It also provides a sanction for failure on the part of the exporter to return the form as required. It authorises the Exchange Control Authority to attach conditions to the requirement of being satisfied under Section 26 of the Act as proposed to be amended.

Sir, as I indicated, Government has been experiencing some problems in terms of the operation of that particular Exchange Control Act and these amendments have the object of seeking to improve the administration of the Act and to seek full compliance with the provisions of the Act. 3.15 p.m.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, 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.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

Bill to amend the Severance Payments Act, Cap 355A.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the following Bill was read a first time:—

Bill to amend the Severance Payments Act, Cap 355A.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6.

LAND TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, this is a short Bill. The purpose of this is to amend the Land Tax Act to provide for the imposition of land tax on residential property on the same basis whether or not the property is occupied by the owner. It is in clause 2 that the principle of the amendment is set out. The main purpose, as I said, is to ensure that a person who owns land with a dwelling house on it and that dwelling house is used solely as a residence, the tax payable shall be at the rate specified under subsection (1) of Section 6 of the principal legislation. The amount payable is calculated on 70% of the improved value of the land. 3.25 p.m.

The amendment also makes provision for the subsections to come into force on the 1st April, 1987 as it relates to pensioners and as it relates to hotels it is deemed to come into force on the 1st April, 1986. This legislation again is to improve the administration of the Act and I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, 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.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee to Mr. SPEAKER 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today. We have already had

Private Members' Business. I therefore move, Sir, that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday the 26th day of November, 1991 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

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

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

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EASTMOND, Mr. R. C. (St. James North)
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GREAVES, Hon. E. E. (St. Lucy)
GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St. Michael North)
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St. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church South)
TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West)
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